

# **Charter Township of Portage**

## **Houghton, Michigan**

At the November 13, 2017, Regular-monthly Board of Trustees meeting, the final adoption of both Ordinance 144 Municipal Civil Infractions and Ordinance 111 Open Storage of Junk occurred. Ordinance 144 establishes the procedures for the issuance of Municipal Civil Infractions- specifically by authorized, designated township officials, the methodology for commencing municipal civil infraction citations, what constitutes a municipal civil infraction violation notice, a Municipal Ordinance Violations Bureau and associated appeal rights, provides for violators penalties and for failing to appear on municipal civil infractions. Ordinance 111 provides for the health, safety and well-being of Township residents. Ord. 111 was established to control the accumulation of junk, including junk vehicles, and to provide for civil infraction penalties for the violation of this Junk Ordinance. The following summaries outline Ord. 144 and Ord. 111 intents.

### **Summary of Ordinance Number 144, Municipal Civil Infractions:**

- Only designated Township employees/officials/constables can issue municipal civil infractions.
- What information is contained and is required within a municipal civil infraction.
- Under what circumstances can Township employees/officials issue a municipal civil infraction.
- The ways in which cited violator can admit/deny responsibility.
- The hearing/appeal process and establishment of the Township's Municipal Ordinance Violations Bureau.
- Penalties for failing to appear and for the first, second and third violations of the Township's Municipal Civil Infractions Ordinance.

### **Summary of Ordinance Number 111, Open Storage of Junk:**

- Defines what constitutes the term "junk."
- Defines what constitutes the term a "junk vehicle."
- Establishes an "Ordinance Review Committee" to hear open junk appeals.
- Establishes penalty phases based on Ord. 144 Municipal Civil Infractions.
- Establishes removal and disposal costs levied against violators of the Ord.

The complete texts for Ordinance 144, Municipal Civil Infractions and Ordinance 111, the Open Storage of Junk can be viewed online at [www.portagetownship.info](http://www.portagetownship.info), or at the Clerk's Office located in the Township Office at 47240 Green Acres Road, during normal business hours, Monday thru Thursday.

Bruce Petersen  
Charter Township of Portage Supervisor