

# **Mackinaw Township Notice of Special Meeting**

**The Mackinaw Township Board will hold a special meeting for the purpose of receiving public comment on a proposed ordinance to license and regulate short-term rentals of real property.**

**When:** Tuesday, January 13, 2026  
7:00 pm

**Where:** Mackinaw Township Hall  
10595 Wallick Road  
Mackinaw City, Mi. 49701

**Background:** In recent years, the number of short-term rentals of vacation properties has increased, both nationally and in Northern Michigan, generally, and in Mackinaw Township, in particular. As the number of short-term rentals has increased, the number of complaints from residents who live near those rental properties has also increased. For example, Mackinaw Township residents have reacted to certain issues: loud noise, trash, excessive motor vehicles, and sanitation.

**The Issue:** There's an old expression that says something like: "You can exercise your rights only up to the point where you violate someone else's rights." Essentially, the current situation involves a balancing of rights. How far can property owners go to exercise their right to seek a profit by renting vacation homes? What if those short-term rentals produce problems and clash with residents' right to the quiet use and enjoyment of their own homes?

**A Proposed Remedy:** The Mackinaw Township Board is considering a proposed ordinance that addresses that conflict of rights within the parts of Mackinaw Township that lie outside of the Mackinaw City village limits. The Mackinaw Township Board has no authority to license or regulate short-term rentals within the Village of Mackinaw City. Only the Village government can do that. Hard copies of the proposed ordinance will be available at the January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Additionally, by January 6, 2026, the proposed ordinance will also be posted on the Township's web site: [www.mackinawtownship.com](http://www.mackinawtownship.com)

**The Meeting:** No votes or action will be taken on January 13, 2026. Instead, the Board seeks your input as it considers how to address this issue. Please feel free to attend this meeting and to express your opinion.

**Supervisor:** Michael Smydra   **Clerk:** Ashley Darrow   **Treasurer:** Deborah Closs  
**Trustee:** Charles Brew   **Trustee:** Donna Falor

