

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

October 2022

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Manager

**By Bill DeGroot**

As the fall continues to bring colder weather, there are a few updates to summer construction projects that should be shared. There has been placement of a center line on Lakewood Lane in the tight turn areas to help reduce speeding and the cutting of the corners. This was requested by our residents and was completed toward the end of the month. The sewer upgrade project that lasted most of the construction season last year has a few remaining items. The Board of Light and Power will be upgrading the service needs around each station, and contractors are finishing the project. Most of this work is in replacement of temporary equipment used because of the supply problems from COVID.

The Water Study analysis continues with an update from our consultants scheduled during the November 14<sup>th</sup> Boad meeting. The concentration area of the analysis has narrowed to a study area around Lake Kawbawgam. The update from our consultants will include research from potential State and Federal funding programs. If you are interested in learning more about the project, you can contact our office or attend the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

As the winter approaches, the days get shorter, and darkness sets in quicker. Please be aware of people walking and migrating wildlife during the transition to winter.

### Assessing

**By John Gehres**

An unexpected illness has slowed inspections, but we should easily achieve our goals. Transfers are still coming in at a higher than usual level. We will begin working on the annual land value and ECF study soon. I expect this years assessed and taxable value increases to be the highest we've seen with the taxable value specifically being maxed out at the 5% cap.

### Clerk

**By Lisa Perry**

We have been very busy issuing Absentee Ballots for the November 2022 General Election. As of October 31, 2022 we had the following Absentee Ballots issued:

Precinct 1 – 816 issued with 562 returned, which is 68.87%

Precinct 2 – 899 issued with 705 returned, which is 78.42%.

We are expecting a busy Election Day! Reminder to Chocolay Township voters, both precincts are located at the Silver Creek Church and to come out to exercise their right to vote!

### Fire Department

**By Lee Gould**

The 2142 Fire Truck Replacement committee went to Pierce to conduct the final inspection of our truck. This process requires a complete review of



the specification to verify the truck was built to spec and look over the truck for minor blemishes that occur during the build process. There were two items that did not meet our specs. We knew this going into the final inspection and talked through a resolution with our sales team and Pierce at the meeting as it was easier to have the conversation in person. We have a solution for both issues that will be addressed soon. We also found a few minor blemishes that occurred during the building process. Pierce addressed these small issues overnight as we reviewed them the following day. We should have our fire truck delivered in November.

We continue to transition to the fall and winter season. This includes transitioning from open water rescue to ice rescue. We also get the snowmobile ready for rescue once the season changes. This includes our annual seasonal training of this equipment and rescue.

Our call volume continues to be strong. The significant storm that hit in mid-October had us run 12 calls in 24 hours. We currently are at our highest call volume ever and still have 10 weeks until the new year.

## Public Works

### By Brad Johnson

Staff are busy getting ready for winter. We have blown out the irrigation lines in the recreation areas, prepping snowplows, keeping rain gutters clear of pine needles and leaves, winterizing lawn equipment, etc.

We have been having issues with our parking area at lift station 3 washing out in heavy rain events. It was leaving a trench through the middle of the parking area and carrying the gravel into the neighbor's yard. We ended up digging out about 2 inches of the gravel and replacing it with recycled asphalt then the down pressure of the tractor bucket to compact it. We are hoping that this resolves the

issues, if not we will have to think about paving this small area in the future.

Fall brush drop was steady this year and we now have chips available for residents.

We have been having issues with the standby generator for the Fire Station. Lately every time it starts for the weekly test run, it throws alarms. We are slowly working through this issue.

Station 9 is now installed and up and running. This station is collecting all the wastewater from the homes on the reservation.

The heavy winds that occurred on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> knocked a lot of trees down throughout the Township including one between the Township Hall and DPW garage. The tree fell onto willow farm property breaking the fence. We will get the tree cleaned up and the fence repaired as soon as possible.

## Planning / Zoning

### By Dale Throenle

#### Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting on October 17 in the Township Hall. There were two items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting:

#### *Unfinished Business*

- 1) Zoning Districts and Related Non-Conformances Discussion

The Commissioners reviewed materials related to the non-conforming parcel sizes in the Township. The Commissioners also reviewed a proposed table of minimum parcel sizes, acreages, and new zoning districts. The Commissioners requested additional mapping information for the next meeting.

- 2) Township Zoning Ordinance Current Definition Review

The Commissioners continued to review the current Township zoning ordinance definitions as part of the zoning ordinance rewrite process.



The Commissioners have completed their review of definitions beginning with A through L.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet in October and will not meet in November.

