

PIERSON TOWNSHIP

21156 W. Cannonsville Rd, Pierson, MI 49339 Ph. 616-636-8570 * Fax 616-636-4911
www.piersontwp.org

Dear Taxpayer –

Over the past year, the Township has continued to evaluate fire and emergency service costs. With the rising cost of vehicles, equipment, operations, and required capital contributions, the Township is considering an Emergency Services Special Assessment beginning with the upcoming winter taxes.

The proposed Special Assessment would **replace** the existing 2024–2028 voter-approved 0.75 mill fire millage for the upcoming year. The Special Assessment District would remain in place for up to five years, with the annual amount determined based on the Township’s budgeted emergency service costs. This is intended as a temporary funding method until a new millage can be presented to voters, and while the new Nelson Township/Sand Lake Fire Department operation becomes established.

Under Public Act 33 of 1951, MCL 41.801 *et seq.*, and Public Act 368 of 1978, as amended, MCL 333.20948, the Township may use a special assessment to help fund emergency services, including fire protection, ambulance services, vehicles, apparatus, equipment, facilities, operations, and related costs.

The Township currently receives fire protection services from the Nelson Township Fire Department, also known as the Sand Lake Fire Department, and the Howard City Fire Department.

The Township Board has tentatively established two Emergency Services Special Assessment Districts:

North District – parcels located within the area described in Exhibit A.

South District – parcels located within the area described in Exhibit A.

Two public hearings will be held to consider the proposed Special Assessment, district boundaries, assessment methodology, and any objections or comments from property owners. The first public hearing will be held **Monday, September 21, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.** during the regularly scheduled Township Board meeting.

See Reverse

The Board will consider two methods for distributing the assessment **per parcel**:

1. **A flat rate**, or
2. **An assessment based on taxable value**, similar to a millage.

TRANSPARENCY NOTE: The initial notice and resolution included incorrect flat-rate calculations.

The **North District** was
originally calculated at **\$14.87 per parcel** and has been
corrected to **\$36.27 per parcel**.

The **South District** was
originally calculated at **\$42.17 per parcel** and has been
corrected to **\$79.23 per parcel**.

If a property owner has multiple parcels, the rate would be applied to each parcel under the final assessment methodology adopted by the Board.

If you are unable to attend the public hearing, you are welcome to contact the Township office or any Township Board member with questions or comments. We encourage residents to participate as the Board works to balance the cost to taxpayers with the need to provide dependable fire and emergency protection throughout Pierson Township.