

Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

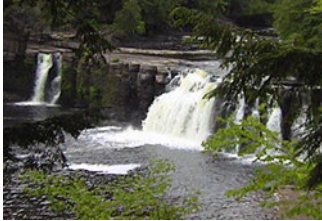
PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

Fax 906 229-5278

Volume 8 Issue 2

October 2008



Manabezho Falls on the Presque Isle River

Supervisor:
John Cox
906 224-3721
PO Box 164

Clerk:
Patricia Pikka
906 229-5558
906 364-5558
PO Box 164

Treasurer:
Joan Dalman
906 224-8201
PO Box 191

Trustees:
Delmar Smith
906 229-5347
Jim Spencer
224-6649

Custodian:
Robert Drier
224-2751

Wakefield Township board meetings: Dates and Times

April 1, 2008, 5:30pm

May 6, 2008, 5:30pm

June 3, 2008, 5:30pm

July 8, 2008, 5:30pm

August 5, 2008, 5:30pm

September 2, 2008, 5:30pm



October 7, 2008, 5:30pm

November 5, 2008, 5:30pm

December 2, 2008, 5:30pm

January 6, 2009, 5:30pm

February 3, 2009, 5:30pm

March 3, 2009, 5:30pm

Proposed New Copper Mine—Perhaps some of the best news the Gogebic Range has received in a while is the announcement by Orvana Minerals Corporation to operate an underground copper mine in Ironwood Township. The mine site will border Wakefield Township—approximately two miles west from North County Road 519 (near the North Country Trail). It is expected the mine will employ over 100 people. Pending the outcome of mineral, geological, environmental studies and successfully obtaining the proper permits the mine may become operational as early as 2012. The supervisor has met with Dr. Bill Williams, Vice President of Corporate Development and was impressed with the overall plan. We are asking that residents refrain from visiting the site area, since this area and most of the land area on North 519 is private property.

Some issues that our township will be involved in will be the development of infrastructure such as roads, power, phone, internet, traffic management etc. Of utmost importance is how our township residents feel about the project, both positive and negative. The townships and county residents will have an opportunity to attend a public meeting describing the plans for the mining operations in the near future.

What's Inside

2 Economic Development, Citizens recognition, Weatherization, Roads

3 Appointments, Street Lighting, Audit, Spring Cleanup

November 4 Election-- The polls located at the Wakefield Township Hall are open on Tuesday, November 4, 2008 from 7:00 am. to 8:00 p.m. If you cannot vote in person contact Clerk Pat Pikka if you need an absentee ballot. If you want to be on a permanent absentee ballot list, you must send Clerk Pikka a letter saying you want to be placed on the list. Mail the letter to: Wakefield Township, P.O. Box 164, Wakefield Michigan 49968. If you have any other questions about the election call 229-5558.

Economic Development/Renaissance Zones – We are very pleased to report that enough new jobs have been created by Extreme Tool at our Planter Road/Chippewa site to close out our \$426,000 loan from the State of Michigan/Federal Community Block Grant program. The continued expansion of Extreme Tool in our township will mean more jobs for our community, will put the previously vacant speculation building to good use, and will reduce the financial obligation to the township. We still have lots available and if you know of anyone who is interested in establishing a business in our Industrial Park, please inform the Supervisor/Economic Developer at 224-3721 or any township official.

The Gogebic County Economic Development Commission has hired a new part-time director, Donna Scorse. The county has been without a director for nearly 10 months, so we look forward to her help in developing jobs for our area.

Recognition of Citizens and Businesses—In August the board recognized the following people and businesses for their service to Wakefield Township.

- M.D. and Associates (Antique Car Restoration)-US-2 Renaissance Zone-Outstanding New and Expanding Business, Mike Dianich, owner
- Extreme Tool and Engineering-Planter Road Renaissance Zone-Outstanding New and Expanding Business recently creating 14 new jobs in their new building, Mike Zacharius, owner.
- Bingo's Garage, Motel, and Bar-Longest operating business in Wakefield Township (1931), Eugene and Charlotte Vittone, owners.
- Thomas Novascone, Assessor-Served Wakefield Township continually since 1977 as our tax assessor.
- Walter Salo, Served Wakefield Township in various capacities and at various times as a member of the Board of Review, Election Board, and Clerk beginning in 1951.

The board awarded each one a plaque and a reception was held for them following the program.

Speaking of volunteers, the following persons donated services to Wakefield Township during the past six months-James Berg (tractor for spring cleanup), Lake Land and Timber (Chris and Nick Lake) for their donation of equipment and time to demolish a vacant house, and Chummy Ozzello (township hall flag caretaker). The board wishes to express their appreciation for their unselfish efforts in making our township a better place.

Township Hall Weatherization Project—Because of the continuous increases in fuel oil, this summer we removed the old fuel boiler and replaced it with a natural gas boiler. In addition, we insulated the walls and ceilings in the board room and township office. We did not replace the heating system upstairs-it is a waste of money to heat an area that is used so infrequently (one to three times per year). We also repainted and re-furbished the board room and office with very modest fixtures and furniture.

Road Projects— A total of approximately \$90,000 was spent on local township roads this summer with the township providing about one half of the funds and the Gogebic County Road Commission providing about the same. In addition, the Sampson Rd. bridge project was funded-- 80% federal funds, 15% state funds and 5% Gogebic County Road Commission funds. Depending on the funds that our township has next year, we would like to continue our efforts in renewing and repairing roads in our township

Board Appointments-The township board has appointed the following persons to serve on various boards:

Board of Review--Robert Drier, Herb Pikka, Gerald Niemi, all 1-1-09 to 1-1-11,
alternate Fritz Kirchner

Zoning Board of Appeals--Craig Talsma 10-1-11

Construction Board of Appeals--Craig Talsma 10-1-11

Planning Commission--Jim Niemala—Three year Term Expires October 1, 2011, Dale Marten—Three year Term Expires October 1, 2011

The board appreciates the time and effort of these members in serving our township residents.

Street Lighting—If you are experiencing problems with township/Xcel Energy street lights you can call the Supervisor at 224-3721.

Audit/Budget—Wakefield Township again received a clean audit for fiscal year 2007-08 and we are financially in good shape. A complete copy of our audit or any other township, city, or county can be found on the Michigan Department of Treasury website or if you would like to review a copy contact a board member.

During the months of December, January and February we will be developing our budget for 2009-10. Our fiscal year runs from April 1 to March 31. Please let your board members know what township services are important to you. If you see waste in any of our operations please let us know about that as well.

Spring Cleanup—The response to our spring cleanup has been tremendous. We disposed of more non-steel items this year than last. (Five large dumpsters full). The steel items were about 25% of last year's. We want to thank the residents who care about their township and keep their places looking so nice. We also want to thank those residents who have taken care of their dilapidated buildings and junk cars. The Wakefield Fire Department continues to be our ally in this program.

There is no excuse anymore for people to dump truckloads of garbage on our roadsides or properties. There also is no excuse to continue to leave dilapidated buildings empty and in an unsafe condition. Our zoning administrator has been given the full authority to enforce the zoning ordinances and all of its penalties, so please cooperate with him.

Website-There are many pieces of information available for you on our website at www.wakefieldtownship.com . The most popular items are the building permit and related forms, phone numbers, zoning ordinances, and the Renaissance Zone. There are also links to businesses in Wakefield Township, a calendar of events, meeting minutes, and township demographics

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