



Spring Lake Township, Michigan

*A Report to Our Residents for the
Fiscal Year End March 31, 2015*



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Demographic Information:

Area (acres): 10,696

Population: 14,300**

Median Age (years): 42.1*

Median household income:
\$55,815**

Per capita income: \$30,482**

Employment rate: 63.7%**

Median Home Value: \$171,900**

Bachelor's Degree or Higher:
37%**

Travel Time to Work: 21.3
minutes **

*Source: 2010 Census

**Source: 2013 Census

Organization and Information

Spring Lake Township is a general law township located in West Michigan, along the shores of Lake Michigan near the mouth of the Grand River. The township was formed on March 15, 1849.

We offer a variety of services to our residents, including but not limited to:

- Assessing
- Street lighting
- Land planning and zoning
- Fire protection
- Parks and recreation
- Water and sewer utilities
- Cemetery maintenance and operation
- Elections administration

Township Governance



L to R: Jim Koster (Treasurer), Rick Homan (Trustee), Rachel Terpstra (Trustee), H. Carolyn Boersma (Clerk), Ron Lindquist (Trustee), Lawrence Mierle (Trustee), and John Nash (Supervisor)

The township operates under and is governed by an elected Township Board, which is comprised of the Supervisor, Clerk, Treasurer, and four trustees. Each board member is elected by the township residents and serves a four-year term. Additionally, the township board has appointed a Township Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the township.

- Where nature smiles for seven miles -

Township Calendar Year Statistics

How We Are Doing – A Performance Report on Key Missions and Service

| | 2014 | 2015 |
|---|---------------|---------------|
| FIRE | | |
| Total number of incidences | 1,010 | 959 |
| Number of fire incidences | 97 | 93 |
| Fire loss | \$163,000 | \$161,500 |
| Number of EMS incidences | 725 | 723 |
| Average response time (minutes) for: | | |
| EMS calls | 6.15 | 6.29 |
| Fire calls | 8.11 | 8.22 |
| POLICE | | |
| Total calls for service (Township) | 3,113 | 3,092 |
| Violent crimes per thousand (County) | 1.28 | 1.51 |
| Property crimes per thousand (County) | 11.3 | 11.36 |
| Marine Unit Hours (Spring Lake) | 670 | 675 |
| UTILITY | | |
| Drinking water supplied (1,000 gallons) | 505,919 | 482,242 |
| Water treated (1,000 gallons) | 565,858 | 544,531 |
| ASSESSING | | |
| Taxable Value | \$673,945,668 | \$688,420,980 |
| Foreclosures Initiated | 21 | 15 |
| Foreclosures Completed | 2 | 1 |
| BUILDING | | |
| New single family building permits | 24 | 27 |
| Value of building permits | \$7,837,045 | \$8,355,449 |

Township of Excellence

- Out of 1,240 Townships in Michigan, SLT was the first to achieve the Township of Excellence Standard in 2012.
- SLT has the lowest retained millage rate in the area.
- SLT has the lowest combined water and sewer rates in the area.

2014-2015 Highlights

Grant Information:

- Completed the matching grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to acquire 30 acres of property along the eastern shoreline of Little Black Lake, in coordination with the City of Norton Shores.
- Completed the matching grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to build a new picnic shelter and make universal design improvements to Rycenga Park, including new playground surfacing, sidewalks and drinking fountain.
- Applied for a \$45,000 grant from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund to renovate Rycenga Park restrooms. This grant will also fund the addition of 4 family style bathrooms.

Collaboration:

- Spring Lake Township continued its efforts to collaborate with surrounding municipalities and departments to share services and staff. Examples include a mutual aid agreement for Fire equipment and staff; shared Planner, Assessor, and water billing responsibilities with the Village of Spring Lake; shared Finance staff with City of Grand Haven; two shared Ottawa County Sheriff Deputies; and also a joint Recreation Plan with the Cities of Grand Haven, Ferrysburg, Grand Haven Township, and the Village of Spring Lake. Most recent is the shared office space in Spring Lake Village Hall.

Capital Improvements:

- The voters renewed the 10-year bike path millage in 2014; Spring Lake Township is developing two new bike paths for 2015.
 - M-104 Bike Path: This future ½ mile bike path along M-104 (south side) between Krueger and N. Fruitport Road is in the design stages as we are working with MDOT and MI-DEQ with hope to begin construction in the fall of 2015.
 - 168th Ave Bike Path: This is a new pathway along 168th Ave from W. Spring Lake Road to VanWagoner in collaboration with the City of Ferrysburg. This new bike path is finished and was dedicated on July 13, 2015.

