

# Lake George Property Owners Association

## Corporate Membership Meeting

**Date: 5/26/24 - Draft**

**Call to order/Pledge of Allegiance:** President Lynn Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. **Roll call:** Present: Lynn Miller, Lori Heimbürger, Eric Kibbey, Jason Bringedahl, Craig Henry, Kent Cousino, Mark Featherston, Aaron Smalley, Deb Kuptz, Ted Christoff  
(Excused): Brad Cesal, Rick Kibbey  
(Unexcused)
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting** Secretary Lori Heimbürger read the minutes of the General Membership meeting from Sept 9 2023. Kent made motion to accept minutes as presented. Reggie Wellman 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed. Will be posted to website.
3. **Treasurer's report:** A summary of all account activity was presented by Eric Kibbey. See attached for report from Sept 2023 to current, current budget. Side x Side event monies totaled about \$2000.00. We had quite a few expenses in the past few months: Directory, Side x Side – dinner and shirts, Flares, Newsletter. Mark Featherston made motion to accept report as presented. John Jordan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.
4. **Correspondence:**
5. **Introduction of Current Board:** Introduced new board member Ted Christoff who replaced Nicole Lord. And installed Sheri Frader to replace Brad Cesal who asked to step down.
6. **Committee Reports:**
  - a. **Auditing:** Nothing to report, Audit is completed in the Fall
  - b. **Boat/Street Parade:** All 4<sup>th</sup> of July events will be held on Saturday July 6. Street parade registration is at 11 am at Luke Hamlin Ball Field. Parade starts at noon. Dennis Zimmerman will contact sheriff to block roads. We are looking for volunteers to judge. Boat parades for both lakes - Registration at 7pm boat launch of both lakes. 8pm is parade. We'll be looking for volunteers to judge boats as well. Anyone that would like to volunteer to help with events would be appreciated. Please reach out to us. Light up the Lakes was a great success last year, we will be doing it again this year. Every LGPOA Member receives one flare. You can get your free flare by contacting a board member or picking it up at the meeting or 5k run Saturday morning. You can also purchase flares for \$5.00 each at The Depot or Ringleys.

- c. **Directory:** 2024-25 Edition was sent out in March. We received 3 requests to update contact info. If your information is not correct, please contact Lori Heimburger or any board member to have it updated.
- d. **Fund Raising:**
  - i. Side x Side May 18 raised \$1940.00 from registration. \$40.00 for 50/50.
  - ii. 5k will be held July 6. You can register online (preferred!) the night before in the basement of the Township hall or at 8:30 morning of the run. You can now also make a donation to go towards the LG Excellence Award. Proceeds from the run go to LGPOA and the newly established LG Excellence Award. We were able to donate 3 - \$500.00 scholarships to 3 students for a total of \$1500.00. Asking for volunteers to help
- e. **Lake Quality:** See newsletter – treatment schedule for both lakes is in the last edition
- f. **Membership:** Craig Henry & Deb Kuptz: current members 191. Online portal is getting popular. We can look into adding more info on the sign in form online. \$35.00 first year 2<sup>nd</sup> year is free. First Annual Summer Celebration will be held on June 22 from 5 -7 at The Boosters Club. Free for members and their household
- g. **Newsletter/Website:** Newsletter was sent out a couple weeks before meeting and website is being kept up to date with events.
- h. **Township Liaison:**
- i. **Community Liaison:**
- j. **Guest Speaker:** Dennis Zimmerman spoke on several topics – see following pages for notes on that.
  - i. Public comment presented to Dennis: Asked about recycling not being picked up? It is, but as soon as it is picked up it's filled immediately again. Comment made asking people to breakdown boxes to save space. Can we request a special pick up? What about personal recycling bins – not available yet.
  - ii. Toni Maze – Spongy Moth Coordinator.
  - iii. Deb Trim the current Blight enforcement office is retiring. Kent Logan will replace her. Jerry Bridges passed away – township trustee.
  - iv. New company looking at installing a tower – have not applied yet. Cannot decide what kind of tower they want to install. No new info on Verizon tower.
  - v. Info with what to clean boat with when moving from lake to lake. New tornado siren white birch area.
  - vi. Opportunity to purchase and refurbish a Fire siren from another department.
  - vii. Public comment asking about the trees behind real-estate. They are unsightly and are not owned by DNR. Public Comment: How long is Mansiding road going to be closed. Widening and paving – should be about a week or 10 days, but township was not informed of it so not sure. Hazel Trail Seasonal Road. GPS says go that way. Nothing can be done about that. Will not be paved.
  - viii. EGL regarding Septic tanks. There are about 1.3mil in Michigan. They are talking about offering Low interest long term loan for septic Replacement loan for

