

1) IF YOU ARE 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 townships adjacent to a city.

2) HOW MANY DOGS, HORSES, PIGS, GOATS, CHICKENS, ETC. CAN I HAVE? These types of questions are handled by the Barry County 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 a township will 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.
- \* It is terribly expensive to defend a zoning lawsuit if a disgruntled developer files one. When you consider how little the township receives of each tax dollar, there's not enough at stake for a township to go to court.
- \* There is more consistency throughout the county when Barry County does it. The county does Planning & Zoning for several of the townships in our county.

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

3) HOW ARE TOWNSHIP FUNDS INVESTED? The township is limited to banks that are legally chartered in Michigan. We utilize only safe investments such as C.D.s., money markets and savings accounts.

4) WHY CAN'T TAXPAYERS RENT THE TWP. HALL? When the township 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) HOW MUCH LAND DOES THE TOWNSHIP OWN? Besides the township hall property, the township owns Hastings Charter Township Cemetery.