

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

August 2023

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Assessing

**By John Gehres**

At this point in the annual re-appraisal there have been over 400 inspections done and entered into the system. Most of those were on M-28 and Lakewood Lane. Yearly reports are being filed and new construction is being inspected.

### Clerk

**By Lisa Perry**

Staff has been busy with Election updates that were part of Proposal 22-2. This includes the roll out of the nine days of early voting. There have been meetings to finalize how this will look for the Township. Once it is complete, a letter with the details will be mailed out to the registered voters in Chocolay Township. The nine days of early voting will begin with the Presidential Primary election that will take place either in February or March. This date has yet to be determined.

Please be patient and understanding with the 2024 election cycle, as there are many new laws/changes, and we will all be doing the best we can to execute them. Remember that you can always contact your Clerk's office with any questions you may have or check your voter information at

<https://mvlc.sos.state.mi.us/Home/RegisterToVote>.

### Fire Department

**By Lee Gould**

August the fire department participated in the last race of the year at the Marquette County Fair. The races held each summer are great training for firefighters and getting to know mutual aid departments. Overall, we placed in the events we participated in. It was a fun summer.

Several members of our department participated in an Active Shooter Training in Marquette. The Fire Department is preparing to become a Rescue Task Force Team. These teams assist Law Enforcement with patient extraction when needed. We are developing a training program that includes working with Law Enforcement, mutual aid fire departments and EMS.

Our emergency call volume continues to be steady. We responded to two mutual aid structure fires in August. We are at about the same pace as last year for call volume.

### Public Works

**By Brad Johnson**

Fall is fast approaching us. We have started our annual sewer cleaning. We will be blowing out our irrigation lines this month at the recreation areas.

Dust control has been completed and the bills have been sent out to the residents who requested it.



New Township signs have arrived for the recreation areas and the welcome to Chocoday signs on the 4 major entries into the Township. We will start installing them in the very near future.

The start up for lift station 9 is going to be on August 6. Once the startup is completed, Smith construction will start tying in all the homes on the reservation. The sewer easement has been redlined by the Townships attorney and should be finished up very soon for the approval of the Board.

## Planning / Zoning

**By Dale Throenle**

### Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in two meetings held on August 21 in the Township Fire Hall.

The first meeting was a joint meeting with the Township Board. There were three discussion items on the agenda:

1) AF Framework presentation

The Board and Commissioners discussed the direction for structuring the AF district and related zoning. Commissioners were commended on the work that had already taken place and were told to continue to work on the issue.

2) Townhall meetings

The Board requested that the Commissioners decide where and when the townhall meetings would take place regarding the AF issue.

3) Structure Size Below 800 Square Feet

The Board and Commissioners discussed the possibility of reducing the required structure footprint from 800 square feet to a different value, while adding considerations for tiny homes and accessory dwelling units.

The second meeting was the regular Planning Commission meeting. There was one item on the agenda:

1) Joint Meeting Debrief

Commissioners discussed the items presented during the joint meeting with the Board. Commissioners decided to continue working on finishing the discussion and related documents regarding the AF zoning district and decided to set up three townhall meetings to present the materials to the public for the public's input. Commissioners decided to use the results from the townhall meetings to formulate the final decision for the AF zoning district.

Commissioners further discussed the 800 square foot structure size topic and decided to continue to research the accessory dwelling unit (ADU) issue, with concerns related to the use of the ADU after the initial use was no longer valid.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet for its regular meeting in August and will not meet in September.



## Police

doing the Field Training with Detective Carter and Sgt. Carrick. We are excited to have them on board with our department.

### By Liz Norris-Harr

We are proud to announce the successful graduation from NMU's Police Academy, Officer Harvala and Officer Mitchell. They will now be

## 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	5.5	4	8.5	7	2.5	6.5	12					
<b>Pounds Year To-Date</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>46</b>					

