

Lake Township

www.laketownship.net

Summer—June 2024

Township Purchases Property

As you may know, the topic of a larger, updated Township Hall has been discussed for many years. The current Township Hall is in need of repairs and updating and has limited space not only for office staff but for required storage and adequate space to conduct meetings and elections. The building belongs to the Township as long as it is used as a Township Hall but reverts back to the Gotts heirs when it ceases such function. Efforts to expand and renovate at this location are not feasible as it is too close to the road right-of-way and would require relocation of the building as well as a new well and septic system.

You may have heard recently that the Township purchased property on Port Austin Road from Deann Walters and Amy Amesbury. The property is eight acres and is in a great location for several reasons, including access on Port Austin Road; it also has utility services such as telecommunications and natural gas. The property was purchased for \$100,000 of which \$83,000 came from Federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

The next step is the development of plans for the new hall. Rumors have been circulating that taxes will increase due to this endeavor; these rumors are misleading as any tax increase would have to be approved by a majority of the voters in the Township. The Township has been contemplating the need for a new hall for some time and has been mindful of budgeting for this. Any additional funding for this project, if needed, will be sought through USDA Rural Development loans and grants.

Acquisition of this property is a great opportunity for the Township. It will allow our community to build a modern facility that the residents can enjoy utilizing for community functions for years to come.

As always, residents are encouraged to attend the Board meetings and visit the Township's website to keep informed on what is going on in the Township.

Summer Tax Payments

Summer 2024 tax payments are due by **September 16, 2024**. **Payments by mail are encouraged and should be sent to:**

Lake Township Treasurer

P O Box 429

Caseville, MI 48725

Please include, with payment, the yellow tax bill in its entirety if you would like a receipt mailed back to you. If paying by **check**, you may drop off your payment in the secure drop box located in the entrance of the hall labeled "for tax payments". A receipt will be mailed to you, if you include the yellow tax bill in its entirety.

If paying with CASH please call 586.292.4872 for an appointment. You will need to have the exact amount.

In person tax payments will be accepted at the Lake Township Hall: Monday, September 16, 2024 from 9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Renewable Energy Authority

In November 2023, Governor Whitmer signed legislation preempting local zoning authority for utility scale wind and solar developments and transferring siting authority to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). This law takes effect November 29, 2024.

Lake Township has provisions for utility scale wind energy under the current Zoning Ordinance of 2020. A public hearing is scheduled for July 2, 2024 for amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to include provisions for solar and battery storage. These amendments are necessary if a developer is required to go through the local governmental unit rather than directly to the MPSC. However, the local unit's zoning regulations must be compatible with the statewide standards. If a local unit denies or fails to act on a proposal, the application then goes to the MPSC.

With the Thumb Transmission Loop capable of supporting 5,000 MW and only utilizing 1,600 MW as of December 2021, according to the State of Michigan's Renewable Energy Policy Analysis (CLOSUP Working Paper Series Number 58, December 2021), the Thumb area will likely see more expansion of utility scale wind and solar.

The July 2, 2024 Public Hearing is scheduled for 6:00 p.m. at the Sleeper State Park Outdoor Center at 6435 State Park Road.

Planning Commission Changes Meeting Schedule

Over the past several years the Planning Commission has been busy updating the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Master Plan. The Planning Commission put a lot of time into those projects and the Board thanks the members for its accomplishments. The next project for the Planning Commission is the development of a Recreation Plan. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) requires communities to have a MDNR approved plan in order to qualify for MDNR Recreation Grants.

The Planning Commission encourages residents to attend its meetings to keep informed on what is going on in the Township. Meetings for this fiscal year are being held every other month. If additional meetings are necessary, they will be scheduled and a notice will be posted on the Township's website. Regular meetings for the remainder of the fiscal year will be at 6:00 p.m. on the following dates:

July 10, 2024

September 11, 2024

November 13, 2024

January 8, 2024

March 12, 2024

Meetings are held at the Township Hall or can be accessed virtually by using GoToMeeting (refer to the Meeting Notice for access).

Short Term Rental Ordinance

After careful consideration, including input from property owners in the community, the Township adopted an amendment to the Lake Township Zoning Ordinance, Ordinance No. 2023-2, allowing short-term rentals only in the Commercial and Residential-Business Districts.

Property owners in a Residential District may continue to rent their property for a period of up to 14 consecutive days in a calendar year or for a period of 30 or more consecutive days.

The Short term Rental amendment was adopted on September 18, 2023 and was effective October 4, 2023.

From the Clerk's Desk...

Greetings, Lake Township Voters

The election season is upon us. With the passing of Proposal 22-2 in the Gubernatorial Election of 2022, several changes in voting laws have taken effect. I will attempt to clarify some of these changes. The changes will be in effect for all elections going forward.

