

## **Supervisor Statutory Duties and Authority**

- Moderates board and annual meetings
- Chief assessing officer (if certified)
- Secretary to Board of Review
- Township's legal agent
- Must maintain records of supervisor's office
- Responsible for tax allocation board budget (*if applicable*)
- Develops township budget
- Appoints some commission members
- Member of township elections commission (*general law township only, not in a charter township*)
- May call special meetings
- May appoint a deputy
- May administer the oath of office

## **Core Competencies**

In addition to the duties required by law, a township supervisor will benefit from developing skills and knowledge in several core area:

Township Supervisor Core Competencies (.pdf)

**What is extent of a supervisor's authority as legal agent for the township?**

MCL 41.2(4) provides that:

“(4) A suit, act, or proceeding, by or against a township, in its corporate capacity, shall be in the name of the township. The supervisor of each township shall be the agent for his or her township for the transaction of legal business, by whom a suit may be brought and defended, and upon whom process against the township shall be served.”

The supervisor’s position as legal agent for the township is a statutory duty of the supervisor.

The supervisor does not, however, have unfettered authority to do as he or she desires. The supervisor must exercise this agent’s authority in a manner consistent with township board decisions regarding legal business.

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Created on Tuesday, July 31, 2012

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Revised Statutes of 1846 (EXCERPT)  
R.S. of 1846

Supervisor.

**41.60 Repealed. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.**

Compiler's note: The repealed section pertained to prosecution of penalties and forfeitures by township supervisor.

**41.61 Supervisor as chief assessor; additional assessors; certification; depositing rolls with supervisor; supervisor as secretary of board of review; deputy township supervisor.**

Sec. 61. (1) The supervisor of each township is the chief assessor of the township. The township board may provide for the appointment of additional assessors. If the supervisor is not certified at the proper level, the township board shall provide for the appointment of properly certified assessors. The assessors so appointed shall receive compensation allowed by the township board. If assessors are appointed pursuant to this section, the supervisor shall be the chief assessing officer and the assessors shall be subordinate to the supervisor. Upon completion of the assessment and the making of the rolls, the rolls shall be deposited with the supervisor. The supervisor shall be secretary of the board of review.

(2) The township supervisor may appoint a deputy township supervisor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the supervisor. The deputy shall take an oath of office and file the oath with the township clerk. In case of the absence, sickness, death, or other disability of the supervisor, the deputy shall possess the powers and perform the duties of the supervisor, except the deputy shall not have a vote on the township board. The deputy shall be paid by salary or otherwise as the township board determines appropriate. With the approval of the supervisor, the deputy may assist the supervisor in the performance of the supervisor's duties at any additional times agreed upon between the township board and the supervisor, except the deputy shall not have a vote on the township board.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 16;—CL 1857, 553;—CL 1871, 697;—How. 733;—CL 1897, 2332;—Am. 1913, Act 347, Eff. Aug. 14, 1913;—CL 1915, 2111;—Am. 1919, Act 89, Eff. Aug. 14, 1919;—Am. 1919, Act 355, Eff. Aug. 14, 1919;—CL 1929, 1000;—Am. 1935, Act 64, Eff. Sept. 21, 1935;—CL 1948, 41.61;—Am. 1957, Act 104, Eff. Sept. 27, 1957;—Am. 1982, Act 230, Imd. Eff. Sept. 16, 1982;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

**41.61a Township appraisal; employment of independent appraisal firm.**

Sec. 61a. Any township board may employ an independent appraisal firm to make a township-wide appraisal or to assist the supervisor as directed and authorized by the board in performing his assessing duties. Such appraisal firm shall be paid out of the general fund of the township.

History: Add. 1958, Act 6, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958.

