

Grant Township Blight Enforcement

Blight Report for the Month of August 2023

On the direction of the TWP Supervisor, from now on, this report will include the name or names of people making a complaint, where possible, and also the addresses of those complaints.

Complaints this month include several issues that I have made note of before and from residents on Algonquin Rd. and another about a property on Jay Street.

I sent several letters informing residents of blight issues at their location. Below are the addresses and issues. These were issues I noticed, and was not given a complaint or call about.

1) Randy Gingerich - 1283 Ash. Bottles and debris in yard, and unsafe tree in backyard. He called to say he would start the cleanup within the next two weeks. I will recheck early September.

2&3) The resident (Jerry Pouchy) and the owner (John Ratkov) of 1344 N. Sand Lk. Rd. I had spoken to the renter previously and asked him to please remove the utility trailer in the front yard or move it back behind the fence. He stated he would not move it because it belonged to the owner of the house. I also informed the renter that he could not leave items in the front yard unless he was selling them and was on site. Again he has not complied and I sent a letter to the property owner and a copy to the renter. No response as of this report. I will revisit after two weeks time. I received no response from either the occupant or the owner. Registered letters will be going out early September.

4) Doreen Rose - 4030 Indian Lk. Rd. This letter was in regards to the unlicensed black vehicle that has been on this property for a long while. I asked her to please get it tagged or removed. No response as yet. I will check for compliance after two

weeks. Seeing no signs of compliance, I will sending a registered letter to this address with a return receipt request.

5) Eileen Castongury - 1205 N. Sand Lk. Road This letter was to inform the resident that there are untagged vehicles and several debris areas on the property. I asked her to please remove or tag the vehicles and remove debris. I have not heard from this resident. I will check after two weeks. Again, no response and a registered letter will be sent.

6) Merritt Blackmore - 1199 N. Sand Lk. Road. This letter was to ask the owner to remove or tag a vehicle that I assume is not tagged as it has not been moved for some time. I also asked for scattered debris to be addressed. Mr. Blackmore did call and stated he would comply, this has not happened as yet and I will call him to start getting this done or send a registered letter.

7) Jody Winchell - 1288 Boston. This letter was sent to remind the owner that he stated he would be getting rid of the untagged truck body that has been in the yard, as well as other types of debris for a long time. I have spoken to him several times and Todd has spoken to him also about the trees and logs not stacked in his yard. He has told Todd that he will be getting these moved and stacked ASAP. I have seen some improvement, but not enough to stop reminding him to get it into compliance. I received no response to the letter and if he does not comply by mid month I will send a registered letter.

I received two complaints by phone.

1) From Mike Granger about the property at 3755 Jay St. I sent a letter to the listed owner, Rachel Caputo, regarding a vehicle by the road and multiple debris issues. It turns out that this property has been returned to the late owner's estate executor and Mr. Granger is going to help me get that person's name and address so I can get a new letter sent. He states this person is in North Carolina. No response as yet. I will be sending registered letter.

2) From Dennis Putze about a property on Cherokee St. The complaint is about a boat that has not moved for a long while and appears to be out of date with stickers. I will be sending a letter to the owner to get this issue resolved. No response and will send registered letter.

Updates

I spoke to Arik Monesterski, 1348 N. Sand Lk. Rd., after the last TWP meeting in regards to the board voting to sue him if his yard is not in compliance by August 31, 2023. He stated that he would get this done to avoid any more problems with the TWP. I spoke with him again August 22, 2023 and wanted to know how things were progressing. He stated that will have the utility trailers and truck topper and other non-compliant items removed by August 31st as the motion states.

I made two subsequent visits to check progress, one mid month where I noticed some improvement with more to do.

Mr. Monsterski called me August 30th to inform me he had finished the clean up and removal of non-compliant vehicles and trailers.

I visited Mr. Monesterski on August 31st, and found the yard to be compliant with only a trailer load of debris that will be taken to the compost site when it reopens after the holiday.

I feel this issue to be closed at this time.

I received a call from Mrs. Dora Caverly who lives next door to 5630 M-55. I sent two letters to this address and got no response. Mrs. Caverly informed me that the current listed owner has passed and the property is in probate. She is the sister of the listed owner, (Connie Barrett), and she states that Mrs. Barrett's son, who is currently in jail, has his girlfriend, a cousin of the girlfriend and a man with MS living in the house. She states there is no septic or toilet in the house and they are bringing raw sewage to her property and dumping it in the fire pit. I told her that she needed to call the Health Department for advice on how to get this stopped.

In regards to the home at 5119 Hahn. Mr. Crawford, the owner, has stated he will not comply because he lives "way out here, and no one comes by my place". I informed him that there are two complaints about his property, one is mine about the excess debris around the house and the non licensed vehicles in various areas of the yard. The other complaint, from Scott Tofel, is that some of these vehicles are on Mr. Tofel's property.

In regards to the trailer and garage on Carpenter St. I am still waiting to get an estimate for demolition and removal at this site. The owner has asked me to secure this estimate as she lives in Florida.

I am also waiting to hear about the demolition and removal of the cabin and shed on Michigan. The issue here is that Consumers has to come and install a temporary connection so the owner can rebuild the cabin and shed after the current ones have been demolished.

Some members of the Blight Committee, Todd Torrey, Dustin Chatt, and myself, also attending was Velda Jennett, met on August 23rd with the TWP lawyer to discuss the proper way to enforce blight non compliance. After the meeting Mr. Eppert forwarded copies of Oscoda's Blight Ordinance, Oscoda's Dismantled/Junk Car, and Unregistered Vehicle Ordinance, and Oscoda's Civil Infraction Ordinance to myself and others attending. He stated that he had written or revised these ordinances and that they had been tested in the court system. I have loaded these ordinances on my computer and I am changing names and other things to make these ordinances reflect Grant Township. I showed a rough draft of these changes to the Planning Commission and after some debate it was decided that I should move forward with additional changes as discussed by the commission.

These changes will be discussed at the next Planning Commission meeting and, if/when approved by the Planning Commission will be sent to the Township Board for review, and changes they feel necessary and eventual approval or sent back to the Planning Commission for any changes the Boards feel are necessary. Once approved by the Township Board there will be public hearings and posting in the local newspaper before the new ordinances will take effect. Other procedures may need to take place, but these are the ones I am aware of.

I would like to restate that if you have a complaint, please call me and I will attend to it. There are several issues that I'm not aware of and can always use your help. Thank You. 989-906-4599

Norman Andersen,
Blight Control Officer

Submitted
August 28, 2023