

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

December 2022

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

By Bill DeGroot

The snow has arrived throughout the Upper Peninsula. During this time there are many independent contractors and government employees trying to move snow throughout the township. Please be cautious because they may not always be able to see you when plowing. The ice rink will be opened when we can consistently freeze safe ice. We realize this may not be what some people would like to hear, but it is for the safety of all that we make this determination each year.

The Township Board heard from their engineering consultant that based on the findings from the water feasibility study, the new federal and state funding sources would not be usable thus making the project 100% funded through local fees. After a long discussion the Board voted to end the feasibility study because the impacts to the residents would be too significant without federal or state funding. We will have the final report by the end of March to be released to the public. The report will be available on our website. This is a disappointment; we will continue to pursue options to help those with water quality concerns. As always, if you believe you have water quality concerns now, please reach out to the Marquette County Health Department.

The Township will be releasing a new website by March designed to be much more user friendly. Residents will also have the option through the website to sign up for text or email alerts so new information can be transmitted quickly. Finally, we are in the final test of a new survey engagement

product. We will be producing three to five question surveys each month to gather public input for master planning, community parks, and activities research to better tailor our projects with public desire. This product will be rolled out by February.

On behalf of the Township Staff, we wish you and yours a safe and happy holiday season!

Assessing

By John Gehres

Marquette County Equalization issued their finalized studies. Chocolay Township's residential needs an increase of 14.6% over last year. Agricultural and Commercial increases are both in the 9% range. We also held the December Board of Review which saw 12 Veterans exemptions and 2 qualified errors.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

On December 9, 2022, Chocolay Township was part of a Statewide recount of Proposal 3. This is the first time since 1968 that a statewide recount has been held. There were four counties from the Upper Peninsula that had jurisdictions involved with this recount: Marquette, Houghton, Dickinson, and Sault Ste. Marie.

We started the recount of Marquette, Dickinson, and Houghton counties around 12:00 PM and it was complete by 6:00 PM. The recount was not to find actual votes to change the outcome of the election, it was to see if the tabulators used worked as they should. This was a very interesting part of the election cycle to be part of.



Staff have been busy in the office closing out the 2022 year and preparing for the 2023 year. Many things to be done. With that being said, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

The fire department closed out 2022 with our highest emergency call volume in our history. We responded to 140 emergency calls. Our previous high was 116 calls for service. This is both good and bad. The more calls the department gets helps to keep training skills sharp and enthusiasm high. The negative side to this for a part-paid department is it takes significantly more time away from family and personal life. Being a volunteer or part-paid firefighter is a delicate balancing act. Our member roster grew slightly in 2022 to 24, our highest in many years. More available responders will definitely help with calls and ensure adequate staffing throughout the year.

2022 had the fire department finalize our fire truck replacement specification. From there, the truck was built. Currently our replacement truck is being finalized with an anticipated delivery of late January 2023. This was a three-year project that will serve the citizens of Chocoley Township for twenty plus years. The fire department is excited to take delivery of the truck, finish the equipment installation and get it put into service.

Those were the two biggest impacts the fire department had for 2022. We are excited to ring in 2023 and continue our service to the community. We will continue to build on our programs to further our growth in all areas.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

We are running very short staffed with one member of our team moving over to the planning

department and the other being on vacation. The storm over Christmas was very stressful with trying to keep everything open but we managed it pretty well.

The ice rink that we normally have has still not been started with how much above freezing temperatures we have been having. The future forecast is not looking good for it either at this point. It's getting pretty late in the year to start but if the weather cooperates properly, we will try to get it up and usable yet this year.

The glass dumpster is now moved to its current home behind the fire station. So far the residents seem to like it better here because it is being kept open better than the previous location.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting on December 19 in the Township Fire Hall. There were six items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting. Commissioners decided to do the new business first, since there was a scheduled preliminary site plan review.

New Business

1) Preliminary Site Plan Review – M-28 East

The Commissioners reviewed and made recommendations on a preliminary site plan for a project to be located on the south side of M-28 between the America's Best Value Inn and Nagelkirks Gardens. The proposed project is a training center for the Ironworkers.

2) 2023 Meeting Dates

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the Planning Commission meeting dates for 2023.



