This winter’s particularly cold weather has caused frozen pipes in many communities, primarily in the upper peninsula and northern lower peninsula. Even here in Tittabawassee Township we have had a few cases of frozen pipes. **Residences along Church Street seem to be especially vulnerable to these extreme weather conditions.**

Please take a few minutes to consider implementing these precautionary steps. They may prevent serious damage to your water system.

**Preventing Frozen Pipes**

•Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.

•Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals out of the reach of children.

•Let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe—even at a trickle—helps prevent pipes from freezing.

•Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature during the day and night. Temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures may cause a higher heating bill, but prevents costly repairs if pipes freeze and burst. If you are going away during cold weather, leave the heat on and set to a temperature no lower than 55 degrees.

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where the water service enters a home through the foundation.

**To thaw out frozen pipes:**

•Keep the faucet open. As pipe is treated and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.

•Apply heat to the frozen section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials) or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. DO NOT use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove or other open flame device.

•Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. Call a licensed plumber if the frozen area cannot be located, accessed or thawed.

•Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze.