



IF YOU'RE A CHARTER TOWNSHIP WHERE IS YOUR CHARTER?  
As it pertains to townships, "charter" refers to a status, not a document. If a township fulfills the requirements (2000 residents according to the most recent census) they can incorporate as a Charter Twp. There are some noticeable differences such as 4 trustees instead of 2 but the main

advantage to being a Charter is that it affords more protection against annexation. That's why you usually see charter twps. adjacent to a city.

#### 1) HOW MANY HORSES, PIGS, GOATS, LLAMAS, ETC. CAN I HAVE?

These types of questions are handled by the Barry Co. Planning & Zoning. This township has Planning & Zoning through the County for several reasons:

- It costs more money to have a planning commission and an appeals board than you'll ever get back from building permits, etc.
- The County has professionals in Planning & Zoning. They know the laws and the predictable results of their actions.
- There is more consistency throughout the county when Barry Co. does it. They do it for 11 twps.
- It's terribly expensive to defend a zoning lawsuit if a disgruntled developer files one. When you consider the township only receives 7.5 cents of every tax dollar, there's not enough at stake for a township to go to court.

When inquiring about animals, set-backs, minimum lot sizes, etc., please just call Barry County Planning & Zoning at (269)945-1290.

#### 3) WHY ISN'T THE TOWNSHIP EARNING MORE INTEREST ON THE TOWNSHIP'S MONEY?

We would like to invest in the more exotic savings vehicles but we are limited to banks that are legally chartered in Michigan and only in safe investments such as C.D.s., money markets and savings accounts.

#### 4) WHY CAN'T TAXPAYERS RENT THE TWP. HALL?

When the Twp. Board applied for building permit they were told a "Special Use Permit" was needed to place this office building in a residential zone. The neighbors attended the hearing and asked that the building not be used for parties, open houses, etc. Only meetings by governmental entities can be held here.

#### 5) IS THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP IN THE HASTINGS SCHOOL SYSTEM?

No. One quarter of section 36 is in Maple Valley Schools. The only residence at 4978 Scott Rd. has 2 registered voters who never vote. Because of them we have to have 2 ballot styles at most elections. HAS holds their school board elections in May and MVS has theirs in Nov.

#### 6) IS CABLE TV AVAILABLE IN THE TOWNSHIP?

Only in the area of Powell Road/. Meadow Lane/ Boulder Drive and a little bit of the Leach Lake area. There is one cable TV company remaining in the township – Broadstripe. They pay a fee to the township of 5% of the income generated in the twp on a quarterly basis.

#### 7) HOW MUCH LAND DOES THE TOWNSHIP OWN?

Besides the township hall lot, the township owns the cemetery and a small amount of acreage between the former Chrysler dealer and the river. The original Chrysler dealers, Randy and Sally Wood, deeded the space to the township with the provision it only be used for a public purpose or park.