Data sources include: fire data from Spring Lake Township Fire Department Annual Report and Ottawa County Dispatch; police data from Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Annual Report and Ottawa County Dashboard; utility data from Ottawa County Public Utilities; taxable value and foreclosure completed data from Spring Lake Township Assessing Department; foreclosure initiated data from Ottawa County Register of Deeds; building data from Michigan Township Services.

Where did our revenue come from and how did we spend it?

General Fund – Fund Balance

The general fund is the chief operating fund of the Township. At the end of fiscal year (FY) 2015, unreserved fund balance of the general fund was \$264,885. As a measure of the general fund's liquidity, it may be useful to compare unreserved fund balance to total fund expenditures. Unreserved fund balance represents 10% of total budgeted general fund expenditures for fiscal year 2015.

Property Taxes

Spring Lake Township is responsible for assessing property as a basis for county and school taxation, and collecting those taxes for all local units of government.

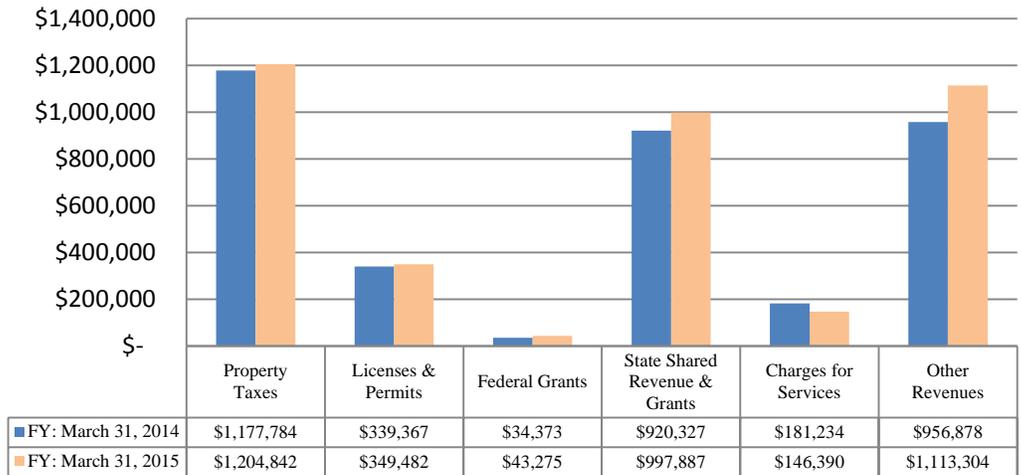
The chart to the right represents the allocation of each \$1 of property taxes collected by Spring Lake Township for a citizen with a homestead exemption.

Annual Audit

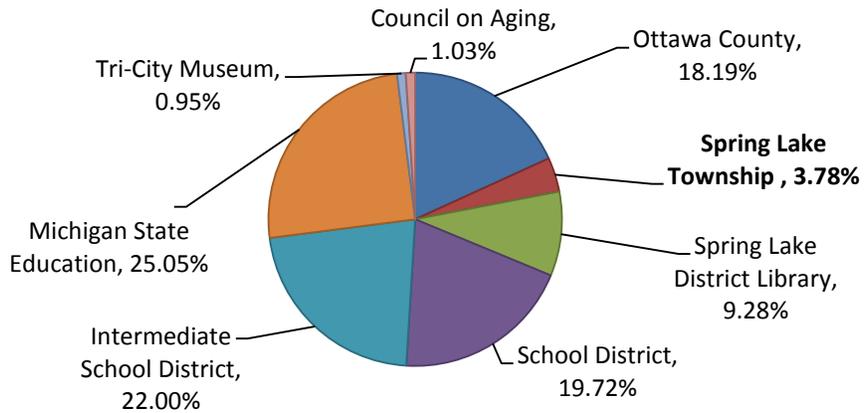
The Township is required by the State of Michigan to undergo an annual independent audit. The Township's audit for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2015 resulted in a clean audit opinion.

Complete financial statements of the Township can be found on our website under the Treasurer & Finance Department.