**41.62 Books, assessment rolls, and other papers; preservation; delivery to successor in office; availability to public.**

Sec. 62. The supervisor shall preserve and keep the books, assessment rolls, and other papers belonging to the supervisor's office in a safe and suitable place, but not where the books, assessment rolls, and other papers will be exposed to an unusual hazard from fire or theft. The supervisor shall deliver the books, assessment rolls, and other papers on demand to his or her successor in office. The books, assessment rolls, papers, and any other writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the supervisor in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.231 to 15.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

History: R.S. 1846, Ch. 16;—CL 1857, 554;—CL 1871, 698;—Am. 1875, Act 178, Imd. Eff. May 1, 1875;—How. 734;—CL 1897, 2333;—CL 1915, 2112;—CL 1929, 1001;—CL 1948, 41.62;—Am. 1977, Act 159, Imd. Eff. Nov. 8, 1977;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

**41.63-41.64a Repealed. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.**

Compiler's note: The repealed sections pertained to attendance at meetings by township supervisor, reports to township board, and township supervisor as agent for legal township business.

**41.64b Statements to supervisor; oath; oath of office.**

Sec. 64b. (1) The supervisor of a township may place a person under oath on any of his or her statements made to the supervisor in his or her official capacity as supervisor.

(2) The supervisor of a township may administer the oath of office as provided in section 1 of article XI of the state constitution of 1963 to township officers.

**History:** Add. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989;— Am. 2012, Act 420, Imd. Eff. Dec. 21, 2012.

**Revised Statutes of 1846 (EXCERPT)**  
**R.S. of 1846**

Township Board.

**41.70 Township board; membership; quorum; adoption of section.**

Sec. 70. The supervisor, 2 trustees, the township treasurer, and the township clerk constitute the township board, and any 3 of them constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the township board. However, in townships having a population of 5,000 or more as determined by the last federal decennial census or having 3,000 or more registered electors, the supervisor, the township treasurer, the township clerk, and 4 trustees, to be elected by the registered electors of the township as provided in sections 358 and 362 of the Michigan election law, Act No. 116 of the Public Acts of 1954, being sections 168.358 and 168.362 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, constitute the township board, and any 4 of them constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The township clerk in such a township shall be the clerk of the township board. However, this subsection does not apply unless the electors of a township having a population of 5,000 or more, or having 3,000 or more registered electors, adopt the provisions of this section by a majority vote at an annual or special township meeting of the electors or adopted the provisions of this section before December 22, 1952.

*History:* R.S. 1846, Ch. 16;—CL 1857, 562;—CL 1871, 706;—How. 744;—CL 1897, 2343;—CL 1915, 2122;—CL 1929, 1010;—Am. 1935, Act 19, Eff. Sept. 21, 1935;—Am. 1937, Act 81, Eff. Oct. 29, 1937;—Am. 1945, Act 23, Eff. Sept. 6, 1945;—CL 1948, 41.70;—Am. 1949, Act 9, Imd. Eff. Mar. 8, 1949;—Am. 1952, Ex. Sess., Act 2, Imd. Eff. Dec. 22, 1952;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

*Compiler's note:* Section 171.13, referred to in this section, was repealed by Act 116 of 1954. See now MCL 168.1 et seq.

**41.71 Repealed. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.**

*Compiler's note:* The repealed section pertained to raising quorum.

**41.72 Fiscal year; commencement and termination; proportionate extension or reduction.**

Sec. 72. The fiscal year of a township may commence on July 1 of each year and end on the following June 30, or it may commence on April 1 of each year and end on the following March 31. If a budget has been adopted, an audit performed, or other actions or proceedings taken before July 1, based upon a fiscal year ending in March, the fiscal year shall be proportionately extended or reduced to coincide with the fiscal year as provided in this section without impairment of township functions, services, or activities.

*History:* R.S. 1846, Ch. 16;—CL 1857, 564;—CL 1871, 708;—How. 746;—CL 1897, 2345;—Am. 1905, Act 149, Eff. Sept. 16, 1905;—CL 1915, 2124;—CL 1929, 1012;—CL 1948, 41.72;—Am. 1971, Act 159, Eff. Mar. 30, 1972;—Am. 1978, Act 596, Imd. Eff. Jan. 4, 1979;—Am. 1980, Act 291, Eff. Mar. 31, 1981;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

**41.72a Township board; regular and special meetings; time and place; moderator; transaction of business; publication of proceedings; adjusted amount.**

Sec. 72a. (1) The township board shall provide by resolution for the time and place of its regular meetings, and shall hold not less than 1 regular meeting every 3 months. If a time set for a regular meeting of the township board is a holiday, as designated by the township board, the regular meeting shall be held at the same time and place on the next secular day that is not a holiday.

