

The Manistee Township Board held an Informational meeting on Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 7:00 P.M., at the Manistee Township Hall. Board members present were John W. Anderson, Dennis R. Bjorkquist, John M Dontz, Connie L Smith, and M. Rebecca Dinsen. Also present were Zoning Administrator Rob Marble, members of the Planning Commission Jack Dinsen, John Zielinski, Mike Willett, James Baker, Dennis Switalski, John Dunlap, Brian Brady of the DEQ, Rick Kezar, Rodney Tollefson from Central Boiler, plus approximately forty other guests.

The meeting was called to order by Zoning Administrator Rob Marble. Marble introduced Brian Brady of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, from Marquette, MI. Brady is the District Supervisor for Air Quality in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

There are approximately 25,000 outdoor wood burning units in the Upper Peninsula, and the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula. The positives of outdoor units are the elimination of a \$50.00 to \$100.00 surcharge on house insurance for the units being outside the structure. They can be loaded once or twice a day with large volumes of wood. They reduce the heating costs, with a renewable resource.

The disadvantages were the units have two modes - on or off. The units heat to raise the water jacket temperature to 180 degrees, and then damper down, causing the wood to smolder, and smoke. Brady stated of the 25,000 units in Michigan there are about 1,000 complaints on problem units. The majority of those complaints can be traced to stack height, burning improper material such as green or treated wood, garbage, and other non authorized fuels, or the placement of the units.

The units are relatively new, and were not included or required to be tested by the EPA ten years ago. The ASTM has formed a work group composed of nine manufacturers, including fourteen state governments, to establish a uniform testing program for outdoor wood burning units. They estimate the format will be established in April of this year, and testing will begin in July, with standards set within a year. After that the certified outdoor units would have to meet the established guidelines for emissions. Interior wood heating units have been required to meet established emission standards for more than 15 years.

Some states are considering established moratoriums on all outdoor wood burning units, until these standards are established and met. Michigan has not taken a position, as the areas most affected appear to in the UP and northern LP.

Areas of concern were the height of stacks, the proximity to neighboring homes, the responsible use of authorized fuels, the placement of the units, and the need for technological improvement to burn the smoke which is a non combusted fuel. The smaller the emissions from any smoke the deeper the particles go into the lungs, and the greater the possibility of damage to the lungs.

Rodney Tollefson of Central Boiler, from Greenbush, Minnesota was introduced. He stated he has lived in homes with the outdoor boiler units for more than 16 years. Prior to that he had an indoor heater. His family had health problems, and by moving the unit

outside, the health problems for his family abated. His present home has the unit 100 feet from his home.

He stated some of his material, such as the construction of the units, proper use of authorized fuels, proper placement on the site, and chimney height were repetitions of the material already presented, by Mr. Brady.

He stated his units welcome the establishment of standards for emissions. Basically they can't make a better product until there is a standard established by the ASTM of testing standards, and then emission requirements.

Tollefson stated some of the boilers suggested by Brady were too expensive and did not burn the (smoke) non combusted fuel as stated.

Tollefson stated Central Boilers goal is to have an affordable, usable, and clean unit to sell to the people.

There was time for questions, statements by those affected, congratulations to the Manistee Township Board for taking action on the units.

The Manistee County Chapter of the Michigan Townships Association will meet at the Bear Lake Township Hall, on Wednesday February 22, 2006, at 7:00 P.M.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Planning Commission will be held on Thursday, February 2, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Manistee Township Board will be held on the third Wednesday, February 1, 2006, at 7:30 P.M. at the Manistee Township Hall, 410 Holden Street.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Rebecca Dinsen, CMC
Manistee Township Clerk