

Blue Lake Township

10599 Twin Lake Rd NE
Mancelona, MI 49659

231-587-8354 Fax 587-4066

Web Site: bluelaketwpkalkaska.org

Township Telephone Numbers you may need:
Emergency Call 911

Supervisor	Dean McCulloch	587-4836
	blsuper@torchlake.com	
Clerk	Tracy Nichol	587-9644
	blclerk@torchlake.com	
Treasurer	Christine Almose	587-9593
	bltreas@torchlake.com	
Trustee	Larry Shoemaker	587-0723
Trustee	Mary Shaw	587-8468
Township Assessor - Dave Grimm		331-6370
	blasser@torchlake.com	
Zoning Admin. – Blair Shearer		587-5698
	blzoning@torchlake.com	

Township Hall Office Hours	
Supervisor:	Tue. 1:00 – 4:00 & Sat. 10:00 – 12:00
Clerk:	Tue. 9 – 1 & 6:30 – 8:30 Sat 11-1
Treasurer:	Wed. 10:00 – 1:00
Assessor:	2 nd & 4 th Tue. 1:00 – 3:00
Zoning Adm. Fri. & Sat.	10:00 – 12:00
Fire Dept. (Fire Barn) Mon.	7:00 – 9:00
Board Meetings 1 st Wednesday	7:00 pm

County Comm. Kohn Fisher	258-5178
Fire Barn	587-5148
Sheriff Department	258-8686
County Clerk	258-3300
Recycle Center	258-3369
County Road Comm.	258-2242
Animal Control	258-3309
DNR Burning Permit	866-922-2876
Kalkaska DNR	258-2711
DNR-DEQ	231-775-3960
RAP Poaching Hotline	800-292-7800
American Waste (Trash)	258-9030

Board Meetings

The Board meets the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at the Township Hall. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend. We discuss local issues and have a public input time so that everyone can be involved. Please attend when you can. We would appreciate your help and input.

We also have several committees that you could serve on. If you are interested, please contact any Board member. We are always glad to talk with you.

Drop Box

The Township has a Secure Drop Box located between the office and Hall doors. For your convenience this can be used to drop off any correspondence (Voter Information, Taxes,...) whenever the office is not open.

Township Hall Available

Did you know the Township Hall is available for your personal use? It requires an application to be completed and a \$50 deposit. If the usage rules are followed and the hall is left clean, the deposit will be refunded. Call the hall at 587-8354 during office hours or visit our web site and look under “Events - Hall Rental” for further information.

Fire Department

The Department had 52 runs in 2014, slightly less than the 58 they had in 2013. Many of the calls the Fire Department receives are for Medical and Rescue Services (31). The Fire Dept. is actively seeking new members. If you are interested they meet at 7:00 PM every Monday at the Fire Barn located on Blue Lake Rd. just north of Blue Lake. They will be glad to show you around and give you details about joining the Department. You can also contact our Fire Chief Bob Barr at 587- 8711.

Summer Road Work

This summer the Township with road commission help had gravel applied to some of the gravel/sand roads in the area including N. Crooked Lake road, Cameron Bridge, East Street, Bell Bedal and others. The County Road Commission will also Chip Seal the southern 2 miles of Blue Lake Rd.

Trash Pickup

Residential trash pickup is on Monday by American Waste with a 5 bag limit per household. If a holiday falls on Monday, pickup will be on Tuesday. Please do not put out trash that is not bagged - our contract with American is for bagged trash only.

If you put your trash out before Monday morning please have your trash in an animal proof receptacle. Dogs, cats, ravens and raccoons just love to spread your trash around. This could lead to a ticket for a nuisance violation.

Trash Pickup is on Monday

The County Recycle center burned down this winter but they are accepting material behind the Road Commission building on Island Lake Rd. The drop off center is open Monday through Thursdays from 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Saturday’s 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM. Call 258-3369 for further information.

Large Item Pickup

Our contract with American Waste allows each household to have 4 large items per year picked up if they have the required sticker. Stickers can be obtained at the Township Hall during business hours. Any household item including beds, couches, washers, and refrigerators will be picked up. Refrigerators / freezers need to have the coolant removed and certified as such before it can be picked up. If you have additional trash pick-up needs or questions call American Waste at 258-9030.

Current DNR Watercraft Rules

Eagle and North Crooked Lake

Slow, No Wake Speed

Bass, Indian, Little Twin, North Blue, and Squaw Lakes

No High Speed Boating or Water Skiing (Boat below Plane Speed and no towing or water skiing)

Big Blue, Big Twin, Starvation Lake

No High Speed Boating between 7:30 PM and 11:00 AM.

Broadband Service

The Township maintains a Public Access Wi-Fi system at the Township Hall. If you have a compatible computer you can use it in and around the Township Hall to access the Internet. It works in the parking lot but if you are there during office hours come in and use the table inside.

