

SPECIAL MEETING ON TORCH LAKE SANDBAR ISSUES

Approximately 60 residents attended a Special Board Meeting held by the Clearwater Township Board on Saturday, September 26, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Clearwater Township Hall to discuss issues relating to the Torch Lake Sandbar and particularly the July 4th activities there. The township has received many suggestions and ideas from various township residents who are upset with the huge and often disrespectful crowd who gathered there this year.

Norm Neuenschwander presented several proposals from the Torch Lake Protection Alliance (TLPA). These included limiting parking along Crystal Beach Rd. and Aarwood Rd.; a temporary ordinance to limit items that could be carried into the water from access sites along Crystal Beach Rd.; a "Mass Gathering Ordinance" for crowds over 250; and required permits for anyone promoting an activity on the sandbar, such as D J's. The details of these proposals and other ideas need to be studied in depth.

Enforcement of any new ordinances will be a key factor. Kalkaska County Sheriff Abe Devol spoke to the crowd and explained many of the issues regarding enforcement.

The DNR is ultimately responsible for activities on the water and the Road Commission and State Police are responsible for parking situations.

A committee was formed to follow up on all suggestions and ideas which were presented at the meeting. Supervisor Larry Niederstadt and Trustee Dwight Seaman will represent the township at these meetings and report back to the community.

Submitted by Pat Gray, Deputy Clerk