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## Ordinance will regulate building vacancies

**Karly Graham**  
The Petoskey News-Review  
USA TODAY NETWORK

PETOSKEY — The Petoskey City Council approved an ordinance on Monday, Aug. 18 aimed at addressing blight and vacant properties throughout the city.

The council unanimously approved the ordinance, which establishes a vacant property registration process. The

move is intended to protect residential and commercial buildings from becoming blighted or not receiving proper maintenance.

According to the meeting’s agenda materials, the ordinance would adjust the city code and allow officials to regulate vacant buildings, establish registration and prescribe penalties for violations.

With the ordinance in effect, buildings within the city that have been vacant for more than 60 consecutive days would have to register the property with the city’s code enforcement officer within 14 days. The registration form will include the property address; legal names, mailing addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of all owners; proof of identification for all owners; name, address and contact information for a local agent to manage the property;

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Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. had said, based on findings from a 2007 report, that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices was rife with conflicts. JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS FILE

## Vaccine panel had low rate of financial conflicts

**Nancy Lapid**  
REUTERS

Conflicts of interest on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s vaccine advisory committee were at historic lows around the time when Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. fired all 17 members in June, new data published in a medical journal on Aug. 18 showed.

Kennedy had said, based on findings from a 2007 report, that the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices was rife with conflicts. The new study

published in JAMA found that between 2000 and 2024, ACIP’s annual reported conflict of interest rate declined from 42.8% to 5%.

ACIP advises on which groups of people should take each vaccine approved by the Food and Drug Administration, and when they should be administered.

Conflict of interest rates on the FDA’s Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, which advises the agency on whether to approve vaccines, have remained below 4% since 2010, including 10 years

when it was 0%, the researchers also found.

The most frequently reported conflict of interest was funding for research, which is generally considered less concerning than financial ties associated with personal income, the researchers said.

The prevalence of conflicts related to personal income – such as from consulting, royalties, or stock ownership – had been below 1% for both committees since 2016.

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### HARBOR SPRINGS

## City hopes to secure some FEMA funding

**Karly Graham**  
The Petoskey News-Review  
USA TODAY NETWORK

HARBOR SPRINGS — Federal funding is starting to trickle into Northern Michigan communities following the ice storm that hit the region in late March.

During the Harbor Springs City Council meeting on Monday, Aug. 18, city manager Victor Sinadinowski said that staff have been working with representatives from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to complete the request for federal funding for storm damage costs.

Sinadinowski said a request for funding to help mitigate the cost of repairing public utilities was denied by the

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