those that cannot afford a new septic. Go to EGL website for more info. Might be a good time to research for your own property.

- k. **Old Business:** Updating bylaws and mission statement. Discuss how to open membership for those that are not necessary on the lake.
- l. **New Business:** Boater's Safety June 29<sup>th</sup>. Scavenger Hunt Linda Miller and Pam Henry will be doing this – probably August.
- m. **Public Comment:** Flare lighting is July 6 – dusk. Fire Alarms will sound at both ends of the lake. Troy Kibbey - Hot rods & Hot Dogs will be happening June 15<sup>th</sup>. Moving ahead as planned. Looking for vounteers to help with the event. Boosters BBQ 4pm today. Comment regarding the new rental business in town: are they telling renters the rules of the lake and how are they informing people of safety. What is going on with the Horn? No one knows what is happening.
- n. **50/50:** \$170.00 Eilene Howe winner of \$65.00.
- o. **Adjournment:** Lynn adjourned meeting at 11:18. Lori Heimbürger made motion to adjourned. Eric Kibbey 2<sup>nd</sup>. Meeting adjourned.

TREASURER'S REPORT 05/25/2024								Community	FISH	FIREWORK	MONEY FUND	TOTAL	
CHECK			GENERAL CHECKING					Fund	FUND	FUND	ED JONES	ED JONES	TREASURY
NO.	DATE	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	EXPENSES	INCOME		BALANCE			CHECKING	BOND FUND	BALANCE	
			<b>BALANCE 09/02/2023</b>				<b>12,077.70</b>	<b>1761.69</b>	<b>2505.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4,452.42</b>	<b>26,593.75</b>	<b>43,123.87</b>
	08/25/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				12,077.70				18.03		Add 9.005 shares
	08/25/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				12,077.70					83.48	2,877.802 shares @ 9.18 = \$26,418.22
	9/5/2023	Dollar General	Gift Cards - Troy and Erica	109.90			11,967.80						
	9/5/2023	Dollar General	Coffee - Membership Meeting	20.00			11,947.80						
	9/5/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Merchant Fee	25.29			11,922.51						
	9/15/2023	Huntington Bank	Bank Fee - Cash Deposit Fee	3.48			11,919.03						
	9/18/2023	State of MI	Corporation Renewal	20.00			11,899.03						
	9/19/2023	Allegra Marketing	Spring Minutes	66.39			11,832.64						
	9/28/2023	Deposit	Membership Renewal		715.00		12,547.64						
	9/28/2023	Deposit	5k Merchandise		100.00		12,647.64	50.00					
	9/28/2023	Deposit	50-50		49.00		12,696.64						
	9/28/2023	LGPOA	Petty Cash - Fall SXS	150.00			12,546.64						
	9/29/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				12,546.64				17.11		Add 9.499 shares
	9/29/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				12,546.64					87.20	2,877.301 @ 8.99 = \$25,956.84
	10/3/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Merchant Fee	15.00			12,531.64						
	10/19/2023	Paypal Classic Race	5k equipment	450.00			12,081.64						
	10/19/2023		5k expense correction				12,081.64	-225.00					
	10/19/2023	Allegra Marketing	Website Maintenance	350.00			11,731.64						