(2) A special meeting of the township board shall be held at a time fixed by the board at a meeting or when the supervisor considers it necessary. Upon call of the supervisor, the township clerk shall give notice of the time and place of the meeting to each member, either in person or by leaving a written notice at the member's address. A special meeting of the township board shall be called by the township clerk upon receiving a written request for the meeting signed by a majority of the township board members.

(3) The supervisor, if present, shall be the moderator of a regular or special meeting of the township board. If the supervisor is not present, the township board, under the direction of the township clerk, shall elect by voice vote a member of the township board as a moderator of the meeting. The township clerk has the same powers and duties as the moderator until a moderator is chosen.

(4) The township board shall not transact business at a special meeting unless the business was stated in the notice of the meeting. However, if all the members of the board are present at a special meeting, business that might lawfully come before a regular meeting of the board may be transacted at the special meeting.

(5) Subject to subsection (6), if a township has a taxable value, as calculated under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27A, of \$50,000,000.00 or more, the township board, not more than 21 days after a meeting of the board, shall publish the proceedings of the meeting in a newspaper of general circulation in the township. The publication of a synopsis of the proceedings, prepared by the

township clerk and approved by the supervisor, showing the substance of each separate proceeding of the board is a sufficient compliance with the requirements of this subsection.

(6) The \$50,000,000.00 amount provided for in subsection (5) shall be adjusted as of January 1 of each year, beginning January 1, 1998. The department of treasury shall determine on or before December 1 of each year, beginning December 1, 1997, an adjusted amount for the following year. The adjusted amount for each year shall be determined by comparing the consumer price index for the 12-month period ending the preceding October 31 with the corresponding consumer price index of 1 year earlier. The percentage increase or decrease shall then be multiplied by the current adjusted amount. The product shall be rounded up to the nearest multiple of \$1,000,000.00 and shall be the new adjusted amount. The department of treasury shall provide the adjusted amount upon request. As used in this section, "consumer price index" means the annual average percentage increase in the Detroit consumer price index for all items as reported by the United States department of labor.

**History:** Add. 1951, Act 46, Imd. Eff. May 14, 1951;—Am. 1971, Act 159, Eff. Mar. 30, 1972;—Am. 1973, Act 95, Imd. Eff. Aug. 8, 1973;—Am. 1980, Act 264, Imd. Eff. Sept. 16, 1980;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989;—Am. 1996, Act 465, Imd. Eff. Dec. 26, 1996;—Am. 1999, Act 198, Imd. Eff. Dec. 20, 1999.

#### **41.72b Conducting business at public meeting; notice of meeting.**

Sec. 72b. The business which the township board may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the board held in compliance with Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976. Public notice of the time, date, and place of the meeting shall be given in the manner required by Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976.

**History:** Add. 1960, Act 19, Eff. Aug. 17, 1960;—Am. 1977, Act 159, Imd. Eff. Nov. 8, 1977.

#### **41.73, 41.74 Repealed. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.**

**Compiler's note:** The repealed sections pertained to auditing accounts, preservation of records, bond of township clerk, and township clerk as clerk of board.

#### **41.75 Approval and payment of claims against township; filing and preservation of accounts; authorized payments.**

Sec. 75. In addition to other business matters that may be acted upon at a regular meeting of the township board, the township board shall approve claims against the township and authorize payment of allowed claims. Accounts approved by the township board shall be filed and preserved by the township clerk. The payments authorized shall be paid by the treasurer, on the order of the township board, signed by the township clerk.

**History:** R.S. 1846, Ch. 16;—CL 1857, 567;—CL 1871, 711;—How. 749;—Am. 1887, Act 63, Imd. Eff. Apr. 9, 1887;—CL 1897, 2348;—CL 1915, 2127;—CL 1929, 1015;—CL 1948, 41.75;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of functions relating to energy policy from the Energy Administration, Department of Commerce, to the Public Service Commission, Department of Commerce, see E.R.O. No. 1986-4, compiled at MCL 460.901 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

#### **41.75a Township manager and other employees; employment; duties.**

Sec. 75a. The township board may employ a township manager and other employees as are necessary. They shall serve at the pleasure of the township board and shall perform duties lawfully directed by the township board, except those duties that are delegated by law to another township official, unless consent has been granted.

