

# Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

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*Volume 9 Issue 3*

*October 2009*



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 2, 2009, 5:30pm

December 1, 2009, 5:30pm

January 5, 2010, 5:30pm

February 2, 2010, 5:30pm

March 2, 2010, 5:30pm



## Garbage Collection

In October 2006 the board wrote to you in its newsletter about the township garbage collection ordinance and the method of funding the weekly collection of garbage. At that time approximately one-half of the cost of picking up the garbage came from property taxes. The remaining one-half came from user's fees at \$24 per quarter.

Since then, the cost of collecting garbage and providing plastic bags has gone up substantially and currently the user rates are funding about one third of the cost (\$12,389) of the total garbage collection (\$36,988). Broken out the \$36,988 total costs are as follows --\$2677 bags, \$33,000 contract with City of Wakefield, and \$1311 for spring cleanup.

Our contract with the City of Wakefield expires in March 2010. Currently we have about 130 garbage customers. To fund next year's service estimated to be \$38,856 on a 50-50 basis the rate would have to increase from the current \$24 per quarter to \$37 per quarter or \$148 per year per customer to equal \$19,428-one half of the cost.

The board felt that increasing the rates was not a good option. The board did a survey of the cost of picking up garbage in neighboring communities. The City of Ironwood's residents pay \$11.75 per month for a 2 can maximum with additional cans at \$1.50 each. (\$35.25 per quarter). They do not subsidize the collection with general fund. They have the lowest rate in the County.

## What's Inside

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Therefore the board has opted to place the garbage contract for bid. If you or someone you know is interested, a copy of the bid specifications is available on the township website [www.wakefieldtownship.com](http://www.wakefieldtownship.com) or you can call the clerk or supervisor for a copy. The bids will be opened at the November meeting and the contract awarded at the December meeting.

### **Millage Rate/State Funding**

Last year voters approved a millage renewal of 3.00 mills local voted and 1.63 county allocated, for a total of 4.63 mills. This is the same rate that Wakefield Township has had for years and years. The Headlee Amendment or the Truth in Assessing or Equalization Millage Rollback Fraction did not factor in this year's calculation since the township's taxable value has actually dropped from \$26,783,017 in 2008 to \$26,700,779 in 2009. This drop was due to the Enbridge pipeline settlement and the transfer of several properties from the regular tax roll to commercial forest. At the October meeting the board voted to keep the millage rate at 4.63 mills.

By now the media has informed Michigan residents about the devastating cuts in service to Michigan residents. No one was spared and the township hopes to minimize the impact to you without having to raise taxes. Stay tuned.

### **Appointments**

The following have been appointed:

#### Planning commission

Jim Spencer- Three year term (Board Representative)

Paula Koruga-Three year term

#### Zoning Board Of Appeals

Delmar Smith – Three year term (Board Representative)

#### Construction Board of Appeals

Delmar Smith – Three year term (Board Representative)

#### Zoning Administrator

Meghan Lane

### Library Board

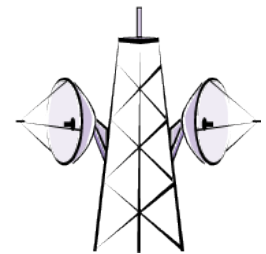
Betty Best

The Township Board would like to thank Walter Salo for his 17 years of dedicated service on the Wakefield Public Library Board. Also the Board wishes to thank all of those appointed to the various boards for their service to Wakefield Township.

### **Board Goals**

At our September meeting, the board reviewed its previous goals and many have been met. Going forward, the board adopted the following goals:

- Provide support to the Orvana Mine Project- including permitting, infrastructure, and other services necessary to see the project to its fruition.
- Continue our efforts to bring blighted properties into compliance in the township.
- Continue to improve and pave roads.
- Provide a more efficient and more economical garbage collection service.

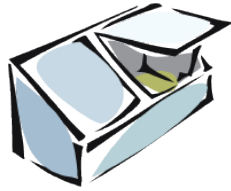


### **Internet Service**

The internet tower project is just a little behind schedule. The tower has been delivered and the tower will be erected and wired soon. The tower is located on top of Indianhead Mountain and when erected, Blackbear Computer Repair will be testing areas of our township for coverage.