	10/19/2023	Deposit	Membership fee \$295 Fish Fund \$20		315.00		12,046.64		20.00				
	10/19/2023	Deposit	Directory Ads		750.00		12,796.64						
	10/25/2023	Ben Hyatt	Swiss Inn SXS Dinner	920.00			11,876.64						
	10/27/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				11,876.64				18.49		
	10/27/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				11,876.64					87.49	Add 9.732 shares
	10/30/2023	Comie Tuck	Kids Halloween	100.00			11,776.64	-100					2,897.033 shares @ 8.86 = \$25,667.71
2438	11/03/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Credit Card Processing Fees	15.00			11,761.64						
2439	11/07/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership Due		25.00		11,786.64						
	11/08/2023	Harrietta Hills Trout	Lake George/Shingle Lake Stocking	1,999.05			9,787.59		-1,999.05				
	11/24/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				9,787.59				16.85		Add 9.886 shares
	11/24/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				9,787.59					87.49	2,906.919 shares @ 9.10 = \$26,452.96
	11/27/2023	Deposit	SXS Registration		1110.00		10,897.59						
	11/27/2023	Deposit	50-50 SXS Event		193.00		11,090.59						
	11/27/2023	Deposit	SXS Merch		343.00		11,433.59						
	11/27/2023	Deposit	Petty Cash redeposit		150.00		11,583.59						
	11/27/2023	Deposit	Ad Funds		600.00		12,183.59						
	11/27/2023	Deposit	Membership Due		100.00		12,283.59						
2440	12/3/2023	Lynn Miller	Acorn & Co - Map Copies	17.23			12,266.36						
	12/3/2023		SXS Profits 708.77 - 50% to community fund				12,266.36	354.39					
2441	12/3/2023	Lynn Miller	Cider & Donuts	53.90			12,212.46						
	12/4/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Credit Card Processing Fees	1.16			12,211.30						
	12/5/2023	Merchant Bnkcd	Credit Card Processing Fees	15.00			12,196.30						
	12/19/2023	Deposit	Merchant Bnkcd		70.00		12,266.30						
	12/20/2023	Deposit	Merchant Bnkcd		45.00		12,311.30		10.00				
	12/31/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				12,311.30				24.58		Add 9.595 shares
	12/31/2023	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				12,311.30					88.08	2,916.514 shares @ 9.32 = \$27,181.91
	1/3/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Credit Card Processing Fees	17.85			12,293.45						
	1/8/2024	Deposit	Directory Advertisement		150.00		12,443.45						
	1/8/2024	Deposit	Directory Advertisement		150.00		12,593.45						
	1/8/2024	Deposit	Directory Advertisement		150.00		12,743.45						
	1/8/2024	Deposit	Directory Advertisement		150.00		12,893.45						
	01/08/2024	Deposit	Membership Due		25.00		12,918.45						
	1/8/2024	Allegra	Newsletter Mailing	431.09			12,487.36						
	1/8/2024	Lynn Miller	Adopt Family - Christmas	1,000.00			11,487.36						
	1/26/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market				11,487.36				12.31		Add 9.732 shares
	1/26/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund				11,487.36					90.70	2,926.246 shares @ 9.28 = \$27,155.56
	2/1/2024	Deposit	Membership Dues \$315 Fish Fund \$135		450.00		11,937.36		135.00				