**History:** Add. 1972, Act 90, Imd. Eff. Mar. 20, 1972;—Am. 1989, Act 77, Imd. Eff. June 20, 1989.

#### **41.75b Energy conservation improvements; acquisition or financing; payment; acquisition by contract, lease-purchase agreement, or notes; reports; forms; terms of lease-purchase agreement.**

Sec. 75b. (1) A township board may provide for the acquisition or financing of energy conservation improvements to be made to township facilities or infrastructure and may pay for the improvements or the financing or refunding of the improvements from operating funds of the township or from the savings that result from the energy conservation improvements. Energy conservation improvements may include, but are not limited to, heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning system improvements, fenestration improvements, roof improvements, the installation of any insulation, the installation or repair of heating, ventilating, or air-conditioning controls, entrance or exit way closures, information technology improvements associated with an energy conservation improvement, and municipal utility improvements associated with an energy conservation improvement.

(2) The township board may acquire, finance, or refund 1 or more of the energy conservation

improvements described in subsection (1) by installment contract, which may include a lease-purchase agreement described in subsection (5), or may borrow money and issue notes for the purpose of securing funds for the improvements or may enter into contracts in which the cost of the energy conservation improvements is paid from a portion of the savings that result from the energy conservation improvements. These contractual agreements may provide that the cost of the energy conservation improvements are paid only if the energy savings are sufficient to cover their cost. An installment contract, a lease-purchase agreement described in subsection (5), or notes issued pursuant to this subsection shall extend for a period of time not to exceed 20 years from the date of the final completion of the energy conservation improvements or the useful life of the aggregate energy conservation improvements, whichever is less. Notes issued pursuant to this subsection shall be full faith and credit, tax limited obligations of the township, payable from tax levies and the general fund as pledged by the township board. The notes are subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821. A lease-purchase agreement issued pursuant to this subsection shall not be subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821, and shall not be a municipal security or a debt as those terms are defined in that act. This subsection does not limit in any manner the borrowing or bonding authority of a township as provided by law.

(3) Prior to entering into a contract for energy conservation improvements under this section, the township board shall determine the following information and, within 60 days of the completion of the improvements, shall report the following information to the Michigan public service commission:

(a) Name of each facility to which an improvement is made and a description of the energy conservation improvement.

(b) Actual energy consumption during the 12-month period before commencement of the improvement.

(c) Project costs and expenditures, including the total of all lease payments over the duration of the lease-purchase agreement.

(d) Estimated annual energy savings, including projected savings over the duration of the installment contract.

(4) If energy conservation improvements are made as provided in this section, the township board shall report to the Michigan public service commission, by July 1 of each of the 5 years after the improvements are completed, only the actual annual energy consumption of each facility to which improvements are made. The forms for the reports required by this section shall be furnished by the Michigan public service commission.

(5) An installment contract described in this section may include a lease-purchase agreement, which may be a multiyear contractual obligation that provides for automatic renewal unless positive action is taken by the legislative body to terminate that contract. Payments under a lease-purchase agreement shall be a current operating expense subject to annual appropriations of funds by the legislative body and shall obligate the legislative body only for those sums payable during the fiscal year of contract execution or any renewal year thereafter. The legislative body may make payments under a lease-purchase agreement from any legally available funds or from a combination of energy or operational savings, capital contributions, future replacement costs avoided, or billable revenue enhancements that result from energy conservation improvements, provided that the legislative body has determined that those funds are sufficient to cover, in aggregate over the full term of the contractual agreement, the cost of the energy conservation improvements. The lease-purchase agreement will terminate immediately and absolutely and without further obligation on the part of the legislative body at the close of the fiscal year in which it was executed or renewed or at such time as appropriated and otherwise unobligated funds are no longer available to satisfy the obligations of the legislative body under the lease-purchase agreement. During the term of the lease-purchase agreement, the legislative body shall be the vested owner of the energy conservation improvements and may grant a security interest in the energy conservation improvements to the provider of the lease-purchase agreement. Upon the termination of the lease-purchase agreement and the satisfaction of the obligations of the legislative body, the provider of the lease-purchase agreement shall release its security interest in the energy conservation improvements.

