## WEBBER TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER 2022-2023

Its been a few years since a newsletter went out with the tax bills. This is to catch you up on Webber Township happenings.

Always remember that you can go to the website webbertownship.org for information throughout the year.

**From Supervisor Ernie Wogatzke:** There have been a lot of good things going on at the township. We have improved some roads – Whalen Lake Dr., a portion of Merrillville Rd, 32<sup>nd</sup> St to Astor, Astor and 32nd intersection, Foreman Rd 16<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>, and Springtime St. There are more roads being done in 2023

Through the tax sale process, we were deeded 3 vacant blight houses. The township cleaned them up and sold them for the costs of cleanup, and are now sold and being restored for new useable housing in the township. Affordable housing is a priority for the Township Board. We are looking at a Tiny Home Community in the near future and other means to create housing.

We have made improvements to the township hall, making it more appealing to hold public events and classes.

We have made road improvements at the cemetery and put up a fence.

We also continue to make small improvements to our park (Vaulted bathrooms, paved parking lot, kitchen facilities). We are working with the County (through a grant from the DNR) to attach a training facility for ATVs to the north of the park.

With the North Lake Prison closing again, we continue to work with them to keep our water and sewer infrastructure running financially for our other water/sewer customers.

**From Clerk Kathryn Young:** We are busy, busy, busy in the clerks office. Over the last year, our workload has tripled. We have extended our working hours to keep up with the flow. This year, we held 2 elections. The Clerk and Deputy Clerk completed more training as things are always changing in the election world. Our office participated in support of the Fire Protection Special Assessment. We continue to support our Fire Department.

We are working hard to get a better hold on our cemetery. Our files and maps don't always coincide, so we are working to remedy that. We should have an update by Spring 2023.

**From Treasurer Pat Williams:** If you have changes to your DEED such as adding, changing or eliminating names, please contact the County Registrar of Deeds at 231 745 4641.

The refuse assessment of \$50 has been renewed.

Public Hearings for the Fire equipment assessment will be held on JAN. 12, 2023 AT 5:30 and FEB 9, 2012 at 5:30 at the Township Hall. This will determine how the public would like to pay for the needed equipment

Our 2 year accounting audit was completed in October with minor issues, and we are in good standing with the State of Michigan

From the Zoning Department: Chris Jacobs is the new Zoning Administrator. He can be reached at the township by calling 231 745 3471 Ext 226 Or by Cell phone 231 942 6299. He is continuing the process of cleaning up blight throughout the township. In 2012 we had 176 identified blighted sites( which include 20 sites on the highways.) Currently, we are down to 30 sites throughout the township and working toward staying on top of continual new cases. We've been having a scrap tire clean up drive each year for the past 5 years. Approximately 4000 tires have been taken out.!! We will continue with the Month of May LARGE ITEM cleanup. Watch the website for details.

**From the Planning Commission:** The zoning ordinances are continually looked and amended to create the best conditions for the township and its residents. These amendments are posted on the website.

We are currently working with businesses, for a marijuana grow facility (our second) and another for a retail facility(our first). We have a new auto body shop business in the previous building know as Pats Pit Stop. We have 2 new self - storage buildings on the Fischer Gas property.