First, Absentee Ballot Applications will be sent to anyone on the Permanent Absentee Voter List maintained in our office. All Absentee Ballots must still be completed and returned to the Clerk's office for signature verification before being counted on Election Day. All Absentee ballots must be returned to our office no later than 8:00 P.M. on Election Day. They can still be mailed or dropped in the Ballot Drop Box located in the vestibule at the south entrance of the township hall located at 4988 West Kinde Road. (Gotts Corner).

If you wish to automatically receive a ballot for any future elections for which you are eligible, you must make that selection on the Absentee Voter Application you receive. You will then be placed on the Permanent Voter List and will automatically be sent a ballot. The return process remains the same.

If you move out of the Lake Township voting jurisdiction, please contact the Clerk's office as soon as you are able in order to assist us in maintaining accurate voting records.

Early Voting was also approved by the voters in 2022. Early voting will be taking place at the Caseville City Hall similar to the way it was done for the Presidential Primary in February 2024. Nine consecutive days of early voting will take place. These Early Voting days begin the second Saturday prior to Election Day and continue through the Sunday before Election Day. A notice will be posted on our website and at the Hall before each election outlining these dates and the time the polls will be open.

Last, If you are interested in joining our team of election workers, please contact us and we will be

happy to sign you up for the necessary training. And thank you in advance.

I hope this information is helpful. You can contact our office and we will attempt to answer any questions you may have. Enjoy your summer!

Jim Deming

Ph: 989-856-4867

Email clerk@laketownship.net

Invasive plants and insects

Some residents may remember a time when invasive species like the Sponge Moth (formerly Gypsy Moth) were unheard of in Michigan. Unfortunately those days are long gone and every year we hear about a new species to be on the look out for. We try to keep up with posting information as it comes in about invasive plants and insects on our website under ***Helpful Links and Information***. Please take some time to check these links out.

The Spotted Lanternfly is the latest insect to be on alert for. If you see a spotted lanternfly egg mass, nymph or adult, the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development asks

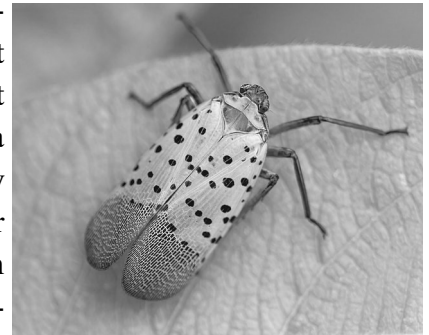


Photo credit: Spotted lanternfly in Brooklyn Botanic Garden 9.4.2021

that you take photos, note the date, time and location and report it to MDA-Info@michigan.gov or contact the MDARD Customer Service Center at 800-292-3939. The MDARD also asks that you collect a specimen in a container, if possible.

Invasive plants that you will see in our area are Autumn Olive and Tree of Heaven.

More information and photos are available on our website: www.laketownship.net/helpful_links.htm

Lake Township
4988 W. Kinde Road, P O Box 429
Caseville MI 48725
989-856-4867

The Township Offices are staffed Wednesday thru Friday between 10 AM to 2 PM. Appointments with officials may be scheduled upon request.

Township Officials & Staff:

Valerie McCallum, Supervisor
supervisor@laketownship.net
989.550.1046

Jim Deming, Clerk
clerk@laketownship.net

Maryanne Williams, Deputy Clerk
Nicole Collins, Treasurer
treasurer@laketownship.net

Hope Bedford/Deputy Treasurer
Dale Hartsell, Trustee

Clay Kelterborn, Trustee

Tory Geilhart, Building Inspector /
Zoning Administrator

building@laketownship.net
989.553.2129

Lisa Clinton, Office Administrator/Deputy
Supervisor

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.

Planning Commission meets every other month (Odd numbered month i.e. January, March, etc) on the second Wednesday at 6:00 P.M.

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

TRANSFER STATION HOURS

*Attendants: Tom Ashton
Craig Iceman*

May thru October (Summer hours)

Sundays—9 AM - 4 PM

Wednesdays—2 PM - 6 PM

November thru December (Winter hours)

Sundays—9 AM - 4 PM

Wednesdays—2 PM—5 PM

January thru April—Sundays, only 9 AM - 4 PM

The Transfer Station is closed on these holidays:

Easter Sunday

Mother's Day

Father's Day

Independence Day

Christmas Day

New Year's Day

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

***Absolutely NO Paints or Lacquers and
NO Building Materials***

Recycling limit— two (2) green recycling containers.

There is no need to sort recycling; however we ask that you only recycle household trash such as plastic containers, #1 and #2 plastic jugs and bottles, aluminum cans, glass jars and bottles, magazines, junk mail, newspaper, cardboard and paperboard.

No foam packaging, Styrofoam, plastic bags, bubble wrap, coated paperboard, milk/juice/water cartons, paper coffee cups and lids, plastic plant containers, etc. A more complete list is on our website and available at the Transfer Station upon request.

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

**For Burning Permits call 989-856-9198
and follow instructions**