**History:** Add. 1984, Act 403, Imd. Eff. Dec. 28, 1984;— Am. 1990, Act 230, Imd. Eff. Oct. 8, 1990;— Am. 2002, Act 226, Imd. Eff. Apr. 29, 2002;— Am. 2016, Act 122, Eff. Aug. 17, 2016.

**Compiler's note:** For transfer of powers and duties of the public service commission pertaining to energy conservation improvement reports from the public service commission to the state treasurer, see E.R.O. No. 1996-2, compiled at MCL 445.2001 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

## Sue Ann Johnson

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**From:** Catherine Mullhaupt <catherine@michigantownships.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 08, 2017 3:32 PM  
**To:** Sue Ann Johnson  
**Cc:** Cindy Davis; Michael Selden  
**Subject:** RE: Residency Requirement

Sue Ann:

### **STATE CONSTITUTION (EXCERPT) CONSTITUTION OF MICHIGAN OF 1963**

#### **§ 18 Township officers; term, powers and duties.**

Sec. 18.

In each organized township there shall be elected for terms of not less than two nor more than four years as prescribed by law a supervisor, a clerk, a treasurer, and not to exceed four trustees, whose legislative and administrative powers and duties shall be provided by law.

### **MICHIGAN ELECTION LAW (EXCERPT) Act 116 of 1954**

#### **168.342 Township office; eligibility; eligibility for membership on board of review; violation of MCL 38.412a.**

Sec. 342.

(1) A person shall not be eligible to a township office unless the person is a registered and qualified elector of the township in which election is sought by the filing deadline. A person shall not be eligible for membership on the board of review unless, in addition to the qualifications for eligibility to a township office, the person is a landowner and taxpayer in the township.

(2) A person who has been convicted of a violation of section 12a(1) of 1941 PA 370, MCL 38.412a, shall not be eligible for election or appointment to an elective or appointive township office for a period of 20 years after conviction.

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MTA Member Information Services staff are regularly available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., to answer your questions.



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## **Q. Can a township board member be hired to work as a township employee?**

Yes, Michigan law allows township boards to assign additional, non-statutory duties to township board members and to authorize payment for those services if the township board deems reasonable. ([MCL 41.96](#))

The [Incompatible Public Offices Act, Public Act 566 of 1978](#) (MCL 15.181, et seq.), states that a public officer shall not hold two or more incompatible offices at the same time. (MCL 15.182)

"Incompatible offices" are public offices held by a public official that, when the official is performing the duties of any of the public offices held by the official in: 1) the subordination of one public officer to another; 2) the supervision of one public officer by another; or 3) a breach of duty of public office. (MCL 15.181(b)) Since the township board is the employer, any employment position with the township would result in that position being subordinate to and under the supervision of the township board.

The [Contracts of Public Servants with Public Entities Act](#), PA 317 of 1968 (MCL 15.321, et seq.), prohibits, among other things, a public servant from being a directly or indirectly, to any contract between himself or herself and the public entity of which he or she is an officer. (MCL 15.322(1))

But, in a township with a population of less than 40,000, the Incompatible Public Offices Act allows the township board to authorize a township board member to perform, with or without compensation, additional services for the township that would otherwise be incompatible, or to serve in an emergency medical services position, or as a firefighter, police chief, fire chief, police officer, or public safety officer in that city, village, township, or county if that firefighter, police chief, police officer, or public safety officer is not a person who negotiates a collective bargaining agreement with the city, village, township, or county on behalf of the firefighters, police chiefs, fire chiefs, police officers, or public safety officers.

Note that townships with a population of 40,000 or more cannot assign to a township board member additional duties that would result in an incompatible position which includes any employment position, even the positions of emergency medical services personnel or firefighter.

A township board is never required to give additional duties to a board member, and a township board may feel it is inappropriate to do so.