Chain of Lakes Internet has a line of sight system in the Township. If you are interested in High Speed Internet service contact COLI at 888-299-0071, they may be able to connect you to their system.

From the Treasurer's Desk

Kalkaska County has a new tax software program, BS&A. Our office has also switched programs. Your tax bills and receipts will look different but contains all the same information. Our Assessor, Dave Grimm has been using BS&A software for several years. We should no longer have to worry about transferring information from one software program to another. Your tax bill has been mailed to you from the Kalkaska County Equalization department. Please be sure to check it over. If you should find an error please call Equalization at 231-258-3340.

Our office will be open on Monday, September 14, 2015 to collect your tax payment. Our posted hours are Wednesdays 10 to 1. Don't forget you can always use the locked drop box next to the doors at the township hall. Or drop your check off anytime the office is open. A receipt will be mailed to you.

Community Police Officer

Brian Peacock is our Community Officer and has been providing regular road patrol within the Township. Last year Brian reported on a total of 118 incidents within the Township a slight increase from last year's 103. These incidents range from general assistance calls, various types of accidents, animal at large incidents and others. If you have a concern or an issue you would like to discuss with Brian you can leave a detailed message for Deputy Peacock at the Sheriff's office at 258-8686. For any emergency always call 911. In an emergency other Sheriff's Department Officers may respond.

Land Splits & Divisions

All land divisions, new lot lines, and lot combinations must comply with Blue Lake Township Ordinances and the State Land Division Act. There are requirements as to road access, the size and shape of the lots, and the number of lots that can be created. An application and more information is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits". An application fee of \$50 and a \$20 per split administration fee is required. Your completed application and fees must be submitted to the Blue Lake Township Land Division Agent, David Grimm. The application will be approved or denied within 30 days. If you have questions about the process please contact Dave at (231) 331-6370.

Campers and Trailers

Per our Township Zoning Ordinance Campers and Trailers cannot be stored or left on vacant property. This helps keep vandalism down, improves property values, and prevents that abandoned look. They can be used for vacation or weekends. Campers can be used for 15 days in a 12-month period without a permit. Upon application to the Township Zoning Administrator, a permit costing \$5.00 will be issued for an additional 30 days. A Camper can be kept on any property that has a dwelling without a permit.

Zoning Dept. Complaint Form

In order to provide better service the Zoning Department has developed a complaint form. This form available on our web site on the "Zoning and Permits" page and should be used for all complaints about possible violations of our Zoning Ordinance. Once received the Zoning Administrator will investigate and take any action that is required.

Kalkaska Memorial Health Center News

This summer the Hospital will be constructing an addition to the Long Term Care facility. This new area will provide a home like atmosphere for up to 20 patients. Patients will have single bed rooms and the large kitchen, living, and dining areas are available to all. Patients that are able may help in the preparation of meals and perform light housework just like in any home.

The hospital offers a free yoga class on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm in the Physical Therapy room of the hospital basement. Everyone is welcome to join with instructor Daryl Allison-Busch. If you have any comments or questions about the Hospital, contact your representative Dean McCulloch 587-4836.

Short Term Renters Ordinance

The Planning Commission recommended and the Board approved an amendment to our Zoning Ordinance which requires owners of short term rental properties (rentals of less than 30 days) to register their property annually with the Township. It also requires that owners post an information sheet in a conspicuous location within the property. If you rent out your property please contact the Zoning Administrator to register and receive the information that you and your renters should know about.

Fire Works Ordinance

At the May meeting the Board passed a Fireworks ordinance which restricts the use of fireworks. Fireworks are not allowed to be used after 11:00 pm or before 11:00 am on any day that is not a Holiday or the day before or after. On Holidays the day before and the day after there are no restrictions. A fine of \$100 could be imposed if you use fireworks in the restricted time. At any time please use fireworks responsibly and with respect for you neighbors.

Zoning Permits

If you plan on building or making alterations, please check with the Zoning Administrator before you begin. Complying with the Blue Lake Township Zoning Ordinances is required. The complete Zoning ordinance is available on the web site under "Zoning and Permits". Or call the Zoning Administrator Blair Shearer 587-5698.

Lawn Fertilizer

Fertilizing your lawn can be very detrimental to the lake you live on. Excess fertilizer running into the lake can foster weed and algae growth which reduces the oxygen in the water which in turn harms fish and other wildlife. State Law (MCL 324.8512b) requires that a person shall **not** apply to turf a fertilizer labeled as containing phosphate and shall not apply any fertilizer within 15 feet of the water surface. Check any fertilizer before you buy to make sure it is lake friendly (no phosphate) and don't over apply to limit any run off. Keeping our lakes clean and healthy is everybody's responsibility; make sure you do your part.