

Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

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Volume 17 Issue 1

July 2017



Manabezho Falls on the
Presque Isle River

Supervisor:

John Cox
906 224-3721
PO Box 164

jcox@wakefieldtownship.com

Clerk:

Mandy Lake
906 364-0669
PO Box 164
mlake@wakefieldtownship.com

Treasurer:

Joan Dalman
906 224-8201
906 364-1742
PO Box 191
jdalman@wakefieldtownship.com

Trustees:

Jerry Niemi
906 229-5553
jniemi@wakefieldtownship.com

Jim Spencer
906 224-6649
jspencer@wakefieldtownship.com

Custodian:

Robert Drier
906 224-2751

Wakefield Township Board Meetings: Dates and Times

Meetings are the first Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted.

Wednesday, July 5, 2017, 5:30pm

August 1, 2017, 5:30pm

September 5, 2017, 5:30pm

October 3, 2017, 5:30pm

November 7, 2017, 5:30pm



December 5, 2017, 5:30pm

January 2, 2018, 5:30pm

February 6, 2018, 5:30pm

March 6, 2018, 5:30pm



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WAKEFIELD TOWNSHIP TAXPAYER:

If you pay your taxes by mail, please enclose payment stub or the real estate index number(s). We are no longer automatically sending a receipt. If you wish to receive a receipt, check the box indicating this on the stub of your tax bill and return it with payment. Payments must be postmarked by September 14, 2017 to avoid penalties.

If you prefer to pay in person, I will be available:

Friday, July 14 9:00 AM 9:00 AM--12:00 PM at the Twp Hall and
1:00 PM—5:00 PM at my home office

Monday, September 14, 2017 9:00 AM—12:00 PM at the Twp Hall and
1:00 PM—5:00 PM at my home office (**last day before penalties are added**)

You may pay your taxes at my home office anytime that I am available. Call first:
224-8201

Joan Dalman, Treasurer

Fire Numbers and Addressing-

Please keep your sign upright if the snow or other situations have caused them to lean or fall. Remember that these signs can be life and property savers by assuring that our first responders and delivery people can locate you. With the hiring of new sheriff deputies, new Michigan State Police troopers, ambulance personnel and other first responders, it is important that they have accurate address information since many are new to this area.



Burn Barrels and Burn Permits

The state law allows you to use burn barrels for items like paper, brush and wood, but you may not burn household waste that contains plastic, rubber, foam, chemically treated wood, textiles, electronics, chemicals, or hazardous materials. Please use common sense when you burn, and if you have a neighbor close by, please cooperate with them by selecting a time to burn. The township has not adopted an ordinance banning burn barrels, has no plans to do so, but be aware that the Michigan DNR can enforce the law concerning burning the banned substances. There are no formal written permits required for open burning, but you should check out the MDNR website to see if burning restrictions are in force- www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/, or 906-353-6651



Spring Cleanup

This year we had a very successful cleanup as we teamed up with the City of

Wakefield to secure a Scrap Tire Grant from the Department of Environmental Quality. It was held for two days and 25 tons of trash were disposed of in the township and 60 tons in the city, several tons of scrap metal, and a total from the two communities of 49 tons of tires. Thanks to all of you who participated and who continually work to keep our township looking good. A special thanks to Western U.P. Recycling Center and all of the volunteers from the City and Township who worked so hard over the two days to make this a successful community effort.

Blighted Properties and Building permits

The Supervisor will be enforcing the Blight Ordinance in the Township. Please keep your properties free of junk and blight. We also would like to remind those who are building or adding on to obtain a permit on our website or call Mandy Lake at 906-364-0669. Then, make sure to contact Donald Saari who is our Zoning Administrator and our long time building inspector. Our permits are the most reasonably priced in the state, we have not raised the price in at least 10 years, and we are asking for your compliance in this matter as well. Failure to obtain a permit may result in enforcement of our zoning ordinance which authorizes up to a \$100 per day fine for not obtaining one.



