

Wakefield Township

414 N. County 519

PO Box 164

Wakefield, MI 49968

Fax 906 229-5278

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December 2011



Manabezho Falls on the
Presque Isle River

Supervisor:

John Cox
906 224-3721
PO Box 164

jcox@wakefieldtownship.com

Clerk:

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

ppikka@wakefieldtownship.com

Treasurer:

Joan Dalman
906 224-8201
906 364-1742
PO Box 191

jdalman@wakefieldtownship.com

Trustees:

Delmar Smith
906 229-5347

dsmith@wakefieldtownship.com

Jim Spencer
906 224-6649

jspencer@wakefieldtownship.com

Custodian:

Robert Drier
906 224-2751

Wakefield Township Board Meetings: Dates and Times

April 5, 2011, 5:30pm

May 2, 2011, 5:30pm

June 7, 2011, 5:30pm

July 5, 2011, 5:30pm

August 2, 2011, 5:30pm

September 6, 2011, 5:30pm



October 4, 2011, 5:30pm

November 1, 2011, 5:30pm

December 6, 2011, 5:30pm

January 3, 2012, 5:30pm

February 7, 2012, 5:30pm

March 6, 2012, 5:30pm

Important Election Information

As you are well aware the presidential campaigns for 2012 have already started. The following election dates and filing deadlines are listed below for our local and state elections. Our township millage will expire in 2012 and all of the offices of our township elected officials will expire. The Board will be deciding soon what the date of the millage election will be.

February 28th, 2012 - Republican Presidential Primary

Aug. 7, 2012 -State Primary

Nov. 6, 2012 -General Election

Registration Deadlines:

July 9, 2012 -Last day to register for August primary

Oct. 9, 2012 -Last day to register for November general election

Anyone interested in being a candidate for township offices, county offices, county commissioners, the school board, Gogebic Community College trustees, County convention delegates or putting a county or local question or proposal on the ballot can find filing deadlines on our web site. (www.wakefieldtownship.com) Also, we will gladly mail you this information if you request it.

The Board would like to acknowledge the election board members who serve us so well in keeping our elections honest, fair, and error free. They are Mary Kosciuszko, chairperson; Betty Best, Margie LeBarr, and Elaine Smith

Spring Cleanup

This spring's cleanup date will be **Saturday, May 12, 2012.**

Important Information on Garbage Collection This Spring

Because Waste Management uses a rather large truck for garbage collection and the weight of the truck could cause a lot of damage when the frost is coming out of the ground, we have developed a schedule for those times when the weight restrictions are on. We are doing this to save the roads that we have spent so much on the past few years. Please listen to radio, visit our web site or read the newspaper for the date that the restrictions are put on. The entire township is on a Monday pick up schedule and the restrictions usually start on a Monday so please be aware. Also please let us know what you think about the schedule that we jointly have developed.

North County 519 from M-28 to Romano Rd. –no change-all season road

Romano Rd. –bring garbage to 519

Kronberg Rd- bring garbage to 519 or Johnson Road

Planter Rd to Industrial Park- no change-all season road

Drier Rd. -bring garbage to 519

Niemala Rd- bring garbage to 519

Johnson Rd-no change

Hopkins Rd. -bring garbage to Johnson Rd

Wertanen Rd.-bring garbage to Johnson Rd or M-28

Indianhead Rd -no change-all season road

Snowdance Rd.-bring garbage to Indianhead Rd

Sundance Rd.- bring garbage to Indianhead Rd

Apache Rd -bring garbage to Indianhead Rd

Thunderbird Lane- bring garbage to Indianhead Rd

Blackjack Rd. -gravel portion customers bring garbage to blacktop

Mikkado Rd-no change

South County 519 from City Limits to Bessemer Township Line-no change

Olson Rd- bring garbage to S. 519

Linna Rd- Bring garbage to S. 519

Pummala Rd- bring garbage to corner of S.519 and Pumala Rd and place in dumpster

Sordahl Rd.-no change

Colberg Rd-bring garbage to Sordahl Rd. or corner of S.519 and Pumala Rd and place in dumpster

Martinson Rd- bring to Sordahl Rd. or corner of S.519 and Pumala Rd and place in dumpster

Londo Rd, Zorich Rd.,and South Plymouth Rd-Place in dumpster located at the southeast corner of Zorich/Londo Rds.