	2/5/2024	Deposit	Membership Dues			210.00		12,147.36						
	2/5/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Monthly fees		15.00			12,132.36						
	2/16/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership Due \$35 Fish Fund \$5			40.00		12,172.36		5.00				
	2/23/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market					12,172.36			17.01		Add 9.734 shares	
	2/23/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund					12,172.36				91.01	2935.98 shares @ 9.36 = \$27,480.77	
	2/29/2024	West Bend Payment	Insurance Premium		1,643.00			10,529.36						
	3/4/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Monthly fees		16.31			10,513.05						
	3/11/2024	USPS	Postage		13.60			10,499.45						
2444	3/11/2024	The Great Put On	SXS Shirts		1,296.00			9,203.45						
	3/15/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership Renewal \$70 Fish fund \$30			100.00		9,303.45		30.00				
	3/15/2024	Dreamhost	Website renewal		17.99			9,285.46						
	3/25/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership renewal			70.00		9,355.46						
	3/25/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership Renewal \$35 fish fund \$15			50.00		9,405.46		15.00				
2443	3/25/2024	Lynn Miller	Winter Festival		290.58			9,114.88						
	3/28/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Money Market					9,114.88			17.04		Add 9.745	
	3/28/2024	Edward Jones	Dividend Re-investment to Bond Fund					9,114.88				91.31	2945.725 shares @ 9.39 = \$27,660.36	
	4/3/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Monthly fees		21.93			9,092.95						
	4/5/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Memberships Renewal			70.00		9,162.95						
	4/12/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Membership Renewal \$35 fish fund \$10			45.00		9,207.95		10.00				
	4/12/2024	Allegra	Directory mailing		921.07			8,286.88						
	4/12/2024	Allegra	SXS shirt design		53.00			8,233.88						
2445	4/12/2024	Craig Henry	Easter bike reimbursement		233.18			8,000.70		-233.18				
2446	4/12/2024	Farwell High School	Scholarship		1,500.00			6,500.70		-1500.00				
	4/13/2024	Deposit	Membership Renewal			210.00		6,710.70						
	4/22/2024	Dreamhost	Website maintenance		19.99			6,690.71						
	4/22/2024	Deposit	Member Renewal			35.00		6,725.71						
2447	4/29/2024	Void	Void					6,725.71						
2448	5/2/2024	Lynn Miller	Flare Reimbursement		1,359.90			5,365.81						
2449	5/2/2024	K and K Storage	Storage Unit		480.00			4,885.81						
	5/3/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Member Renewal			35.00		4,920.81						
	5/3/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Credit card fees		20.09			4,900.72						
	5/8/2024	Allegra Marketing	Newsletter		419.18			4,481.54						
	5/8/2024	Allegra Marketing	Yard signs and flare cards		267.98			4,213.56						
	5/8/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Member Renewal			35.00		4,248.56						
	5/8/2024	Deposit	Member Renewal \$35 fish \$10 firework			465.00		4,713.56		35.00	10.00			
	05/10/2024	E-File 990	Tax Return		54.99			4,658.57						
	05/10/2024	Petty Cash	Starter Cash SXS event		200.00			4,458.57						
	05/13/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Member Renewal \$35 Fish Fund \$50			85.00		4,543.57		50.00				
	05/13/2024	Merchant Bnkcd	Member Renewal			35.00		4,578.57						
	05/20/2024	Allegra Marketing	Brochures		183.87			4,394.70						
			<b>TOTALS FOR BOARD MEETING</b>		<b>14,808.00</b>	<b>7,125.00</b>		<b>4,394.70</b>	<b>107.9</b>	<b>815.95</b>	<b>10.00</b>	<b>4,593.84</b>	<b>27,660.36</b>	<b>36,648.90</b>
			<b>TOTALS FOR MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 5/25/2024</b>											
					<b>GENERAL CHECKING</b>						<b>MONEY FUND</b>			<b>TOTAL</b>
					<b>EXPENSES</b>	<b>INCOME</b>		<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>FISH FUND</b>	<b>FIREWORK</b>	<b>EDWARD JONES</b>	<b>EDWARD JOHNSON</b>	<b>TREASURY</b>
												<b>CHECKING</b>	<b>BOND FUND</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
								<b>\$12,077.70</b>		<b>\$2,505.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$4,452.42</b>	<b>\$26,593.75</b>	<b>\$43,123.87</b>
								<b>ACCOUNT ACTIVITY - 09/02/2023 THROUGH 05/25/2024</b>		<b>(\$1,689.05)</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$141.42</b>	<b>\$1,066.61</b>	<b>(\$6,474.97)</b>
								<b>BALANCE MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 05/25/2024</b>		<b>\$815.95</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>\$4,593.84</b>	<b>\$27,660.36</b>	<b>\$36,648.90</b>

## **Township of Lincoln**

(Clare County) P.O. Box 239 Lake George, Michigan 48633-0239

Phone: [989] 588-9841 website: [www.lincolntwp.com](http://www.lincolntwp.com)

