

GREENFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWS

FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2024-2025

Supervisors - Kevin Bartlett 725-5975 • Brian Brown 882-1116 • Travis Clabatz 397-0347

Municipal Office 725-9110 (MWF 9-2) Municipal Shop 725-2044

Facebook - Greenfield Township, Erie County

Website - greenfieldtownship.info

Office hours and meetings

Applications for zoning permits, driveway pipe replacements, ditch dirt release forms, pavilion rentals and dog licenses can all be handled by stopping in the office or through the mail. Please call during office hours on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for more information.

All agendas and minutes are posted on the Township website greenfieldtownship.info.

The Organisational meeting of the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for Monday, January 6th at 7:00 p.m. The Auditors will meet on Tuesday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. The 2025 meeting dates will be advertised in January. All meetings are open to the Public.

Snow Season Reminders

*****Do not plow snow across the road or in the road*****

The goal of the Township is to keep the roads safe for travel. Any snow removed from driveways must be placed on your property and must not be pushed across the road. Piles of snow along the roadside freeze and make it difficult and unsafe for the Crew. It also creates a hazard for other motorists. During early winter, push snow back far enough on your land to save space for future snow piles. Violation notices may be filed with the District Justice and fines may be imposed.

Winter Safety Tips

- *Listen to weather and travel advisories,*
- *Follow at least six car lengths behind an operating plow truck,*
- *Turn on headlights whenever wipers are in use,*
- *Allow for extra driving time as weather and road conditions can change quickly,*
- *Be prepared to drive slowly and increase your following distance, when necessary,*
- *Carry a phone but do not use it while driving,*
- *Clear ice and snow from vehicles,*
- *Carry an emergency travel kit,*
- *Never drive impaired,*
- *Always wear a seat belt.*

Plowing

The Township operates three plow trucks, which take approximately three hours to clear the roads. On weekdays, the crew is sent home after the first round of plowing if plowing will be necessary later that day. The crew is called out as needed during the evening hours and on the weekends. Although it may seem like it, the plow truck drivers do not intentionally fill driveways with snow. By clearing a path to the left of your driveway and mailbox, you create a place for the snow riding along the plow blades to drop into - instead of in your driveway! They cannot lift the plow in front of your driveway. Marking mailboxes so they are visible will help the crew avoid hitting them. Please contact the Township for mailbox installation directions if you have had problems with your mailbox in prior winters.

No Parking on the Road

In previous years, there were many vehicles parked in the roads during hunting, even though there were no vehicles parked in the game lands parking lots along those roads. Where available, please use the parking lots so that the crews can get through to cinder and plow the roads. A Township Ordinance prohibits parking on Township roads whenever there is snow on the road. This law was enacted to protect township residents, employees, and township equipment. Any vehicle parked on Township roads will be towed at the owner's expense.

Road Posting

Every spring, the Township roads are posted with a 10-ton weight limit. This is done to protect the roads during the thaw cycle. All Township residents are hereby notified that the Township roads in Greenfield Township will be posted with a 10-ton weight limit, as set by a Resolution of the Board of Supervisors at one of their meetings in February, March or April of 2025. Exceptions to the postings are listed in the Ordinance (agricultural, buses, emergency). A section of Wilson Road has also been exempted in the past to accommodate deliveries to the businesses in Little Hope. During the time the roads are posted, any restricted vehicle owner will be required to post a security and obtain a permit from the Township.

Recent state legislation has made a change which allows for local deliveries. Please consider the condition of the roads when scheduling deliveries with heavy trucks. This type of traffic prolongs the thawing and firming of the roads.

Road Surfacing

Traffic counts were performed on all roads in the Township in the fall of 2023. This information will be considered in deciding which roads will be surfaced. Also to be considered is the readiness of the road - if it needs drain tiles installed or pipes replaced. All surfaced roads need to be seal coated every three to five years as routine maintenance.

Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company

The Fire Company is still experiencing an increase in call volumes

The Fire Company Volunteers spend a lot of time training for and responding to emergency calls. It is much easier to attract and retain volunteers if they do not have to spend more of their time trying to raise funds to provide protection for you and your property. Fund drive mailers will be mailed soon, so please send in your fund drive donation! Donations can be made electronically.

If you are able to donate any time helping with fund-raising, building maintenance or general business operations, please leave a message at the Fire Station at 725-9109 or on Facebook at Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company.

Emergency Medical Services Authority

This is still an ongoing issue for Erie County. Creation of the Emergency Medical Services Authority is being considered by representatives of Erie County. Currently, its mission would appear to be an entity to tax (charge a fee) county wide for the purpose of paying for employees staffing "volunteer" ambulances. The issue with this is that once an authority has been created, it has the capacity to become a monster that cannot be stopped, and the authority answers to no one. Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company has an excellent response history, while other areas of the County are having issues.