A township board member is not prohibited from voting to assign him- or herself additional duties or to establish the compensation for the additional duties (*Township v. Speck*, 1 Mich. App. 339, 1965).

But a board member seeking additional duties may want to evaluate the appropriateness of voting on the question. Note that, in a charter township, a board member may abstain only if the other members present unanimously vote to allow him or her to abstain. (MCL 42.7)

#### **Q. How is a township board member compensated for these additional services?**

A township supervisor, clerk or treasurer may only be compensated for the statutory duties of his or her office through the salary of that office. The trustee may be compensated by salary, by per diem or per meeting payments, or by a combination of salary and per diem/per meeting payments.

The laws state that a township official may serve as a township employee with or without compensation; no statute requires that a township official be compensated for additional services. However, because additional services must, by definition, be outside the statutory duties of an official's office, the salary of the official does not cover those additional services. A township board may authorize a township official to be compensated for performing additional services. The compensation should be specified by the board in a job description, and the compensation should be established and authorized before the additional duties are performed.

For example, if a township board votes to authorize a trustee to perform the additional service of managing the transfer station:

1) The salary of the office of trustee must be a fixed amount, and both (or all four) trustees must be paid the same salary (in a township where the trustees are paid by salary). The trustee salary cannot differ from one trustee to another based on years of service, merit, etc. The salary cannot be decreased during the four-year term of office. If the township board establishes the board salaries, the salary resolution is subject to petition for referendum. If the township holds an annual meeting, the trustee salary is subject to annual meeting approval. If the township has a salary compensation commission, the trustee salary is subject to the commission's determination.

2) The compensation of the transfer station manager may be a salary or an hourly wage. It may be adjusted by the township board to reflect pay increases or decreases, years of service, bonuses, merit increases, or number of hours worked. The compensation for additional duties given to a township board member is subject to annual meeting or salary compensation commission approval. It is not subject to referendum. If the township board member leaves office, he or she is not eligible for unemployment insurance for those duties (because they are additional duties of an elective office), although the board could subsequently hire (or rehire; see below) the individual for the job.

#### **Q. I am a township employee. Can I run for a township board position?**

Yes, as long as you are eligible to hold office in the township, you may run for a township board position. Note that the Michigan Political Activities by Public Employees Act, Public Act 169 of 1976 (MCL 15.401, et seq.), governs how township employees may be involved in political activities.

Unless contrary to a collective bargaining agreement, the township board may require a candidate for township office to take a leave of absence without pay for 60 days before the election, whichever is closer to the election. (MCL 15.403)

Once the election is certified and before you take the oath of office, however, you must either resign (a letter of resignation is recommended) or, if the township has a population under 40,000 in population and that option is specifically available in your township, you may request a leave of absence from your employment with the township.

The option to request a leave of absence (if that option is provided by the township) is available only to a person who holds an employment position with the township under 40,000 in population, because the option to hold (even as a leave of absence) or to be assigned an employment position with the township is limited to townships with a population under 40,000.

townships under 40,000. In a township of 40,000 or more in population, a township board member cannot serve in any employment position, including the emergency medical services personnel, firefighter (of any sort), or as an additional duty.

Under [Section 3 of the Incompatible Offices Act, MCL 15.183](#), the board in a township under 40,000 in population may then vote to authorize you to perform without compensation, additional services for the township that would otherwise be incompatible, or to serve in an emergency medical services position, or firefighter, police chief, fire chief, police officer, or public safety officer in that city, village, township, or county if you are not a person who negotiates a collective bargaining agreement with the city, village, township, or county on behalf of the firefighters, police chiefs, fire chiefs, police officers, or public safety officers.

But the key word is “may.” The board is under no obligation to give you additional duties. Especially with the start of a new term, the composition of the township board may change, and some boards do not believe it is appropriate for board members to also work for the township.

On a personal note, consider the fact that township board office is an elective office and a position of public trust and service—as one township clerk has recently noted, it's on the same ballot as the president of the United States! Being a local legislator is a significant undertaking, so take a moment to evaluate who can adequately represent your community as a whole while also working for the township.

Created on Tuesday, July 31, 2012

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