Website

We encourage everyone to view our website. We are continually updating the site over the next few months. You can find applications for building permits, absentee voter forms, phone numbers, zoning ordinanc-

es, economic development information, links to businesses in Wakefield Township, recreational sites, a calendar of events, meeting minutes, some nice pictures of our area and township demographics. Our Treasurer, Joan Dalman and our Deputy Supervisor/Treasurer, Shelley Nordine, updates the site often, makes corrections, and sees to it that the information is current and relevant. Our website address is www.wakefieldtownship.com

Finances

The township sets the budget priorities based on our goals. Our fund balance as of 3-31-16 was \$542, 179. Our balanced budget for 17-18 has Revenues of \$192,792 and Expenditures of \$192,792, which are lower than our 16-17. Board members, appointed Boards and employees received a 3% raise this year. There was no raise in 16-17. There is no health insurance or any fringe benefits in Wakefield Township.

GOALS

Our goals for 2017 and 2018

- Continue to provide support to the proposed Indianhead Hotel and Casino Project
- Continue to secure and investigate possibilities for motorized ATV and snowmobile trails, to work towards building an ATV scramble park in the township.
- Continue to improve and pave roads.
- Continue to provide support to the proposed Highland Mine Project- including permitting, infrastructure, and other services necessary to see the project to its fruition.
- Continue our efforts in bringing blighted properties into compliance in the township
- Monitor the functions of the Road Commission, by having the supervisor meet with Road Commission monthly or as needed and report back to the Board.

- Continue to pursue natural gas service for Wakefield Township Residents in cooperation with Xcel Energy
- Work to secure grants and partnerships to develop high speed internet for the industrial park and for residents
- Work with the Planning Commission to develop a Master Plan for the township with the emphasis on citizen involvement and brevity of the Plan

Assessments and Board of Review Date

The July Board of Review will meet on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at 5 p.m. in the Wakefield Township Hall. This meeting is for errors and omissions, principal resident exemption and to consider poverty exemptions. The State Tax Commission is requiring that local governments reassess at least 20% of the property in their jurisdiction each year. Therefore, again this year, Wakefield Township complied again by completing the assessments on some parts of the east, west and north sides of the township. Our assessor is Melissa Prisbe and if you have any questions about your property assessment please call her at 906-364-2910. If you are planning to build and are wondering approximately how much your tax will be, she can help you with that important information or you can visit our website and link to the State of Michigan Property tax calculator.



Roads

The township will be purchasing \$10,000 of material for use on a machine called the Total Patcher. Last year the township had several areas patched with good results as well. The Total Patcher will be in Wakefield Town-

ship throughout the early summer. The road commission will be doing regular mowing throughout the townships after the state roads are completed, most likely in July. Thanks goes out to the residents who maintain the roadsides in their neighborhoods.

Economic Development

The township continues to work with our business partners to start new businesses and expand what we have here now. A clearer picture of the prospective new businesses will

be evolving in the fall and we will share that information on our website and in the December Newsletter.

Need More Information?

Our website continually is adding more information for you. Visit it at www.wakefieldtownship.com



Contact Information and Important Dates---Clip and Save

- **Assessor** - Melissa Prisbe-906-364-2910
- **Blight Officer** - Call Supervisor John Cox 906 224-3721
- **Boiler Inspector** - Call State of Michigan office for appointment - 517 241-9338
- **Building Inspector** - Donald Saari - 906-364-1277
- **Building permits** – Clerk, Mandy Lake 906-364-0669
- **Burn Permits** - www.dnr.state.mi.us/burnpermits/, or 906-353-6651
- **Electrical Inspector** - Steve Bachelor - 906-295-1355, W4398 County Rd. 388, Powers, MI 49874
- **Garbage collection** – Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority at 906-932-0600 or the clerk at 906-364-0669. Monday is collection day.
- **Indianhead Subdivision Sewer Hookups** - Paula Koruga - 906-224-1092
- **Plumbing Inspector** - Ken Raupp - (906) 280-3906
- **Power and Street Lighting** - Xcel Energy Outage-**800-895-1999**. Street Light Outage-**800-628-2121** or www.xcelenergy.com/ODL/OUTAGEREPORT. If you prefer, you can call the supervisor at 906-224-3721.
- **Road Commission** - 906-667-0233
- **Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control** - Jim Finley - 906-663-4512
- **Zoning Administrator** - Donald Saari - 906-932-5979 (cell) 906-364-1277

- **Website and Facebook**-www.wakefieldtownship.com

- **Western U.P. Health Department** (Well and Septic Permits) Phone: 906-667-0200