Greenfield Community Park

The road into the park is not maintained in the winter. The restrooms will be closed once temperatures drop to freezing. When the weather permits access, residents may still use the trail system. The park is closed after midnight. Please take all your garbage with you when you leave the park, as this prevents wild animals making a habit of coming to the park looking for food. Pavilion reservations can be made by calling the office.

Dog Licenses

The 2025 Dog Licenses will be available the beginning of December. Licenses are required for dogs three months or older. Vaccinations must be up to date.

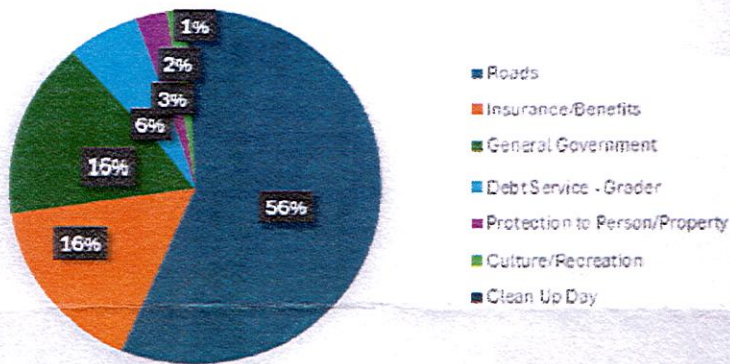
2024 Completed Projects

- Dougan Road, from Station Road to Prindle Road, had Driving Surface Aggregate placed on it in 2024. This project was paid for by the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program through the Erie County Conservation District.
- The middle section of Wildman Road where PennDOT did bridge maintenance, and Rich Hill Road from Ashton Road to just east of the Township were seal coated. A double seal coat was applied to Tarr Road, bringing the road surface back to a surfaced road, as it was when PennDOT turned it over to the Township.
- Prindle Road had an application of MC70 oil and then the Township Crew spread chips on it. This was a one-time offering of leftover oil from Lindy Paving.
- The crew performed grading, ditching, and mowing. Drain tile was installed in areas that are problems during the spring thaw. Road material was added to areas that had clay showing.

2025 Budget and Projects

The 2025 Budget is balanced at \$ 792,278.00. The Board of Supervisors will resolve to set the tax millage at 2.340 mills, with all mills dedicated for General Fund purposes. This tax rate has been the same since 2014.

2025 Budget



The road projects for 2025 will focus on maintenance. General road maintenance involving ditching, grading, tiling, and adding material to the roads will be done. Seal coating of roads will be decided in early 2024, once the amount of money available in the budget is known. During budget workshops, seal coating of Prindle Road from the Harborcreek line east to Dougan Road, and Tarr Road were scheduled. The year after initial seal coating, another coat needs to be added to maintain the road.

General maintenance will be performed at the park. The preparation for the construction of the base on the multi-use court for playing basketball, volleyball and pickeball has been started this fall. The remainder of the project will be completed in 2025. This work is funded through grants that can be used for recreational development only, not roads.

The Township helps the Greenfield Township Volunteer Fire Company throughout the year, as needed. The Township plows the area in front of the garage doors clear when there is a lot of snow. The lawn is mowed and water testing is taken care of by the Township. Likewise, the lawn maintenance at the Hornby School Museum is taken care of by the Township. The Historical Museum is operated by volunteers from Greenfield Township and surrounding areas.

Loan payments will be made for the 2017 John Deere 672G Grader, purchased in 2023. This grader replaced the 1989 Dresser Grader.

The Township has always looked for grant money to assist in maintaining the roads, the Community Park and Township facilities. The Multi-Use Court Project is funded with assistance from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (\$ 100,000.00), the Orris C Hirtzel and Beatrice Hirtzel Foundation (\$ 55,000.00) and the Erie County Gaming Revenue Authority (\$25,000.00).

A small grant was received from Penelec/First Energy this summer for the purchase of LED lights for the Township buildings.

Erie County Conservation recently announced the award of a grant for the Prindle Road reconstruction project, from Dougan Road east to Williams Road. This grant is funded through the Dirt & Gravel Roads Program. The project will involve “daylighting” the road (cutting trees to allow the sun to dry the road), ditch work, tiling and application of 2RC gravel up to 18" in depth in some areas. The project will be done in phases and may take several years to complete. The total amount of money received from the Dirt & Gravel Roads program since 2007 is \$1,378,777.33.

A \$ 75,000.00 grant application has been filed with Erie County for the placement of drainage tile in the roads throughout the Township. Greenfield Township roads have a clay base that moves with the freeze/thaw cycles every winter. The tile is placed to provide drainage, which creates a stable road base. The funding of this grant application will depend on approval of the Erie County Council.

A grant application has been filed through the Local Share Account program for the purchase of a track driven skid steer with a trenching attachment. The Township will not know about the award of this grant until October 2025.