## FOIA

REQ #	Date Rec	Res by Date	Invoice Sent	48 Days Invoice	10 day Ext Sent	10 day Ext	Response Date	Link to Documentation	Description
23-1	2/6/2023	2/10/2023					2/7/2023	<a href="#">23-1 Glendon</a>	Police Reports
23-2	2/15/2023	2/21/2023					2/15/2023	<a href="#">23-2 Dankin</a>	Police Reports
23-3	2/24/2023	3/3/2023					2/28/2023	<a href="#">23-3 Skyline Lein Search 02.24.23</a>	Property Information
23-4	3/6/2023	3/10/2023					3/10/2023	<a href="#">23-4 Hyde 03.06.23</a>	Police Reports
23-5	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/17/2023	<a href="#">23-5 Mulcahey 3-14-23</a>	Job descriptions
23-6	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/16/2023	<a href="#">23-6 McLaughlin 3-14-23</a>	Police Reports
23-7	3/17/2023	3/24/2023					3/21/2023	<a href="#">23-7 Rjosser Request 3-17-23</a>	Police Reports
23-8	3/20/2023	3/27/2023			03/24/2023	4/11/2023	4/5/2023	<a href="#">23-8 Mulcahey request 3-20-23</a>	Job descriptions
23-9	3/14/2023	3/21/2023			03/21/2023	4/4/2023	3/23/2023	<a href="#">23-9 Metropolitan request 3-14-23</a>	Fire Report
23-10	4/5/2023	4/12/2023					4/12/2023	<a href="#">23-10 Eric Riley-GFL Environmental</a>	Refuse/Recycle Information
23-11	4/12/2023	4/18/2023					4/18/2023	<a href="#">23-11 Carrie Vanlandshoot 04-12-23</a>	Police Reports
23-12	4/14/2023	4/21/2023					4/18/2023	<a href="#">23-12 Tormis Request 4-14-23</a>	Contracts and accounts receivable
23-13	4/19/2023	4/25/2023					4/19/2023	<a href="#">23-13 Ryan Talbot-Flagstar Bank 4-19-23</a>	Police Reports
23-14	4/25/2023	5/2/2023	5/10/2023	6/27/2023	04/25/2023	5/16/2023	Expired	<a href="#">23-14 Miller request 4-25-23</a>	Election Materials
23-15	5/3/2023	5/9/2023					5/8/2023	<a href="#">23-15 Nicole Borzek-Curran &amp; Co 05.03.23</a>	Police Reports
23-16	5/4/2023	5/10/2023					5/8/2023	<a href="#">23-16 Lombard 05.04.23</a>	Police Reports
23-17	5/17/2023	5/24/2023					5/24/2023	<a href="#">23-17 Cass 05.17.23</a>	Police Reports
23-18	6/6/2023	6/13/2023					6/6/2023	<a href="#">23-18 Holm 6-6-23</a>	Police Reports dog bite
23-19	6/13/2023	6/19/2023					6/19/2023	<a href="#">23-19 Harry 6-13-23</a>	Police Reports
23-20	6/22/2023	6/28/2023					6/27/2023	<a href="#">23-20 Roose 6-22-23</a>	Police Reports
23-21	6/27/2023	7/3/2023	6/27/2023	8/11/2023				<a href="#">23-21 Miller 6-27-23</a>	Election Materials
23-22	7/13/2023	7/19/2023					7/14/2023	<a href="#">23-22 Johnson 7-13-23</a>	Police Reports
23-23	7/21/2023	7/27/2023					7/24/2023	<a href="#">23-23 Mulcahey 7-21-23</a>	Rental Registrations
23-24	7/24/2023	7/31/2023					7/27/2023	<a href="#">23-24 Barnes and Thornburg, LLP 7-24-23</a>	Fire Report



## Web Page Statistics

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

Month	Unique Visits	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth (GB)
January	2,166	4,268	16,517	31,093	14.68
February	1,972	4,032	22,272	34,526	20.39
March	1,808	4,059	18,225	30,410	13.34
April	1,843	4,028	17,535	29,540	17.12
May	2,641	4,149	48,219	72,440	20.17
June	2,926	4,611	50,005	73,856	21.70
July	3,186	5,079	46,655	75,335	27.54
August	2,771	4,292	51,041	74,387	25.63
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19,313</b>	<b>34,518</b>	<b>270,469</b>	<b>421,587</b>	<b>161</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>4,292</b>	<b>7,671</b>	<b>60,104</b>	<b>93,686</b>	<b>35.68</b>

Highest hits per day in August for the Township web site occurred on Wednesday and the highest peak usage time was 11 PM to 12 AM.

## Downloads

There were 1359 downloaded documents in August. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2023 Meeting Dates	157
2023 Notification Dates	116
Township Zoning Ordinance	116
Township history	99
Township Board minutes – 07.10.23 draft	99
Township Board minutes – 06.12.23	84
Township Board minutes – 05.08.23	84
FOIA Request	82
Township Information Guide	80
Township Board minutes – 04.10.23	78



## Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in August were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Directory email	1,161
Recreation listing	782
Recycling	754
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	613
Contacts	498
Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission	461
Information and Newsletters	432
Directory	411
Ordinances	398
Ordinances and Maps - Maps	394

## Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through August, 2023:

2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	0	Addition	5	0
February	0	Alteration	0	0
March	6	Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
April	11	Conditional Use	2	0
May	11	Deck	3	0
June	9	Fence	12	0
July	15	Garage	5	0
August	6	Grading	0	0
		Home	4	0
		Home / Garage	1	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	1	0
		Outbuilding	14	0



2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
			Approved	Denied
		Pole Building	2	0
		Rezoning Application	1	0
		Sign	5	0
		Site Plan Review	2	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>0</b>