## Police

### By Liz Norris-Harr

We picked up our new Ford and put it into service. This will be a tremendous help keeping the miles dispersed instead of more miles on the Tahoe.

On Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup> we were open for DEA Drug Take Back Day. It was not as successful as previous Take Back days, only bringing in 1lb. However, we brought in a total of 42.5lbs to be destroyed since May of this year that is a great number of drugs brought in.

## Prescription Drug Collection

Prescription drug collection through the drop-off box at the Township Police Station.

Month 2019	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Pounds To-Date	1	11	7.5	10	7.5	3	9	7	7	5		
Pounds Year To-Date	1	12	19.5	29.5	37	40	49	56	63	68		



## FOIA

Date Rec	Res by Date	48 Days Invoice	10 day Ext Sent	10 day Ext	Response Date	Link to Documentation	Description
1/6/2022	1/13/2022			1/28/2022	1/21/2022	<a href="#">22-1 Abbie 1-6-22</a>	Police Reports and video
1/19/2022	1/26/2022			2/2/2022	1/24/2022	<a href="#">22-2 McDonald &amp; Wolf 1-19-22</a>	Police Reports and video
2/1/2022	1/7/2022			2/22/2022	2/3/2022	<a href="#">22-3 Howard 2-1-22</a>	Police Report
2/1/2022	1/7/2022			2/22/2022	2/17/2022	<a href="#">22-4 Applied Ecosystems 2-1-22</a>	Questions/5063 US41 S site
2/14/2022	2/21/2022				2/17/2022	<a href="#">22-5 Bell 2-15-22</a>	Police Report/documents
2/17/2022	2/23/2022				2/21/2022	<a href="#">22-6 Warren Group 2-23-22</a>	Winter 2021 tax roll
2/22/2022	2/28/2022			3/14/2022	3/14/2022	<a href="#">22-7 Mulcahey 2-22-22</a>	Police Reports/documents
3/1/2022	3/7/2022			3/21/2022	3/4/2022	<a href="#">22-8 Christopher Trainor &amp; Associates 3-1-22</a>	Police Reports
3/5/2022	3/11/2022			3/25/2022	3/11/2022	<a href="#">22-9 Mulcahey 2-4-22</a>	Time for staff to respond
4/25/2022	4/29/2022				4/25/2022	<a href="#">22-10 Petrocik 4-22-22</a>	Police Reports
4/28/2022	5/4/2022				4/28/2022	<a href="#">22-11 Swajanen 4-28-22</a>	Police Reports
4/27/2022	5/3/2022				4/28/2022	<a href="#">22-12 McMahon 4-27-22</a>	Police Reports
5/17/2022	5/24/2022				5/18/2022	<a href="#">22-13 MacGregor 5-17-22</a>	Police Reports
5/20/2022	5/27/2022				6/13/2022	<a href="#">22-14 Mulcahey 5-20-22</a>	Zoning Permits Lakewood Ln.
5/23/2022	5/31/2022				5/31/2022	<a href="#">22-15 Thill 05-23-22</a>	Police Reports
5/26/2022	6/3/2022				5/31/2022	<a href="#">22-16 Gerou 05-26-22</a>	Police Reports
5/31/2022	6/8/2022			6/22/2022	6/21/2022	<a href="#">22-17 Abbie 6-1-22</a>	Police Records
6/2/2022	6/8/2022				6/7/2022	<a href="#">22-18 Soucy Electric 6-2-22</a>	Police Reports
6/14/2022	6/21/2022				6/21/2022	<a href="#">22-19 Mulcahey 6-14-22</a>	Registered Rental List for Chocoday Township
6/14/2022	6/21/2022	7/7/2022	06/20/2022	7/7/2022	6/28/2022	<a href="#">22-20 Mulcahey 6-14-22</a>	Recording/Document
6/27/2022	7/5/2022				6/27/2022	<a href="#">22-21 Lamere 6-27-22</a>	Copies of security cameras on drop boxes
6/30/2022	7/8/2022				7/7/2022	<a href="#">22-22 Gagnon 6-30-22</a>	Police Reports
7/27/2022	8/3/2022				7/28/2022	<a href="#">22-23 Elefante 7-27-22</a>	Police Reports
7/27/2022	8/3/2022				7/28/2022	<a href="#">22-24 TriMedia-Helen Amiri 7-27-22</a>	Fire Records
7/28/2022	8/4/2022		8/2/2022	08/18/2022	8/4/2022	<a href="#">22-25 TriMedia-Helen Amiri 7-28-22</a>	Fire Records
8/4/2022	8/11/2022				8/5/2022	<a href="#">22-26 Fairfield 8-4-22</a>	Police Reports
8/5/2022	8/12/2022				8/10/2022	<a href="#">22-27 Numinen, DeForge, Toutant PC 8-5-22</a>	Police Reports
8/8/2022	8/15/2022		08/11/2022	8/29/2022	8/18/2022	<a href="#">22-28 Hood 8-8-22</a>	Election Information
8/9/2022	8/16/2022				8/11/2022	<a href="#">22-29 Prisk 8-9-22</a>	Fire Records
8/22/2022	8/29/2022		08/25/2022	9/6/2022	8/30/2022	<a href="#">22-30 Mulcahey 8-22-22</a>	Promulgated rules
8/29/2022	9/5/2022				8/31/2022	<a href="#">22-31 Roberts 8-29-22</a>	Police Records
9/13/2022	9/19/2022				9/15/2022	<a href="#">22-32 Bosk Corp.-Mark Rudness 9-13-22</a>	Police Records
9/19/2022	9/23/2022				9/22/2022	<a href="#">22-33 Davis 9-19-22</a>	Public Records re: Statewide Solid Waste Management
10/19/2022	10/25/2022		11/08/2022		10/20/2022	<a href="#">22-34 Mulcahey 10-19-2022</a>	Zoning Permits
10/18/2022	10/24/2022				10/24/2022	<a href="#">22-35 Langridge 10-18-22</a>	Police Reports
10/26/2022	11/1/2022		10/31/2022	11/15/2022		<a href="#">22-36 Bigler-Envirologic Tech 10-26-22</a>	Assessing/Fire/Building codes/Water /Sewer
10/31/2022	11/4/2022		11/04/2022	11/21/2022	11/8/2022	<a href="#">22-37 Numinen, DeForge, Toutant PC 10-31-22</a>	Police Reports
11/7/2022	11/11/2022				11/4/2022	<a href="#">22-38 Kivi 11-7-22</a>	Police Reports
11/7/2022	11/11/2022				11/8/2022	<a href="#">22-39 Marin Law Firm 11-7-22</a>	Police Reports
11/9/2022	11/15/2022					<a href="#">22-40 Wilson 11-9-22</a>	Police Reports

## Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through October are shown in the table.

Month	Unique Visits	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth (GB)
January	2,192	4,144	30,311	44,850	7.41
February	1,984	4,243	19,341	31,676	18.91
March	2,289	4,249	19,679	32,861	21.57
April	1,912	3,963	17,327	30,200	22.89
May	2,169	4,159	18,100	31,803	28.40
June	2,079	4,243	24,862	38,302	23.56
July	1,552	3,121	16,777	29,859	25.03
August	1,693	3,297	18,170	30,355	37.29



Month	Unique Visits	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth (GB)
September	1,525	3,317	45,492	57,962	27.67
October	1,770	3,562	20,655	36,433	38.04
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,165</b>	<b>38,298</b>	<b>230,714</b>	<b>364,301</b>	<b>250.77</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>1,917</b>	<b>3,830</b>	<b>23,071</b>	<b>36,430</b>	<b>25.08</b>

Highest hits per day in October for the Township web site occurred on Tuesday and the highest peak usage time was 1 AM to 2 AM.

## Downloads

There were 836 downloaded documents in October. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2022 meeting dates	357
2022 notification dates	344
2022 adopted fee schedule	189
FOIA request	182
November 22 sample ballot – precinct 1	100
November 22 sample ballot – precinct 2	88
Township Board combined minutes – 2014	54
Township Board agenda materials – 10.01.22	52
Waste Management collection schedule	51
Planning Commission agenda – 08.19.22	51

## Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in October were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Public Notices	548
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	543
Contacts	515
Elected and Appointed Officials	506
Directory email	489
Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission	475
Clerk	451
Agendas and Minutes – Board of Review	444
Fire	442
Agendas and Minutes – Zoning Board of Appeals	433



## Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through October, 2022:

2022 Reviewed Permits by Month		2022 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	3	Addition	7	1
February	4	Alteration	0	0
March	1	Commercial Outbuilding	0	1
April	3	Conditional Use	0	0
May	21	Deck	3	0
June	13	Fence	15	0
July	6	Garage	8	0
August	6	Grading	0	0
September	10	Home	3	0
October	5	Home / Garage	11	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	11	0
		Pole Building	3	0
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	2	0
		Site Plan Review	1	0
		Zoning Variance Request	4	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>3</b>

