

## KEENE TOWNSHIP

## NEWSLETTER

www.keenetownship.org

## TOWNSHIP REPORT

Welcome to the Keene Township quarterly newsletter! Your board has had a very busy year. While the normal activities of the township are progressing as usual, we have been working in several areas to make life better for all our residents. Thank you for your participation to make life in Keene the best it can be! Highlights from this year include but are not limited to:

- Re-Investing township funds into higher earning interest accounts resulting in approx. a 7% Increase In township Income.
- The Board has adopted changes to help very low-income residents reduce property tax burden where the state permits.
- Data from the Township Survey of resident's feedback on renewable energy is currently being analyzed. Results will be presented at June 11 board meeting.
- *Reduce township costs by:* Adopting a less costly phone service, limiting paper receipt costs (printing and postage).
- *Increase efficiency by:* Upgrading township computer, switching to a faster internet service for more reliability on election tax collection day, live streaming for township meetings to increase visibility.
- *Increase safety at the Town Hall by:* Looking into adding security cameras, installation of a new streetlight to light the parking area during evening meetings and voting, purchase of Caution Signs to slow down traffic during voting hours.
- ARPA Funds have been committed to our township's portion of new fire fighting equipment for Saranac rather than having to raise taxes for residents.
- Brad Potter, a member of one of our township's legacy families, is working with the DNR to make improvements to the boat launch area (and possibly decrease congestion by increasing parking space) on the north side of White's Covered Bridge. Thank you, Brad!

## SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

BY BOB SCHAFFER

Road brining and graveling will start shortly. A map of the roads to be re graveled is available at the township hall. This year we will not perform the first brine application on roads that will be re-graveled, saving us some expenses. All roads will be covered in the second brining. Mowing will be a little later in the summer because the State, then the County have first and second priority.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

BY TAYLOR LEWIS

Summer tax season is upon us! Due date: September 16, 2024. Office Hours will be held at the Town Hall 9/16: 9am-3pm. Pay by mail to: Keene Township PO Box 40, Saranac MI 48881 or by drop box at town hall. RECEIPTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST. Please mark on your tax bill for a receipt or email me at: KeeneTwpTreasurer@gmail.com. Thank you!

## CLERK'S REPORT

616-902-2606

BY TAMI HARDY

There will be two more elections held for 2024:

- Primary Election: August 6th
- General Election: November 5th
- Nine days of early voting at **302 West Main St, Ionia**. On Election Day, voting will be located at the Town Hall: **8505 Potters Road Saranac**. Hours: 7am- 8pm

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# UPCOMING EVENTS

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- June 11: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- June 13: Planning Commission @ Hall 7pm
- July 9: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- July: Invenergy Q&A (time/location TBD)
- **August 6: Primary Election (7am- 8pm)**
- August 7: Planning Commission @ Hall 7pm
- August 13: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- Sept. 10: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- **September 16: Taxes Due**
- Oct 1: Planning Commission @ Hall 7pm
- Oct 8: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- **November 5: General Election (7am- 8pm)**
- Nov 12: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm
- Dec 10: Board Meeting @ Town Hall 7pm

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## ZONING REPORT

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616-897-4242

BY JEANNE VANDERSLOOT

**Zoning Permits:** A Zoning Permit is required for all homes, decks, porches, additions, mobile homes, in-ground pools and some exterior remodeling, accessory buildings and agricultural buildings built or moved into the Township. Small storage sheds up to 200 square feet do not require a permit but must meet accessory building setbacks.

**Vehicle Registrations:** Residents with Lowell addresses should check their automobile registrations as the DMV/SOS often puts Kent County instead of Ionia County and we lose that revenue.

**Junk and Unlicensed Vehicles:** The junk ordinance requires vehicles be operational and licensed. Junk items and vehicles, boats, equipment and trailers may be kept inside of an enclosed building or fully screened from neighbors and road drivers, otherwise they must be removed from the property. There are some exceptions in the ordinance. Use the Township spring cleanup day to get rid of junk and scrap items (no kitchen or household trash).

**Flat River Frontage Owners:** This is a State designated Natural River. The first 25 feet from the water's edge is the preserved 25 foot natural vegetation strip. A 4 foot wide path can be created through the strip to the water's edge (no clear cutting or mowing). One dock is allowed extending over the water up to 4 feet and up to 12 feet along the shore. No decks are allowed in the strip and no cutting other than the 4 foot pathway or stairs to the water except dead, diseased or dying trees and poisonous plants. Stairs must be of natural materials and not cut into the bank. All buildings or structures require a 100 foot setback from the river's edge.

**Home Businesses:** There are home occupations (zoning permit) and more intense home based business types (special uses through the Planning Commission). There are regulations pertaining to both and permits are required.

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## PLANNING COMMISSION

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The PC is taking a second look at the renewables ordinance to better fit the community's wishes with the guidance of the community survey results. The PC adopted an accessory dwelling ordinance for loved ones needing care close by. A new food truck ordinance has been passed, stop by and grab some food if you see one! Thank you PC for your perseverance and passion!

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:**  
**INVENERGY (COMMERCIAL SOLAR COMPANY) HAS AGREED TO HOLD A Q&A FOR ALL RESIDENTS TO ATTEND AND ASK QUESTIONS. WE ARE PLANNING FOR THIS SUMMER. PLEASE WATCH BOARD MEETINGS/WEBSITE FOR AN OFFICIAL DATE AND TIME: WWW.KEENETOWNSHIP.ORG**