If you are interested or even think that you will be interested in internet service anywhere in our township, it is most important

that you contact Brandon at his email [brandon@gogebicrange.net](mailto:brandon@gogebicrange.net) or call Blackbear Appliance and Computer at 906-842-3394. He needs your address information so that he can determine whether the signal will work at your address.



## Recycle Center

Western U.P. Recycling has had a busy summer with the construction of its facility. They have been and are continuing to accept metal of all kinds. You can call them at 229-5150 for their hours of operation and rates they are paying for the various metals. This business has already shown to be an asset to our community

## Audit

Once again we had a clean audit. The auditor was very complimentary of the board about its business practices. The board has worked hard as a team to get to this point and we are very pleased about this. Our fund balance remains healthy. You can view a complete copy of our audit and other governmental units on the State of Michigan website.

## Donations

The board has always recognized the value of various community organizations that need funds to survive. Even with advice that was given from our attorney and our auditor, it is difficult for the board to decipher which organizations can pass the test for a legitimate and legal donation. Therefore the board has decided not to donate to organizations, with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July/Fireworks which will become part of our Parks and Recreation contract. We regret to take this action, but hope that the folks we donate to will understand our fiduciary responsibilities.

## Census

Soon a census form will be arriving in the mail. We encourage you to participate, since the count of Wakefield Township residents could affect the allocation of funds to us from the federal govern-

ment. The City of Wakefield receives several federal grants each year because they have a low/moderate income population. Our township in the 2000 census was very close to that designation, so again, we hope you will participate.

## Gogebic Range Water Authority (Indianhead Area)

Those of you who live in the Indianhead area know how important a reliable and efficient water system means to you. We are very enthused to tell you what has been occurring and what will occur in the future.

GRWA has completely rehabilitated the Blackjack Road water booster station, which includes all new pumps, motors, pump bases, electrical, and computerized level indicators, a new roof and installation of a portable generator hook-up which will to be used in case of a power outage. They also installed a new water level indicator in the Indianhead Road pump station. This project was paid for from USDA loan funds at a cost of \$73,000.

Funding has been obtained, and additional funding is being applied for under the Stimulus Funds, to replace the water transmission mains and hydrants and further upgrade the Indianhead Road pump station and storage vault. Work is progressing on this phase of the project. The first priority of the GRWA will be to completely rebuild the Indianhead Road pump station, and depending on funds available, it will include a new building and a new on-site stand-by generator.

The township would like to thank Jean Verbos, administrator, as well as the GRWA board members for their tireless efforts in working to improve our water system. Also playing a vital role in this continuing effort is Congressman Bart Stupak's office, as well as Senator Levin and Senator Stabenow's offices. We appreciate their assistance in obtaining these funds.

## Orvana Mine

The test drilling has been completed and environmental testing will continue throughout 2010. The permitting process will take at least another year. Orvana has hired a project engineer and manager, Dave Lewis, for this project, who is currently living in Wakefield Township. His primary responsibility will be to design and plan construction of the mine. The township is working with the county, state and federal governments and the mine on infrastructure options.



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## NOVEMBER 3, 2009 ELECTION

On November 3, 2009, Wakefield Township Residents will be asked to go to the polls to vote on three (3) County Wide Ballot Proposals. They are for the following: **Gogebic County Medical Care Facility** (additional 1.04 mills for the purpose of erecting, furnishing, and equipping and an addition to the facility; **Gogebic Community College** (renewal of 1.5 mills for 20 years) and **Gogebic-Ontonagon ISD** (special education-restoration of Headlee reduction of .2492 mills for an unlimited period and vocational education- restoration of Headlee reduction of .1084 mills for an unlimited period. The clerk has sent out AV Ballot request forms to those who appear on her permanent absent voter list. If you did not receive an AV Ballot request form and would like to vote Absent Ballot, please call the clerk at 229-5558. By law you must request to be placed on the permanent absent voter list if you want to vote AV from now on. The election for Wakefield Township Residents is held at the township hall, 414 North County Rd. 519. The hall doors open at 7 a.m. and voting continues until 8 p.m. We hope that all residents become informed voters, by reading the articles in the local papers on the above ballot proposals. See you at the polls on November 3, 2009