

Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

Fax 906 229-5278

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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
906 224-6649

Custodian:

Robert Drier
906 224-2751

Wakefield Township board meetings: Dates and Times

April 7, 2009, 5:30pm

May 5, 2009, 5:30pm

June 2, 2009, 5:30pm

July 7, 2009, 5:30pm

August 4, 2009, 5:30pm

September 1, 2009, 5:30pm



October 6, 2009, 5:30pm

November 3, 2009, 5:30pm

December 1, 2009, 5:30pm

January 5, 2010, 5:30pm

February 2, 2010, 5:30pm

March 2, 2010, 5:30pm

Bob Raisanen--As you may already know, Bob Raisanen, Marenisco Township Supervisor, recently past away. Bob loved the Upper Peninsula and was a very dedicated supervisor and helped the community at large. Bob also served the area outside Marenisco, as a member of the Gogebic-Iron County Airport Board and as chairman of the Gogebic Range Solid Waste Authority. He was an active member of the Michigan Township Association and acted as MTA representative at county board meetings.

Wakefield Township will certainly miss his contributions and dedicated service on our behalf. He was also the "go to guy" when you needed advice or counsel.

Spring Cleanup

Thanks to all of you our Spring Cleanup 2009 was again successful this year. Five large dumpsters of garbage and two containers of steel were removed. After three years of this program most of the township is looking good. There are some who that have decided to leave their residences a mess, and your zoning administrator as well as the township board will be working with law enforcement and the courts to correct these situations.

Economic Development

Western U.P. Recycling—It appears now that the recycling center should be open during the month of July. Mr. Hilborn tells us that the first phase of the project will include the recycling of all types of metals. The second phase will include the sale of new iron and steel. The third phase will be the recycling of plastic, paper and tires. Depending on the commodities market, he is hopeful that this will occur over the next year. Currently paper, plastic and tires would cost him money to dispose of. When his business opens his phone number will

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be 229-5150. He plans to have a grand opening and we look forward to this new business in Wakefield Township.

Orvana—County wide township officials toured the mine site recently. Wakefield Township has passed a resolution of support for this project and we expect that others will soon follow. Despite the downturn in the economy the company still is moving forward with the sample drilling and environmental analysis. This process is necessary for permitting and will take about two years. The company has already spent over \$2,000,000 on this project and it is having a positive effect on our area with the hiring of contractors, lodging, fuel and so forth.

Internet Towers—In the last newsletter we told you that we were going to apply for stimulus funds. Unfortunately they will not be available until February 2010, thus we are looking for partners to help finance this construction. If we use our own funds, the cost will be substantially lower. So far we are pleased to report that we have received \$5,000 from Orvana Minerals, U.S. Corp. This is a great start towards the goal of raising \$15,000. We are hopeful that other businesses and concerned groups will join the effort, since dial-up internet has become outdated and useless. We do, however, realize this is a tough time for businesses and people to come forward with extra funds. If you know of someone who would be willing to donate towards our goal, please let the supervisor know.

Recognition We would like to recognize the following volunteers and organizations who donated services or material to our township recently.

Spring Cleanup- Help with the dumpsters loading and unloading-John Cox, Delmar Smith, Jim Spencer; Jim Berg –use of tractor and trailer for compaction; Joe Hilborn-Log Truck for loading dumpsters and compaction. Township Hall Landscaping—Mary Kosc, Pat Pikka, Delmar and Elaine Smith; Miljevich LLC donation of landscape chips.

Additionally, we also applaud the work of the Wakefield Fourth of July Committee as well as the Fireworks Committee who faithfully each year work to put on an outstanding celebration, with parades, activities and fireworks.

Road Construction

The work on the rebuilding of about ½ mile of Old-US-2 from Sampson to Koskela Road is scheduled to be completed by the end of July. The Road Commission has been patching and replacing culverts throughout the township. The Road Commission is also applying for a grant to rebuild north county road 519. We are working with them and the state and federal agencies involved, stressing the importance of having a good all season road for the mine, tourists, residents and the loggers. We will continue to try and keep up with the roads as our funds allow us, but last winter and the spring breakup did a lot of damage to our roads which is putting us further behind the goal of having good drivable roads.

Roadside mowing this year will be done later in July on our local and primary roads. As you may have seen, the state has limited its mowing to one pass and the road commission and the township will be doing so also. This is due to the cutbacks at the state and federal level. The brush is growing and closing in on some of our roads and this will have to be addressed sooner or later.

