

Lake Township News

website: www.laketownship.net

Winter—December 2017

The Big Question: Police Protection and Township Ordinances

Most ordinances are adopted as a result of an issue that comes to the Board that requires a need for rules and regulations in order to protect the public health, safety and welfare. Township ordinances are a Township law that is enforceable only by the Township. Some ordinances are known as police power ordinances, ordinances which regulate an activity, such as Fireworks Ordinances, ORV Ordinances, Noise or Nuisance Ordinances.

If a Township adopts a police power ordinance, it must have a way to enforce that ordinance. The cities and most villages in Huron County have their own police departments. Of the 28 townships, if local police protection is provided, in most cases it is by contractual agreement with the Sheriff's Department or the local city/village police department.

The question often arises as to why the Township should have to contract with and pay a fee to the county sheriff department when every township property owner pays county taxes. Under Michigan law, the sheriff's department is responsible for providing patrol and traffic services on county primary and local roads and enforcing county ordinances and state laws throughout the county and has no responsibility to enforce local ordinances unless there is a contractual agreement with the local unit and funds appropriated for the enforcement.

Over the last several years the Township Board has been asked to do something about fireworks, ORV's and target shooting. What we learned after adoption of our Fireworks Ordinance is that its effectiveness is limited to enforcement ability. To adopt future ordinances is not practical without the ability to enforce them.

So the question is, do the residents and property owners of Lake Township desire police protection? Would the residents like to know that the township has its own law enforcement officer on duty at least 40 hours per week? 8/10ths of a mil could provide for 40 hours of weekly coverage throughout the Township and would cost taxpayers .80 per \$1,000 in taxable value.

Most townships that maintain police protection do so by contract with the sheriff's department for the main reason that they do not have to provide a vehicle, insurances, benefits, etc. By contracting with the sheriff's depart-

ment, the township pays a set fee and all costs, including wages and benefits, vehicles and insurances are covered by the sheriff's department. The sheriff's department provides one or more deputies, depending on the amount of coverage hours requested, who serve the township (unless an emergency outside the township requires assistance).

Michigan law allows township boards to establish a police department or to provide for the policing of the township by certain law enforcement officers and agencies. Funding police protection can be through a special assessment or a voted millage. With the scheduled elections next year, the Township Board is considering whether or not to include a ballot proposal for police protection and would like to hear from you. If you have any input, please feel free to send your comments or questions to police.question@laketownship.net or to P O Box 429, Caseville MI 48725.

In memoriam...

Former Zoning Administrator Arnie Russell passed away October 29th. Arnie will be remembered by many of us for his ready smile and willingness to help anyone. He served as Zoning Administrator from 2002 through 2011, but his dedication to community service and helping others extended through the years both before and after his employment with Lake Township.

Is Your RECYCLING Clean and Loose?



Please make sure your recyclables are rinsed clean and are deposited in the recycling container at the Transfer Station loosely.

We have bins for sale for \$7.75 that fit in most vehicles and make it easy to store and haul.

If you use a plastic bag to haul your recycling, please dump the items out of the bag and reuse your bag for next time.



The Lake Township Offices will be closed for the holidays December 25, 2017 through January 1, 2017. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2017.

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season !

Lake Township

4988 W. Kinde Road

P O Box 429

Caseville MI 48725

Phone: 989.856.4867

Fax: 989.856.9710

Email: info@laketownship.net

Website: www.laketownship.net

Burning Permit—Call 989-856-9198

Township office hours are Monday—Friday

10 AM until 2 PM.

Appointments with officials may be scheduled at other times.

Township Officials & Staff:

Valerie McCallum, Supervisor

Dede Russell, Clerk

Maryanne Williams, Deputy Clerk

Dorothy Fischer, Treasurer

Lisa Elliott, Deputy Treasurer

Dale Hartsell, Trustee

Clay Kelterborn, Trustee

Lisa Clinton, Assessor

Tory Geilhart, Building Inspector /

Zoning Administrator

Kim Simpson, Secretary/Office Assistant

Mike Roger, Transfer Station Attendant

Gypsy Moth Spraying in 2018

Due to a high infestation rate of gypsy moth caterpillars in certain areas of the Township this past year, spraying will be done next spring, late May or early June. Spraying of Bacillus Thuringiensis (Bt) is done by aircraft in the early morning hours when the air is cool and winds are at a minimum. Letters with more information will be mailed in early May. The last spraying was done in 2011.

Is Your Home Accessible to Fire Trucks?

Our Fire Chief, Ben Willenberg, has advised us that some homes in Lake Township may not be able to be easily serviced by the fire department should a situation arise. This could result in more significant fire damage to a structure. We are asking all residents to take a look at their roads, especially those who live on private roads, and driveways. Make sure that your home is accessible to a large truck, like the size of an Art Van furniture truck. Narrow or winding roads or long drives, steep inclines and trees can impede the ability of a large fire truck to reach your home in an emergency.

Also, keep in mind that during the winter you may not be here but your home still needs fire protection. If you live on a private road or have a long drive, fire trucks may not be able to get through the snow, especially if it is never plowed. Driveways accessing M-25 are often blocked with accumulated snow from highway snowplowing if not plowed out by a private contractor.

Beach Easements

Questions often come to the township regarding beach easements. Many of the platted subdivisions in the township have dedicated easements and the dedication of these easements, as far as the rights of property owners in the subdivision or the public, can vary from one subdivision to another. We have an easement map posted in the township hall that shows all platted beach easements in the township along with the written dedication. Copies may also be obtained through the Huron County Tax Mapping Department, 3rd Floor, Huron County Building, for a small fee.

Zoning / Building

Before you begin any building, remodeling or demolition project, make sure to contact Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector Tory Geilhart for requirements such as permits and zoning regulations. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 8 AM until Noon or email zoning@laketownship.net or building@laketownship.net

Addresses

Please make sure your mailing address is up to date with the Township for mailings. If you do not receive your tax bills in July and/or December or assessment notices in February, please contact the Township to verify your address of record.

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

Winter Hours

November thru April—Sundays

9 AM - 4 PM

Wednesday—2 PM—5 PM

Summer Hours

May thru October—

Wednesdays—2 PM - 6 PM

Saturdays—10 AM - 4 PM

Sundays—9 AM - 4 PM

Located on Sand Road 1/4 mile east of Champagne Road

Absolutely NO Paints or Lacquers and

NO Building Materials

Leaves, grass and tree trimmings are accepted at the Transfer Station during regular hours at no charge.

The **Lake Township Board of Trustees** meets on the third Monday of the month. Winter meetings (December, - March) begin at 6:30 P.M. April—November meetings at 7:30 P.M.

The **Lake Township Planning Commission** meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 6:30 PM other than November which is held on the third Wednesday at 6:30 PM. No December meeting.

Special meetings may be scheduled at other times. Notices are posted on the Township website and sent out by email upon request.

Don't forget to check Lake Township's website for updates and current information!