



Michigan townships offer facilities to Michigan State Police to help ease budget cuts

MI Townships to host 12 MSP sites

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Contact: Larry Merrill
517.321.6467

Delta Charter Township, Mich.—Michigan townships have offered their local facilities to the Michigan State Police (MSP) to maintain a strong law enforcement presence in their communities as the MSP implements a new regional policing strategy to cut costs in the new state fiscal year. Townships throughout Michigan are offering free facilities to help support remote and detachment-only posts. Continuing with the traditional intergovernmental cooperation approach to public services used by townships, the Michigan Townships Association (MTA) approached the MSP with the concept of shared facilities after the closings of MSP posts were announced last summer.

In a cooperative agreement, the MSP will immediately use 12 township facilities to support troopers working from detachment-only posts and remote locations. Additional township offices may be used by the MSP in the future.

“As part of our role to help reinvent Michigan, the Michigan Townships Association saw the closings of MSP posts as a good opportunity for us to do our part by encouraging our townships to provide their facilities to the MSP,” said Larry Merrill, executive director at MTA. “We were pleased that 60 townships offered their facilities to the MSP. Unfortunately, the MSP’s needs did not fit with the space that was offered by all of the townships. However, we’re pleased that a good match was found in some areas and look forward to continuing to work cooperatively with the MSP to help the agency ease its burden.”

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With the Bridgeport MSP Post among the 14 posts to close after October 14, Kochville Township in Saginaw County will be providing troopers the use of its sub-station office at its fire department. Additional townships providing facilities to the MSP are:

Detachments

Hagar Township Hall – Benton Harbor
Watervliet Township Hall – Watervliet
Sheridan Township Hall – Albion

Remote Office

Thetford Township Hall – Clio
Forest Township Hall – Otisville
Gaines Township Hall – Gaines
Greenwood Twp. Hall - Greenwood
Au Train Township Office – Au Train
Whitefish Township Hall – Paradise
Chippewa Twp. Hall – Eckerman
Nadeau Township Hall – Carney

Sheridan Township and the MSP have had a cooperative arrangement for the past eight years. The township expanded its township hall to provide space for troopers.

“Sheridan Township prides itself on cooperating with neighboring entities in the efficient delivery of services. We’ve had a good relationship with the MSP and we are pleased that the MTA has encouraged other townships to provide facilities to the MSP,” said Sheridan Township Supervisor Ken Lauer. “We value the importance of the MSP presence in our community and are pleased to do what we can to assist the MSP.”

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The Michigan Townships Association promotes the interest of township government by fostering strong, vibrant communities; advocating legislation to meet 21st century challenges; developing knowledgeable township officials and enthusiastic supporters of township government; and encouraging ethical practices of elected officials who uphold the traditions and unique characteristics of township government and the values of the people of Michigan.

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