Chapter 144 - Vehicles Abandoned

Step 1 Township Notification

- •In order to deem a vehicle abandoned, it must be in violation for 30 days prior to notice being given. Documentation in Code Enforcement Officer's Spreadsheet is made when vehicle is first noticed.
- •Notice needs to be given to the property owner in person or by mail stating the violation after the vehicle has been in violation for 30 days.
- •Owner has 10 days to correct violation.
- •If violation is corrected within time limit, no further action is taken. If not, continue to step 2.

Step 2 Magistrate

- •If not corrected within 10 days, a citation shall be filed with the Magistrate's office (not to exceed \$600). Property owner will receive a certified letter from the Magistrate noting a hearing date. The letter is sent out by the Magistrate within 2 weeks of filing.
- •A civil action hearing can take up to 2 months to be held depending on the Court's docket.

Step 3

- •If property owner notifies the Magistrate of Intention to Defend, the hearing proceeds on schedule and judgement will be made by the Magistrate.
- •If property owner does not attend the hearing, judgement is automatically made in favor of the Township.

- •If ruling is in favor of the Township, the property owner is responsible for court costs and the fine. A judgement in favor of the Township does not mean the property owner is ordered to comply with the violation.
- •Each 10 day period that the violation continues to exist can constitute additional seperate offenses. The Board of Supervisors would have to direct how to proceed after that. The Board can choose to have the Township remove the vehicle at the expense of the property owner.

Step 4 After Judgement