3) Industrial Zoning District Conditional Use Discussion

The Commissioners discussed adding single family residential and rentals to the Industrial (I) zoning district. Staff was directed to bring recommendations to the next meeting.

4) Zoning Districts and District Intent Statements

The Commissioners discussed the intent statements for the proposed zoning districts in the new zoning ordinance.

5) Land Use Discussion

Commissioners began a discussion of the land uses for each of the proposed zoning districts in the new zoning ordinance. Commissioners completed

two of the eleven pages of recommendations and tabled the remaining pages to a future meeting.

Unfinished Business

1) Township *Zoning Ordinance* Current Definition Review

The Commissioners tabled the discussion on this item to a future meeting.

Zoning Board of Appeals

The Zoning Board of Appeals scheduled for December 22 was postponed to January 5 due to weather.

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	0	21
Pounds Year To-Date	1	12	19.5	29.5	37	40	49	56	63	68	68	89



FOIA

REQ #	Date Rec	Res by Date	48 Days Invoice	10 day Ext Sent	10 day Ext	Response Date	Link to Documentation	Description
22-1	1/6/2022	1/13/2022				1/28/2022	22-1 Abbie 1-6-22	Police Reports and video
22-2	1/19/2022	1/26/2022				2/2/2022	22-2 McDonald & Wolf 1-19-22	Police Reports and video
22-3	2/1/2022	1/7/2022				2/22/2022	22-3 Howard 2-1-22	Police Report
22-4	2/1/2022	1/7/2022				2/22/2022	22-4 Applied Ecosystems 2-1-22	Questions/5063 US41 S site
22-5	2/14/2022	2/21/2022				2/17/2022	22-5 Bell 2-15-22	Police Report/documents
22-6	2/17/2022	2/23/2022				2/21/2022	22-6 Warren Group 2-23-22	Winter 2021 tax roll
22-7	2/22/2022	2/28/2022				3/14/2022	22-7 Mulcahey 2-22-22	Police Reports/documents
22-8	3/1/2022	3/7/2022				3/21/2022	22-8 Christopher Trainor & Associates 3-1-22	Police Reports
22-9	3/5/2022	3/11/2022				3/25/2022	22-9 Mulcahey 2-4-22	Time for staff to respond
22-10	4/25/2022	4/29/2022				4/25/2022	22-10 Petrocik 4-22-22	Police Reports
22-11	4/28/2022	5/4/2022				4/28/2022	22-11 Swajananen 4-28-22	Police Reports
22-12	4/27/2022	5/3/2022				4/28/2022	22-12 McMahon 4-27-22	Police Reports
22-13	5/17/2022	5/24/2022				5/18/2022	22-13 MacGregor 5-17-22	Police Reports
22-14	5/20/2022	5/27/2022				6/13/2022	22-14 Mulcahey 5-20-22	Zoning Permits Lakewood Ln.
22-15	5/23/2022	5/31/2022				5/31/2022	22-15 Thill 05-23-22	Police Reports
22-16	5/26/2022	6/3/2022				5/31/2022	22-16 Gerou 05-26-22	Police Reports
22-17	5/31/2022	6/8/2022				6/22/2022	22-17 Abbie 6-1-22	Police Records
22-18	6/2/2022	6/8/2022				6/7/2022	22-18 Soucy Electric 6-2-22	Police Reports
22-19	6/14/2022	6/21/2022				6/21/2022	22-19 Mulcahey 6-14-22	Registered Rental List for Chocoday Township
22-20	6/14/2022	6/21/2022	7/7/2022	06/20/2022	7/7/2022	6/28/2022	22-20 Mulcahey 6-14-22	Recording/Document
22-21	6/27/2022	7/5/2022				6/27/2022	22-21 Lamere 6-27-22	Copies of security cameras on drop boxes
22-22	6/30/2022	7/8/2022				7/7/2022	22-22 Gagnon 6-30-22	Police Reports
22-23	7/27/2022	8/3/2022				7/28/2022	22-23 Elefante 7-27-22	Police Reports
22-24	7/27/2022	8/3/2022				7/28/2022	22-24 TriMedia-Helen Amiri 7-27-22	Fire Records
22-25	7/28/2022	8/4/2022		8/2/2022	08/18/2022	8/4/2022	22-25 TriMedia-Helen Amiri 7-28-22	Fire Records
22-26	8/4/2022	8/11/2022				8/5/2022	22-26 Fairfield 8-4-22	Police Reports
22-27	8/5/2022	8/12/2022				8/10/2022	22-27 Numinen, DeForge, Toutant PC 8-5-22	Police Reports
22-28	8/8/2022	8/15/2022		08/11/2022	8/29/2022	8/18/2022	22-28 Hood 8-8-22	Election Information
22-29	8/9/2022	8/16/2022				8/11/2022	22-29 Prisk 8-9-22	Fire Records
22-30	8/22/2022	8/29/2022		08/25/2022	9/6/2022	8/30/2022	22-30 Mulcahey 8-22-22	Promulgated rules
22-31	8/29/2022	9/5/2022				8/31/2022	22-31 Roberts 8-29-22	Police Records
22-32	9/13/2022	9/19/2022				9/15/2022	22-32 Bosk Corp -Mark Rudness 9-13-22	Police Records
22-33	9/19/2022	9/23/2022				9/22/2022	22-33 Davis 9-19-22	Public Records re: Statewide Solid Waste Management
22-34	10/19/2022	10/25/2022		11/08/2022		10/20/2022	22-34 Mulcahey 10-19-2022	Zoning Permits
22-35	10/18/2022	10/24/2022				10/24/2022	22-35 Langridge 10-18-22	Police Reports
22-36	10/26/2022	11/1/2022		10/31/2022	11/15/2022	11/10/2022	22-36 Bigler-Envirologic Tech 10-26-22	Assessing/Fire/Building codes/Water /Sewer
22-37	10/31/2022	11/4/2022		11/04/2022	11/21/2022	11/8/2022	22-37 Numinen, DeForge, Toutant PC 10-31-22	Police Reports
22-38	11/7/2022	11/11/2022				11/4/2022	22-38 Kivi 11-7-22	Police Reports
22-39	11/7/2022	11/11/2022				11/8/2022	22-39 Marin Law Firm 11-7-22	Police Reports
22-40	11/9/2022	11/15/2022				11/14/2022	22-40 Wilson 11-9-22	Police Reports
22-41	11/18/2022	11/28/2022				11/23/2022	22-41 Liimatta 11-18-22	Election Information
22-42	11/29/2022	12/6/2022				12/5/2022	22-42 Kaukola 11-29-22	Fire Records



Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through December 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
September	1,525	3,317	45,492	57,962	27.67
October	1,821	3,658	21,208	37,524	38.59
November	1,809	3,455	32,525	46,999	26.60
December	2,208	4,269	43,644	65,313	48.48
Totals	23,259	46,196	307,737	478,279	327.86
Averages	1,938	3,850	25,645	39,857	27.32

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

Downloads

There were 916 downloaded documents in December. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2022 meeting dates	668
2022 notification dates	656
2022 adopted fee schedule	367
FOIA request	358
Township Board minutes – 10.10.22	129
Township Board minutes special – 09.12.22	122
Township Board minutes joint – 09.07.22	116
Township Board minutes – 11.14.22 draft	114
Planning Commission agenda materials – 06.20.22	112
Board of Review minutes – 12.14.21	80



Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in December were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Elected and Appointed Officials	930
Public Notices	919
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	847
Directory email	816
Agendas and Minutes – Board of Review	741
Contacts	715
Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission	681
Recycling	643
Information and Newsletters	642
Clerk	636

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through December, 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
January	3	Alteration	0	0
February	4	Commercial Outbuilding	0	1
March	1	Conditional Use	0	0
April	3	Deck	3	0
May	21	Fence	15	0
June	13	Garage	8	0
July	6	Grading	0	0
August	6	Home	3	0
September	10	Home / Garage	11	0
October	5	Home Occupation	1	0
November	0	New Commercial	0	0
December	0	Outbuilding	11	1
		Pole Building	3	0



2022 Reviewed Permits by Month		2022 Reviewed Permits by Type		
			Approved	Denied
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	2	0
		Site Plan Review	1	0
		Zoning Variance Request	4	0
Total	72	Total	69	3