Old US-2 from City Line East to Sampson and to US-2-no change

Pikka Rd and Upper Mattson Rd- Place in dumpster located at the corner of Pikka/US-2 or bring to Old US-2

Ulvila Rd (Wakefield Township only)-Bring to Old US-2

Lower Mattson Rd- Bring to Old US-2

Jarvenpaa Rd- Bring to US-2

Nurmiko Rd- Bring to US-2

Korpela Rd (Wakefield Township only) Bring to US-2

Wittanen Rd- Bring to US-2

If you have any problems, or would like to start a new service call the **Waste Management customer service number at 1-888-960-0008 or call the clerk at 229-5558.**

Website Redesign

We recently have made some improvements to our website that should be implemented in January. Check them out, we are sure you will like them. Our Treasurer, Joan Dalman, updates the site often, makes corrections, and sees to it that the information is current and relevant. Our website address is www.wakefieldtownship.com

Township Appointed Boards

BOARD OF REVIEW

Robert Drier, Herb Pikka, Gerald Niemi, all 1-1-11 to 1-1-13; alternate Fritz Kirchner

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Delmar Smith 10-1-12, Eugene Vittone 10-1-13, Craig Talsma 10-1-14

CONSTRUCTION BOARD OF APPEALS

Russ Korpi 10-1-13, Delmar Smith 10-1-12, Craig Talsma 10-1-14

REPRESENTATIVE TO SOLID WASTE BOARD

Eugene Vittone; Alternate George Osier

ZONING ADMINISTRATOR- Meghan Lane PLANNING COMMISSION

Paula Koruga—3 year Term Expires Oct. 1, 2012

Jim Spencer—3 year Term Expires October 1, 2012

Jim Niemala—3 year Term Expires October 1, 2014

Dale Marten—3 year Term Expires October 1, 2014

Denice Laessig—3 year Term Expires Oct. 1, 2013

GOGEBIC RANGE WATER AUTHORITY

Pat Pikka and Delmar Smith; Alternate Members- Joan Dalman to Pat Pikka, Jim Spencer to Delmar Smith

AD HOC STEERING COMMITTEE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Cox—Supervisor and Economic Developer
Paula Koruga—Planning Commission Chairperson
Pat Pikka—Clerk
Barry Bolich—Business Representative
Mike Zacharius—Business Representative

Mini -Audit

This year we did not have a full-blown audit, as the state law allows every other year. This saved us about \$1500 from the full audit. The mini-audit found that Wakefield Township is in good financial shape. Our fund balance dropped slightly from \$619,000 to \$609,000 from last year which was due to the extensive road work we did this year. A copy of our previous audit and any other local/county/school audit is available on the State of Michigan Treasury website.

Taxes, Assessments, Board of Review

At our September meeting the millage rate was set at a total of 4.4336 mills for township operations. This is a lower rate (.2 mill) than last year, since the Headlee Amendment lowers the tax rate, when there is a taxable value increase in the values of the total township properties that exceed the rate of inflation.

As we stated last year, the State Tax Commission is requiring that local governments reassess at least 20% of the property in their jurisdiction each year. Therefore, this year, Wakefield Township complied again; by completing the assessing on the North side of the township, and continuing to the Northeast side.

Again this year, to save postage, you will receive a notice if there is change in your assessment, either increased or decreased. Those owners whose assessments have not changed will receive no notice.

Our assessor is Melissa Prisbe and if you have any questions about your property assessment please call her at 906-663-4414. If you are planning to build and are wondering how much your tax will be, she can help you with that important information.

The December Board of Review will be on **December 13, 2011, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Wakefield Township Hall. This meeting is for errors and omissions only. The March Board of Review for the public will be held on **Monday, March 12, 2012 from 9-12 a.m. and 1-4 pm.; Tuesday, March 13 from 9-12 a.m. and Wednesday, March 14 from 6-9 p.m.**

Economic Development

Orvana Mine/Mine Exploration

Most of you who reside in Wakefield Township know that mining and timber harvesting has been our heritage and will continue to be our future economy. We are very pleased to see the Copperwood Project move forward. The public was given an update on the mine on October 10 and 11. The permit application has been submitted and the first comment meeting was held by the DEQ on November 9 and was well attended with apparently no verbal comment opposition. After this meeting there will be one more meeting after the DEQ approves or disapproves the permit application. The public will have an opportunity to comment on that decision.