**Dennis Zimmerman** - Lincoln Township Supervisor

Phone: [989] 588-9841 ext. 4 e-mail: [bor@lincolntwp.com](mailto:bor@lincolntwp.com)

### **Memorial Day Weekend Report - Bertha Lake Property Owners Assn., Inc.**

**Saturday, 25 May, 2024**

**and Lake George Property Owners Assn., Inc.**

**Sunday, 26 May, 2024**

#### **Professional Lake Management (PLM)**

Bertha Lake and Shingle Lake were "Surveyed" and chemically treated for Algae Blooms on Wednesday, May 08, 2024. Then Bertha Lake and Shingle Lake were chemically treated for invasive weeds (*Eurasian Water Milfoil* and *Curly-Leaf Pondweed*) on May 20. It is likely that both lakes will require another treatment for Algae Blooms in a couple weeks. Lake George was treated at the southerly channel with MD Pellets (Muck Treatment) on May 06, and will be surveyed on June 03. Chemical treatment for Invasive Weeds and Algae will take place on/or about June 10, along with another MD Pellet treatment at the channel. This date depends on the weather of that day.

It should be noted that each of these three lakes has its own Special Assessment District to assess funding for these treatments, as well as for some other limited Lake Maintenance and Improvement tasks. The way Bertha Lake SAD is set up is a fixed amount, each year, and at this time, we are pretty close to even, as far as revenue v. expenditures. Shingle Lake and Lake George SAD's are set up slightly differently with an amount that can vary, but tops at \$ 125.00 per year, per qualified parcel. Since we are currently working on next year's budget, we are seeing that Shingle Lake is just a bit ahead of the game, and we may drop next year's rate from \$ 125.00 to around \$90.00, but we won't know for sure until we see the "forecast" from PLM. Lake George may also see a slight decrease from \$ 60.00 to \$ 55.00, and maybe even \$ 50.00. The final decision on this will be made during October, 2024.

#### **Curb Side Rubbish Pickup and Recycling**

It is likely we will see a slight increase in Rubbish Assessment this year, from \$ 150.00 or year, to \$ 160.00 per year. This will be on your Winter Tax Bill, and, again, the decision will not be made until we are able to see projections for the year, in October.

Also, just an advisory....while we welcome cardboard boxes in our recycling dumpster(s), PLEASE consider breaking the boxes down. The fully formed boxes take up a lot of room very quickly in those bins.

The compost site is open on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Sundays starting at 9 a.m. If there is only slight traffic, they will close around Noon, but if its busy, we can keep them open a little later, or you may call any of the Trustees to see about borrowing a key if you need access on an off day. Please note that the compost site is for leaves, bundled sticks, grass clippings etc. For some branches we have limited disposal - a burn pit. With regard to leaf pickup, that season started May 1 and will last for appr. 5 or 6 weeks, and then start again on about November 1, again, for 5 or 6 weeks.

### **Spongy Moths (or Gypsy Moths)**

Aerial Spraying for Gypsy Moths was performed on Thursday & Friday, May 23 & 24, 2024. This is funded by a County-wide Millage, that is renewable (at the election) every three (3) years. That amount is 1.0 mills is included on the Winter Tax Bill. This year the more highly concentrated residential areas of the Township [by population] were included in the treatment, including the neighborhoods around White Birch, Bertha Lake, Silver Lake, Lake George and Shingle Lake. There was also some small concentrations treated on Jackson Avenue and on Monroe Road. In order to add comments or ask questions, please contact the County's Spongy Moth Coordinator Toni Maize at the Clare County Conservation District , Harrison. Her contact information is: phone: [989] 539-6401, e-mail: [ClareGMCO@macd.org](mailto:ClareGMCO@macd.org) And, just so you know, Toni lives in Lincoln Township !

