

**TOWNSHIP SEPTIC ORDINANCE**

We are currently in the process of working on a Township Septic Ordinance to help protect public health and to define and establish septic requirements. Some of the key issues in this ordinance will be:

- During the installation of any individual or commercial on-lot sewage/septic system
- At any time an application is made for construction or variance on the lot or parcel of land within township
- At any time an application is made for construction or variance on a lot or parcel of land within the township
- At any time the owner or neighboring property owner contact the Township or the County Health Department regarding a potentially problematic system
- Whenever a lot or parcel of property is sold or changes ownership within the township

Currently, there are no ordinances in effect within the township or county that address a failing of failed septic system, and inspection officials have no legal right to enter onto a suspect property. There are a few instances currently within the township that property owners are dumping raw refuse from their home directly onto the ground. In other instances, liquid refuse is running directly in to Manistee lake because the field has failed and the tank is discharging directly to the surface.