While this process is moving forward, Excel Energy is now planning for the construction of the transmission lines to the facility. There will be a public meeting soon to answer any questions that the residents may have. The target date for opening this mine is 2013.

Various companies have expressed interest in ore bodies around our county and township. The Board has fully supported the Orvana mine and others who would like to locate in our township.

Extreme Tool and Engineering

Extreme Tool continues to expand, adding 6,000 square feet to one of their buildings and building another storage area. This expansion will add another 15 jobs, making their total employment to around 100. To accomplish this, the township sold Extreme Tool some additional land. This has truly been a success story for Wakefield Township. These well paying jobs have attracted new people to our area and have provided jobs to our local and area residents as well.

Western U.P. Recycling

Western U.P. Recycling also expanded this summer, adding a new storage/sorting building. Because of world-wide demand, the metal recycling market continues to grow. In addition to expanding the recycling business, a log storage facility was also developed this summer.

Township Recognizes Businesses

The township continues to recognize businesses, new and old, big and small, which have made significant contributions to our township. At our October Board meeting, the following businesses were recognized: Indianhead Valley Condos, Floral Gardens, Porcupine Cabinets, Dave's Crockett Critters, and Western U.P. Recycling. Congratulations to these businesses for choosing our township as their location to do business and providing direct and indirect employment to our area.

Blighted Properties and Building permits

Our Zoning Administrator, Meghan Lane, has done an excellent job in enforcing our zoning ordinance. The Wakefield Volunteer Fire Department has been of great assistance in burning down dilapidated buildings. There has been very good cooperation from most of our township residents in complying with our basic blight ordinance.

We also would like to remind those who are building or adding on to their existing homes to call the clerk or visit our website for a permit application. Our permits are the most reasonably priced in the state and we are asking for your compliance in this matter as well.

Township Recognizes Electrical Inspector Retirement

Larry Anderson, electrical inspector for the township since 1999 will be retiring effective January 1, 2012. The township will be recognizing him for all his hard work and dedication to our township and the community at large, at our December 6, meeting. We are currently advertising for a replacement for him.

Roads

For many of you the chip seal application and the crack filling to our local roads was something different and new. The cost of this is about one-third the price of blacktop and should prolong the life of the pavement for at least 10 years. This is a great alternative to going back to gravel, or driving on broken and rough pavement. The smoothness of the pavement should improve, as traffic wears it in.

We are fortunate that the road commission was able to paint lines on many of our roads at no charge to the

township. Thank you, road commission, for the extra service.

The big news is that thanks to the large donation of \$841,000 from Orvana the rebuilding of North 519 has started this fall with culvert replacement. Pending the approval of the permit to open the copper mine, the Michigan Department of Transportation will contribute another \$2 million to rebuild this road. We would like to thank Representative Matt Huuki and Senator Tom Casperson for their efforts in obtaining the necessary funding for this project and for their support of the mine. This was a great example of cooperation between local governments, the road commission, Orvana, and the MDOT. Next summer the road work will include additional culverts, bridge work and sloping of some of the steep banks on the roadside. Any road closures necessary will be done in mid-week. The final paving and construction for this project will be done in the summer of 2013.

Road Commission manager Darren Pionk and Supervisor John Cox have recently made inspections our township local roads. Based on this inspection we are looking at working on the following roads during the summer of 2012:

1. Olson Road—Chip seal and crack fill- .4 mile
2. Jarvenpaa Road—Wedge with Blacktop-.1 mile
3. Pikka Road--crack fill and chip seal-.8 mile
4. Hopkins Road—chip seal-.4 mile
5. Kronberg Road—wedge, chip seal-.45mile-
6. Niemela Road—Blacktop 150 feet, chip seal- .25 mile

Schedule for collecting 2011 winter taxes:

Friday, December 30, 2011 from 9:00am—12:00pm and 1:00pm to 5:00pm at the Twp Hall

Friday, January 20, 2012 from 3:30pm—6:30pm at the Twp Hall

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 from 3:30--6:30 at the Twp Hall (the last day before penalties are added)

Wednesday, February 29, 2012 from 9am to 12pm and from 1:00pm to 5pm at the Twp Hall--At this point penalties have already been added. This is the last day before the tax roll is turned over to the County.

I am also available at my home office most evenings and Saturday. Call first 906 224-8201

Joan Dalman, Treasurer