### **Blight and Ordinance Enforcement Officer**

Our current Enforcement Officer **Deb Trim** has decided to resign from her duties. Her resignation will be effective at the end of May, however, she will be assisting, and training her replacement **Ken Logan** thru June and July, we have not yet finalized Ken's contact information, but it is likely to be something like: phone: [989] 588-9841 ext. 8, and e-mail: [Ordenf@lincolntwp.com](mailto:Ordenf@lincolntwp.com) Once we have it for sure, we will let your Board Officers know, and it will appear on our Township website: [www.lincolntwp.com](http://www.lincolntwp.com)

## **We need YOUR help !**

We have three problems that seem to be increasing, that we would like to, instead, reduce. The **First** has to do with your normal mailing address. People occasionally move, and never let us know. We then have no way of knowing where to send your mail, like, for instance Tax Bills. In the past couple years, we are receiving 120 to 150 Tax Bills back for “Bad Address Return”. This also applies to “Notices of

Assessment Change and Paid Tax Receipts. We have no idea what to do with them, but we can usually look forward to a pissed-off person calling and trying to make it our fault that their late or unpaid taxes now have an interest charge, or that they didn’t have their opportunity to Appeal to the Board of Review. So, don’t forget to update your address, with us. **Second**, is phone messages. So, you leave us a message to call you back, but when we try to call, we get: “Sorry, the customer has not created a voice mail box”, or, “Sorry, the customer’s voice mail box is full.” Please.....we all know that phone is within arms reach, sticking out of your pocket, so take it out, and if it says Lincoln Township in the Caller ID, please considering answering. **Third**, Please don’t wander around when you are talking on the phone. It keeps cutting out, and sometimes it even cuts off. That makes it hard to figure out what problem you want us to solve. So, please be considerate.....Plant your feet and stay there while you are talking!  
Thanks.

## **Boating Information**

The website for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources has lots of information regarding Boats. Everything from Marine Safety and Marine Law to places to visit, to proper licensing. Far more than I could ever hope to repeat, here. There will be a new “tab” on their website, soon called “Sustainable Boating”. Watch for that, it will talk about cleaning boats/trailers. There is one thing, though I would like to emphasize, and that is boat cleaning for Invasive Species. While there is a lot of information out there, such as the possible penalties for “getting caught” transporting invasives from one lake to another. They always seem to forget to mention what an appropriate cleaner is for your boat and trailer. The top three cleaners are “Aquatic Virkon”, “Formula 409”, and “Bleach”. This not only applies to the hull of the boat and the hard surfaces on a trailer, but also bilges, ballast tanks, coolers, ski boots, and anything that might hold even a little bit of water. Bertha Lake, Shingle Lake and Lake George are all fortunate that we are surrounded by densely populated Oaks. The leaves that fall or blow into the lakes degrade, partially, into an acid that significantly lowers the pH of the water. This helps prevent various critters, such as mussels from forming a viable population in the Lake. Silver Lake, on the other hand, does NOT have such a dense Oak Population and



they do have Zebra Mussels, but not Quagga Mussels, yet. So, if you are visiting other lakes, take a few minutes and clean your boat and trailer off, and do the same when you return to our lakes. By the way, that acid (Tannic Acid) is also what leaves the line on your hull or on your pontoons.

There is a lot of chatter about "Wake Boats". And, YES, there are legislative proposals that would regulate and restrict their use on smaller lakes. However, these proposals have not as of yet, received even a Committee Hearing, and best guess is that even if some piece of legislation comes to the floor(s) it won't be this year until after the General Election. So, probably nothing will change, this season.

### **New "Stuff" in the Township**

Hopefully, by the time these meetings occur, we will have a New Fire Truck. Paid for, in large part, by a grant, with the Township qualifying for a low interest loan for the remainder of the bill....it is a new pumper truck with a cost of a little over \$ 400,000.00. It is replacing a truck that is over 20 years old, and, in fact, is already sold to another Fire Department in (I think) Arkansas. *It came in on Wednesday May 22, 2024*

In June we will be considering bids to build a new Pole Barn for equipment & tool storage, probably at the Compost Site. It will be 32' x 40' and we expect it to cost around \$ 40,000, again partially paid for with a grant.

