

Laketon Township

Property Tax Bills Explained

The items that are billed to property owners via their property tax bills get there in a couple of ways. Some property tax items are authorized by state laws (**called allocated millage**) and some property tax items are authorized by elections in which voters approved a millage or a bond (**called voted millage**). In addition, there are also items called special assessments that are billed to some properties for things like sewer or water hook up, street paving, streetlights, or delinquent bills that aren't paid on time; like sewer or water usage bills or delinquent lake assessments. Special assessments can end up on property tax bills by various state laws or local ordinances. If you have a special assessment on your tax bill and don't know what it's for, you can always call the Township Hall for more information.

Below is a list of property tax items that appear on property tax bills in Laketon Township:

SET—State Education Tax—**Allocated millage** (6 mills)—funding for elementary-secondary education, part of proposal A from 1994.

County—County Operating —**Allocated millage** (5.6601mills)—funding for county operating costs.

Laketon Twp—Laketon Township Operating—**Allocated millage** (0.8988 mills)—funding for township operating costs.

Public Safety—Township Levy—**Voted millage** (1.4500 mills)—funding for police and fire services.

RP Oper—Reeths Puffer Operating—**Voted millage** (18.0000 mills)—funding for RP Schools general operating costs. (*Property owners can be exempt from this if they own AND occupy the home as their principal residence—Call Laketon Twp if you are unsure if this exemption has been applied for and granted on your property*)

RP Debt—Reeths Puffer debt/bonds—**Voted millage** (8.7500 mills) —funding to pay back money borrowed via various bonds that were approved by public vote.

Museum—Muskegon County Museums—**Voted millage** (0.3198 mills)—funding to operate various County museums.

Veterans—Muskegon County Dept. of Veterans—**Voted millage** (0.0746 mills)—funding to operate County Dept. of Veterans Affairs.

Sen Citizens—PA 39 of 1976 Older Persons—**Voted millage** (0.4966 mills)—funding for Muskegon County to provide various services for those age 60 and older.

Central Dispatch—Muskegon County 911/Central Dispatch—**Voted millage** (0.2979 mills)—funding to operate 911 Services.

MCC—Muskegon Community College—**Voted millage** (2.5288 mills) - 2.1888 mills for operating purposes and .3400 mills for debt payments on bonds approved by public vote.

MADL—Muskegon Area District Library—**Voted millage** (1.2363 mills) —funding to operate the district library.

MAISD—Muskegon Area Intermediate School District—**part Allocated millage** (.4562 mills), **part Voted millage** (4.2663 mills) - funding for operations of the intermediate school district.

For 2021—Total Millage in Laketon Twp for a home with 100% Principal Residence exemption is 32.4354 mills—this total breakdowns as follows: Allocated Millage = 13.0151 (40.13% of the total) and Voted Millage = 19.4203 (59.87% of the total) Other Notes: A mill is defined as \$1.00 for every \$1,000.00 of taxable value. If you have questions about how any entity spends the tax funds they collect via property taxes, please call that entity directly. More on historical millage rates since 2000 (by year) can be found at www.laketon.org. Click on the Departments Tab and Select Treasurer & Tax Info from the drop down list and it is on this page.

Tidbits:

- **Mail Slot/Drop Box:** for your convenience, there is a mail slot and a drop box—feel free to drop off bill payments (checks or money orders only—**NO CASH**), permit applications, dog licenses or any other paperwork. *With regard to Tax Bill Payments in the drop box: anything that is dropped off over the New Year's Holiday weekend and found in the box when the office opens on Monday 1/3/2022, will be credited as paid on 12/31/2021.*
- **Property Taxes:** 2021 Winter Tax bills are billed December 1, 2021 and due by **Monday February 14, 2022**. Choice One Bank also accepts property tax payments for Laketon Township. *Also: any payments dropped in the drop box after hours on 2/14/2022 and found in the drop box when the office opens on 2/15/2022 will be credited as received on time on 02/14/2022.*
- **Holiday Closings Coming Up:** The Twp Hall will be closed on:
Thurs. 12/23/2021 for Christmas Eve
Fri. 12/24/2021 for Christmas Day
Thurs. 12/30/2021 for New Year's Eve
Fri. 12/31/2021 for New Year's Day
Mon. 01/17/2022 MLK Jr Holiday
Mon. 02/21/2022 President's Day

Winter Reminders

- **Bike Paths/Sidewalks:** Please DO NOT pile snow/ice on the paths & sidewalks —this makes it difficult for maintenance staff to clear them and can damage equipment which can be expensive to repair.
- **Fire Hydrants:** Please DO NOT pile snow/ice where it will block access to a fire hydrant—and if you are able—actually shoveling them out if you can is a great help to the maintenance staff. Quick and easy access to a fire hydrant in an emergency is crucial when seconds count!
- **Snow Plowing:** Please DO NOT plow snow ACROSS any public roadway—it can cause lumps of snow and ice making driving more dangerous—and it is against state law!