The Gogebic County Road Commission would like to remind residents that placing basketball hoops on the road right of way is not permitted. This is a common sense thing--no one wants to see any children or persons injured or killed.

Long time Gogebic County Road Commission Manager, Bruce Edyvean will be retiring effective July 16, 2009. We appreciate his efforts on behalf of our township, and wish him well in his retirement.

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, newsletters, and the Renaissance Zone. There are also links to businesses in Wakefield Township, a calendar of events, meeting minutes, and township demographics. Our Treasurer, Joan Dalman, updates the site often, makes corrections, and sees to it that the information is current and relevant. This site is accessible by dial-up. If you do not have a computer, you can call the clerk at 229-5558.



Special Information

The following has been provided by the Gogebic County Community Action Agency. With all of the costs to maintain a home, and survive in today's economy we thought you may find this information useful.

Now is the time to take advantage of the new stimulus package and get your home weatherized. New, greatly increased income guidelines will allow you to qualify for this FREE program whether you own or rent.

The program offers attic insulation, sidewall insulation, smoke detectors, weatherstripping, new refrigerators, along with the manpower to install the measures to make your home more energy efficient and comfortable.

The new income guidelines are as follows:

<u>#in family</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Year</u>
1	\$1887	\$22,648
2	\$2468	\$29,617
3	\$3049	\$36,586
4	\$3630	\$43,555
5	\$4210	\$50,523

Continues beyond 5 to any number in your family.

To receive these benefits, along with many others which we offer, contact the Gogebic-Ontonagon Community Action Agency at 667-0283 in Bessemer, 884-2106 in North Ontonagon County, or 988-2751 in South Ontonagon County.



HOUSEKEEPING, YARD WORK,

SNOW SHOVELING, HOME REPAIR PROGRAM (HYSR)

FOCUS: Senior Citizens

FEATURES:

- ❖ **Helmi's Helpers** - Home/Apartment cleaning.
"Spring cleaning activities".
- ❖ **Yard Work** - Yard clean-up, grass cutting, raking, mowing.
- ❖ **Home Repair** - Small repair jobs such as porch step repair, window/screens/fuses, railings, etc.
- ❖ **Snow Shoveling** - Shovel sidewalks/steps.

HOUSING PROGRAMS

Links to Homeownership

MSHDA program designed to assist families with at least one adult member & a related minor child (or a pregnant applicant/co-applicant) to purchase a home. Down payment assistance & Closing cost funds are available. Both Counties are included.

Homebuyer/Purchase/Rehabilitation

Program designed to help a person or family purchase a home with downpayment & closing costs & doing rehabilitation work to reduce major repairs to keep the payments affordable. Limited to Home purchase in the City of Ironwood.

Homeownership Counseling/Savings Program

MSHDA certified counselor is available for required home ownership counseling prior to accessing any MSHDA mortgage loan. Obtain 3:1 savings match for Down Payment Assistance.

Motivational Programs

Income Eligibility – Varies

Features:

- ❖ Temporary Assistance to Needy Families
- ❖ Individual Development Accounts homeowner/education Match Savings
- ❖ Homebuyer Down Payment Assistance
- ❖ Emergency Financial Assistance
- ❖ Homeless Prevention

GOCAA does not unlawfully discriminate against an individual or group because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, political status, physical and familial status, or National Origin.

Payment of Summer Taxes may be deferred until February 14 if you meet the following requirements:

Gross household income does not exceed 40,000 and you qualify under one of the following classifications:

1. 62 years of age or older, including the unmarried surviving spouse of a person who was 62 years of age or older at the time of death
2. Paraplegic, Hemiplegic, or Quadriplegic
3. Eligible Serviceperson, Eligible Veteran, Eligible Widow or Widower
4. Blind Person
5. Totally and Permanently Disabled

Tax Collection

If you pay your taxes by mail, please enclose the tear off section of your bill(s) or the real estate index number(s).

You will automatically be sent a receipt. You do not need to send a stamped, addressed envelope. Payments must be postmarked by September 14, 2009 to avoid penalties.

If you prefer to pay in person, I will be at the Township Hall on:

Friday, July 17, 2009 from 9 AM to 1 PM

Friday, August 14, 2009 from 2 PM to 6 PM

Monday, September 14, 2009 from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM (This is the last day before penalties are added)

I am available at my home office at other times. Call 224-8201

Joan Dalman, Treasurer