



## **GERRISH TOWNSHIP**

***David Udy, Supervisor***

2997 E. Higgins Lake Drive

Roscommon, MI 48653

(989) 821-9313 (telephone)

(989) 821-8627 (fax)

[supervisor@gerrishtownship.org](mailto:supervisor@gerrishtownship.org)

### **Gerrish Township**

### **State of the Township Address March 13, 2018**

Good evening, and welcome to the 137<sup>th</sup>. annual Meeting of the Electors. We would especially like to thank our residents for joining us this evening. I would also like to welcome members of our township departments, boards, committees, and support staff. We are here because you elected this township board to serve. The board thanks you for the trust that you have given us. We do not take our elected positions lightly.

A few words about townships. Only about half of the states have townships. Michigan is one of the states that have a township form of local government. Michigan has 83 counties and 1240 townships. If you do not live in a city you are a resident of a township. Over half the people living in Michigan live in townships. If our state were square or rectangular in shape it would be easy to divide up, but it is not, so some counties are larger than others. Most counties have 16 townships---each made up of 36 square miles or 23,040 acres. Some have more and some have less, depending if there is an incorporated city in part of the township. Gerrish Township is one of 11 townships in Roscommon County, not including the Village of Roscommon. Gerrish Township has a total area of 37.2 square miles, of which 27.6 square miles is land and 9.6 square miles is water.

Gerrish Township is unique in the fact that we rely upon our residents who volunteer and serve on different committees or boards. This allows more residents to be involved in making recommendations to our board resulting in more local control by people that are accountable to you, the residents. Most people living in Gerrish Township know their local officials. So, for each of our elected officials, be it a township board or committee, one must take the job seriously and do what is best to represent and be accountable to the people that elected us.

As I started to think about what I should say tonight, it became clear. The Gerrish Township Board, departments and committees did a great job resulting in Gerrish Township being a wonderful place to work, live, and raise a family.

### **Gerrish Fire Department / EMS Year in Review**

- 2017 Winterfest cardboard sledding on Pioneer Hill
- Higgins Lake Sunrise Run
- July 4<sup>th</sup> Roscommon Parade
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup>. South Higgins Lake State Park Stand-By
- Roscommon County Night Out
- Safety Day at Roscommon Baptist Church
- Special Olympics Torch Run
- Fireman's Memorial parade, family night smoke trailer
- AVI Roscommon County Building Event
- Roscommon Area School / Walk to School
- Fire prevention in four different schools
- 5K Run – Higgins Lake State Park for Habitat for Humanity
- Gerrish Township Trunk – or – Treat
- Fire Prevention to One Day Care
- "Stuff the Ambulance"
- Good Shepherd UMC – Church Emergency Preparedness
- Delivered food and Christmas gifts to four families in our community
- Completed three pre-phase incident surveys of two businesses in Gerrish Township and one mutual aid agreement business
- In 2017 Gerrish Township EMS responded to 407 calls / average 33.9 per month
- In 2017 Gerrish Fire Department responded to 136 calls / average 11.3 per month

### **Gerrish Township Police Department / Year in Review**

- Created new Lieutenant and Road Patrol Sergeant positions effective in October

- Worked with the Roscommon County Road Commission and implemented a new School Zone on Co. Road 100 lowering the speed to 25 mph during intervals in the morning before school begins and afternoon when school is dismissed
- Updated PD building camera and security system due to old technology and entry requirements specified by MCOLES
- Participate in newly formed Property Maintenance Committee
- Planned and participated in a county wide AVI Training Exercise that took place at the Roscommon County Courthouse
- Implemented a web-based program for tracking/mapping of crime activity in our township with Crimedat.com that is available free of charge to the public
- Planned, coordinated and participated in a Youth Alcohol Special Enforcement detail at the South Higgins Lake State Park during 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend
- Purchased a 2017 Ford SUV AWD Police Interceptor unit (ahead of schedule due to car/deer accident in April that totaled the vehicle)
- Collected 101 pounds of drugs (Drug Drop Box) in 2017 for proper disposal
- Created a "Safe Internet Exchange Zone" at P.D. parking lot with continuous video recording as a safe area for conducting on-line purchase transactions
- Continued partnership with "Friends for Safe Schools" in implementing "The Boot" program for security at the Roscommon Area Public Schools
- Held a 20-hour Basic CERT Class adding 5 new CERT volunteers to our current Gerrish Twp. CERT roster making a total of 30 volunteers
- Provided 4 required training classes for CERT team including hosting a Landing Zone training with Aero-Med out of Traverse City
- Received a \$1,000 final grant from the Department of Homeland Security 7<sup>th</sup> Region for CERT supplies for the CERT Trailer
- October National "Walk to School Day" (traffic control and participant safety)
- Presented Safety Education Program to 160 Roscommon Middle School 5<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> grade students covering such topics as Drug & Alcohol Prevention, Sexual Assault, Bullying and Crime Prevention

- One Officer received a Life-Saving Award from the Roscommon County Sheriff and a Department Police Citation Award from Gerrish P.D.

All officers participated in programs and projects sponsored by ACT-NOW community group to include:

- Bowling Tournament Fundraiser at Fred's of Roscommon in May
- Spring and Fall Road Clean-Up through the MDOT Adopt-A-Highway Program (from Pioneer Hill south to Hillcrest Road)
- Higgins Lake – Roscommon Chamber of Commerce Business, Recreation & Services Expo at CRAF Center in May
- Higgins Lake Sunrise Run (traffic control and runner safety)
- Awarded two RHS seniors with ACT NOW Scholarships
- Annual ACT NOW Cash Raffle (sold tickets for Raffle)
- Annual Meeting & Picnic at Twp. Municipal Center Outdoor Pavilion
- Annual Golf Outing in August
- Law Enforcement Torch Run for Michigan Special Olympics in September
- Stuffed Animal Sales at Michigan Firemen's Memorial Festival Boot as a Fundraiser for Shop-With-A-Cop
- Annual Trunk or Treat in October
- Annual Family Bowling Fundraiser at Fred's of Roscommon in November
- Annual Shop-With-A-Cop in December
- Annual Kids Helping Kids Christmas Program for Roscommon Co. foster children and their families in December

And by-the-way, the department generated 1511 Incident Reports, there were 117 Custodial Arrests, and 324 traffic citations were issued.

### **Township Highlights**

- Our Clerk has received new voting equipment that will be used in the upcoming May election.
- The township is proceeding with the State recommended 20% property review
- Halloween Trunk-Or-Treat was a huge success
- Gerrish Township Marina was sold-out last season. 165 persons are on the wait list for a seasonal slip.

- The Parks and Recreation Committee is working to update our 5-year recreation plan
- The Planning Commission worked on the following ordinances. Septic, Marijuana, Building Height, and Commercial Noise. The planning commission is also updating the township master plan, and zoning. Three new members were added to the planning commission last year.
- The township Building and Zoning Department issued 87 building permits last year that included 9 new homes. Total construction cost - \$5,844,730.
- 17 Gerrish Township community roads were improved by the Roscommon County Road Commission.

David Udy / Supervisor