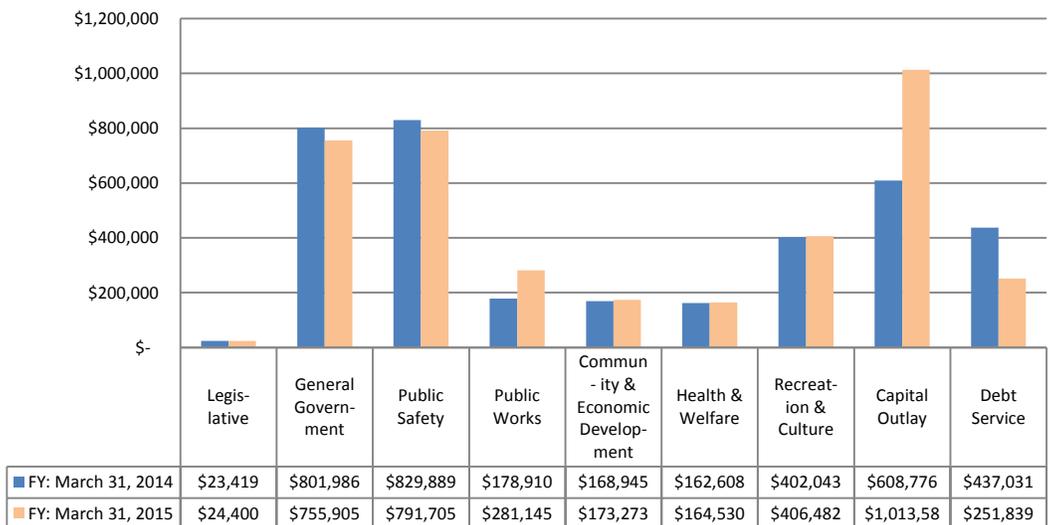
Primary Sources of Governmental Activities Revenue



Property Tax Collections



Primary Sources of Governmental Activities Expense



What's Next?

Economic Outlook and Moving Forward

About Citizen Centric Reporting

The Association of Government Accountants (AGA) developed guidance on producing Citizen Centric Reporting as a method to demonstrate accountability to residents and answer the question, "Are we better off today than we were last year?" Additional details can be found at the AGA website:

www.agacgfm.org/citizen/

Additional Information

Are you interested in more information about Spring Lake Township? Sign-up for our monthly e-newsletters on our website under the e-news link. We also include newsletters with each tax bill and print messages on the quarterly water/sewer billing.

Check out the Treasurer & Finance Department section of our website for additional performance and financial data, including our Dashboard and 2015 Citizen's Guide to Financial Health.

Contact Information

Spring Lake Township
101 South Buchanan Street
Spring Lake, MI 49456
Phone: (616) 842-1340
Fax: (616) 842-1546
E-Mail:
info@springlaketwp.org

Visit us at:

www.springlaketwp.org

Township's Economic Outlook

The Township has adopted balanced budgets for its governmental funds for Fiscal Year 2016. Unrestricted Fund Balance for the General Fund was 12.1% of expenditures at the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2015. FY 2015 saw an increase in State Equalized Value (SEV) of 6.1%. In FY 2015 State Revenue Sharing increased 6.6% or \$58,636 from the previous year.

In May 2015, the Township's credit rating was given an **AA**: "Double A. Very strong creditworthiness" from Standard & Poor. This is the second highest rating that Standard & Poor issues. Spring Lake Township looks to raise our rating to prior years of AA+ credit.

Moving Forward

The Township has projects planned for the upcoming fiscal year:

- The site plan for the new fire station at the NE corner of Fruitport Road and M-104 has been approved with ground breaking scheduled for the fall of 2015 and completion in the summer of 2016.
- The Township Offices have moved into Spring Lake Village Hall. Leasing space at the Village Hall will save utilities, maintenance, capital expenditures and potentially staffing costs. Spring Lake Township will see immediate cost savings by not replacing the outdated phone system and fiber optic internet at the current location.

Communication Efforts

Much is said about transparency in Local Government. Spring Lake Township is committed to improving communications and transparency. Specifically, to meet this commitment, we have taken the following measures:

- Producing this Citizen Centric Report of finances.
- Producing a "Dashboard" to give residents a one page snapshot of how we are doing in the major areas of interest.
- Excellent website that is available 24/7.
- Producing an electronic newsletter that is sent out on a regular basis to update our residents about current issues in the Township.
- Posting of all minutes and agendas on our website.
- Produce two newsletters annually that are included with your tax bill.
- Provide messages and important notes on the quarterly water/sewer billing.

We want to hear from you!

Do you like this report? Do you believe it should include any other information?

Please let us know by emailing the Township Manager at GGallagher@springlaketwp.org or calling (616) 842-1340.