Want to know more about Elections?

If you want to learn more about the elections process—the best way is to get involved.

Laketon Township is always looking for people to be Election Inspectors. Election Inspectors work in the polling locations on election day. State law requires Election Inspectors to be certified and a training class to become a Certified Election Inspector is provided for those wanting to become Election Inspectors.

If you are interested in becoming a Certified Election Inspector, please visit the Laketon Township website or you can stop in to the Township Hall to pick up an application.

Can Emergency Services Find Your Home?

The Building Code requires all homes to have the address posted on them, with numbers no less than 4 inches in height. If the home is not visible from the roadway, the address should be clearly posted at the driveway.

One way to mark the driveway is with a green, reflective, emergency address sign. These signs help delivery services and more importantly, emergency services (police, fire or ambulance) find your home quickly in the event of an emergency. You can purchase an emergency address sign for \$30 from the Muskegon County Citizen Corps Council. Order forms are available at Laketon Township Hall.

Report Streetlight Outages

Streetlights that are out or blinking or not operating properly can be reported to Consumer's Energy for repair via their website:

<https://www.consumersenergy.com/outages/street-light>

If you have any difficulty with the website, you can always report it to Laketon Township and staff will report it for you.



United Way Day of Caring Benefits Laketon Township Veteran & Family

The United Way organized their Annual Day of Caring; gathered volunteers from the local community and selected a local veteran & his family in need of assistance. This family has been struggling with some serious issues, and maintenance of their property had been “put on the back burner”. The yard was cleared of brush, leaves and other dead or overgrown vegetation and a rotting fence was replaced.

Thank you to all the volunteers; those that donated their time & labor, as well as those that donated money and/or materials to help this Laketon Township family. What a perfect example of community service right here in our own back yard! Neighbors serving neighbors—that's what it's all about!

Muskegon Area District Library—New Bookmobile

MADL is funded by your property taxes. And it is so much more than books. MADL offers a variety of educational services, enrichment opportunities and activities for all ages (such as live music events, arts/crafts activities, murder mystery events, carnivals, etc), books in print or on audio, movies on DVD, printing services and storytime programs and reading programs/book clubs for all ages and new this year a Bookmobile!



The Bookmobile, is a custom built full-service, tech-friendly mobile branch library. You can check out books, DVD's, video games, hot spots and more. It comes equipped with printing and charging stations, computers and wireless hot spots. It's a library on wheels coming to rural and outlying areas where it may be difficult for residents to get to a traditional branch library location that is some distance away.

Visit the MADL website at www.madl.org where you can get the bookmobile schedule and loads of other important information on their services.

HOME BASED BUSINESSES—RULES AND REGULATIONS APPLY

Before starting a home based business or buying a property with the intention of running a home based business, there are some things everyone should know. Laketon Township is a Zoned Community. The State of Michigan Zoning Enabling Act provides for municipalities to zone their communities and create a Zoning Ordinance of rules and regulations.

In Laketon Township, the vast majority of the township is zoned for residential use, with allowances for some home occupations and certain home based businesses, provided they can meet the rules and regulations spelled out in the ordinance. There are several different residential zoning districts and many different kinds of potential home based businesses. Each zoning district has different rules and regulations and not all types of uses are permitted in every zoning district. The full Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance is available online at www.laketon.org/Departments/Planning-Zoning then click on the link for the Zoning Ordinance in the middle of the page.

If you are considering starting a home occupation or a home based business in Laketon Township, the first step is to contact Laketon Township Zoning Administrator Theresa Naruszkiewicz. She can be contacted by phone at the Laketon Township Hall (231-744-2454) on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. She can also be contacted via email at zoningadmin@laketon.org

Accessory Vehicle Storage

The Laketon Township Zoning Ordinance (Section 3.17) prohibits front yard storage of accessory vehicles, except for cleaning, loading & unloading—and that is limited to “no more than 48 hours within a seven (7) day period”.

Accessory vehicles are “house trailers, utility trailers, campers, trucks over 1.5 tons, buses, boats, or any other commercial or recreational vehicles”.

Anti-Blight Ordinance

Laketon Township has an ordinance that prohibits blight. It prohibits the outdoor storage/accumulation of things like: junk or unlicensed vehicles, RVs/boats etc, miscellaneous equipment, parts of machinery/scrap, household junk/trash etc. It also requires yard maintenance, including mowing & leaf removal. The ordinance is available online at: www.laketon.org/General-Township-Info/General-Ordinances then click on the Anti-Blight Ordinance for a PDF file.