We have been offered the opportunity to acquire the old School House on Arthur Street -"free-of-charge", except of course we will have to pay for the transfer and paperwork. Several years ago, Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home in Clare purchased it with the idea of having a sort of drive-thru chapel...that is, a place where funeral attendees could get in out of the weather if needed. Larry Wyman decided to not pursue that idea and has offered the building and grounds to the Township. It is a solid building but it needs a roof, windows, and some cleanup, electrical and plumbing work. The Clare County Treasurer has some money from the County's Land Bank sales that she may consider giving to the Township, in the form of a grant, in order to help restore the building. We're not sure what the building would be used for, but there are lots of ideas: Library, Room for smaller meetings, Wi-Fi – Internet cafe, Yoga-Pilates Room, etc. We are still working on that one, so if you have any ideas, now would be a good time.

### **Septic Systems**

Michigan is the only State that does not have Septic System regulations. This is something that has been talked about, in Lansing, for a long time. At this time, there are four (4) pieces of legislation that would create a State-Wide set of regulations for, at

least the periodic inspection of Septic Systems. Two of them are in the House and Two of them are in the Senate. It is very likely that some action will happen this year, toward passing something. SO WHY ? One of the most simple and inexpensive tests for properly functioning systems is an e-coli test (*Escherichia coli*). For most people e-coli may give you a tummy ache or it might give you all the symptoms of a serious flu. However, e-coli signals the possible presence of many other pathogens that can kill you, including: *Cryptosporidium, Legionellae, Giardia, Cholera, Hepatitis, etc.* e-coli is what the Health Department tests for at Swimming Beaches. So, where does e-coli come from. It exists in the gut of all warm-blooded critters. To get into our lakes and streams, it is generally accepted that the primary sources.....the top four (4) are: Leaking or failed Septic Systems, Waterfowl and run-off from Wild Animal Habitat, Agricultural Run-off, and Municipal Water Treatment Plant overflows. A properly functioning Septic System gathers the effluent into a tank, where it breaks down to a fluid, then drains into soils that complete the degrading process, usually in a drain field of some sort. Leaking tanks and clogged drain fields become a problem. In addition to that problem, densely populated areas, without municipal systems, but with a lot of septic systems, compound the problem. So, what are some of the high points (Yes, I have my favorites, but not all):

*\$ 500.00 for an inspection.* That was the first thing they thought of. Never forget Lansing has a worse addiction to "one size fits all" than the addiction of the worst Heroin User in History. Why would an inspection in Clare County cost as much as, say, Oakland or Washtenaw County?

*How often is the inspection ?* Some say every three years, some say five years. The Realtor's Lobby says anything EXCEPT at the "Point-of-Sale"

*What will they inspect ?* Not clear. I guess a guy comes out, digs up the lid, sticks his head in the hole, and determines if everything is good or bad. Just make him comb his hair before you let him in the house, okay ?

*Who will be qualified and how, to do an inspection ?* The State is already designing a licensing and certification program, along with fees for that license or certification. Ever notice there are two reasons for licenses in Michigan? One is a revenue stream, and the other is so they can take that license away.

There are lots of other questions, but three notes, here: 1. There are currently 11 Counties in Michigan that have inspection guidance on Septic Systems; 2. Some of those regulations DO call for Point-of-Sale inspections. 3. The proposed State legislation mandates that these County's Ordinances "go away".

## **Roads**

A number of projects are happening, this year. Old State Ave. Should be finished this year (paving) which will make a paved road all the way from M-61 to Farwell. Monroe Rd. (2 miles) will be paved hopefully, this year. Both of these projects use Asphalt Millings, ground up at other projects, tire chips are added, then soy juice is added to soften the millings, then once 'down' the road is sealed. They say, these are then the only roads in the world that are edible. Also having an Ultra-thin layer of new pavement on Bringold and Ashard (to the Gas Plant), and on the Lincoln Road approach, New Gravel on Jackson, and on Bringold near South of Browns, and a new overlay on Shingle Lake Drive and some other small gravel projects near trouble spots.

**That's All for Now !**