

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

June 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

We are currently working on the annual re-appraisal and are on track to hit 20% of the township. We have a board of review session in July for clerical errors, mutual mistakes of fact, PRE's, and veteran exemption affidavits. There are not many changes expected at that meeting.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

Chocolay Township will not have an August election, Staff has been organizing the records in the vault, digitizing them and also purging according to the State retention schedule. This proves to be a big task but is also a rewarding one.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

Three members of the fire department attended a 24-hour Swift and Flood Water Certification Training held at our fire station. There were 2 other agencies from Marquette County that attended as well. We learned technical skills on how to save victims of water emergencies and how to self-rescue and how to save other rescuers should they have an emergency. We also learned flood water search techniques for victims. The instructor was from Dive Rescue International. His experiences and training skill will help shape the water emergency

response for Chocolay but also within Marquette County.

The department continues to work on our bigger projects which are determining the need for replacement of our 21-year-old tanker and replacement of our brush truck. Our goal is to have the research done and a plan put together by the 4th quarter of 2023.

We took delivery of our new SCBA air packs. We will be training on them at the end of June so we can put them in service. NFPA requires replacement of SCBA every 15 years. Our old SCBA will be decommissioned and removed from service.

Calls were consistent in June. We responded to two structure fires in June. Neither had large losses. Our current call volume is average from the past few years. We are on pace to again have over 100 calls for service for the year.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

Embers credit union contacted me again this year and want to do some volunteer work for the Township for Juneteenth. This is the second year they asked to volunteer with us. This year they had 6 employees at Beaver Grove, and they painted all our benches, picnic tables and bleachers along with the water shed door. It took the six of them about 3.5 to 4 hours to complete the painting. It is very much appreciated by the public works department and takes a huge load off us.



Timber Creek Construction installed a new metal roof on the pavilion at Beaver Grove. They had the job completed in 2.5 days. They did a fantastic job and did a great job cleaning up after each day.

The colors for the siding have been voted on and ordered. The majority was Spanish Moss for the siding and Saddle Wood for the trim. It will look very good when it's all done.

The sewer televising was also completed this past month. I don't have the video back yet but while they were taping, they did call me out to show me a few serious issues that will need attention. Some of the issues can be pushed off until next year but I do believe some of the issues will need to be addressed this year to prevent any sewer backups or pipe collapses.

Two weeks in a row we have had vandalism in the bathrooms at Silver Creek. We have notified our police and asked them to patrol that area a few more times a day if possible.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting held on June 19 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were five items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting; three were considered old business, and two were considered new business.

Commissioners decided to address new business before old business.

New Business

- 1) Conditional Use Permit CU 23-19 – 6565 US 41 South

The owners of the property located at 6565 US 41 South requested a conditional use for the property to allow them to use the existing house as a residence. After discussion, the Commissioners

decided to grant the conditional use permit for the project.

- 2) Rezoning Application 34 23-19 – 537 West Branch Road.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed the rezoning of a property that was previously State land to Agriculture / Forestry (AF). The applicant stated that the property would be only used for agricultural purposes.

After discussion, the Commissioners approved sending the rezoning to the Board for consideration.

Old Business

Business

- 1) Proposed Zoning Ordinance Definitions

Commissioners continued reviewing definitions for the new zoning ordinance. They finished the discussion and made recommendations that will be presented as a final draft at the July meeting.

- 2) Proposed Agriculture Zoning District Language

Commissioners discussed the proposed AF districts and reviewed the intent statements for each district. Commissioners decided to set the districts with three sizes: AF 1 (under three acres), AF 2 (3 acres to 15 acres), and AF 3 (15 acres or more).

Commissioners reviewed and modified proposed land uses for each district.

- 3) Proposed Land Uses

Commissioners reviewed the proposed zoning districts and intent statements for each district.

They began the discussion on proposed land uses, with the intent to review the uses again at the July meeting.



Zoning

New Flood Maps

FEMA has released a preliminary set of flood plain maps for Marquette County. This new set of maps includes flood plain determinations for those living along Lake Superior.

Please review the maps and related information to determine if the data represented

on the maps is accurate for your location. There is an appeal process that began on May 5 and will be open through August 3. Click [maps and information](#) to view the appeal process, the insurance study, and the proposed maps.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

We haven't had too much going on this month besides preparing for the upcoming July 4th holiday as well as a state driving grant.

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						
Pounds Year To-Date	5.5	9.5	18	25	27.5	34						

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	23-1 Glendon	Police Reports
23-2	2/15/2023	2/21/2023					2/15/2023	23-2 Dankin	Police Reports
23-3	2/24/2023	3/3/2023					2/28/2023	23-3 Skyline Lein Search 02.24.23	Property Information
23-4	3/6/2023	3/10/2023					3/10/2023	23-4 Hyde 03.06.23	Police Reports
23-5	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/17/2023	23-5 Mulcahey 3-14-23	Job descriptions
23-6	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/16/2023	23-6 McLaughlin 3-14-23	Police Reports
23-7	3/17/2023	3/24/2023					3/21/2023	23-7 RjoserRequest 3-17-23	Police Reports
23-8	3/20/2023	3/27/2023		09/24/2023	4/11/2023		4/5/2023	23-8 Mulcahey request 3-20-23	Job descriptions
23-9	3/14/2023	3/21/2023		03/21/2023	4/4/2023		3/23/2023	23-9 Metropolitan request 3-14-23	Fire Report
23-10	4/5/2023	4/12/2023					4/12/2023	23-10 Eric Riley-GFL Environmental	Refuse/Recycle Information
23-11	4/12/2023	4/18/2023					4/18/2023	23-11 Carrie Vanlandshoot 04-12-23	Police Reports
23-12	4/14/2023	4/21/2023					4/18/2023	23-12 Tormis Request 4-14-23	Contracts and accounts receivable
23-13	4/19/2023	4/25/2023					4/19/2023	23-13 Ryan Talbot-Flagstar Bank 4-19-23	Police Reports
23-14	4/25/2023	5/2/2023	5/10/2023	6/27/2023	04/25/2023	5/16/2023		23-14 Millerrequest 4-25-23	Election Materials
23-15	5/3/2023	5/9/2023					5/8/2023	23-15 Nicole Borzek-Curran & Co 05.03.23	Police Reports
23-16	5/4/2023	5/10/2023					5/8/2023	23-16 Lombard 05.04.23	Police Reports
23-17	5/17/2023	5/24/2023					5/24/2023	23-17 Cass 05.17.23	Police Reports
23-18	6/6/2023	6/13/2023					6/6/2023	23-18 Holm 6-6-23	Police Reports dog bite
23-19	6/13/2023	6/19/2023					6/19/2023	23-19 Harry 6-13-23	Police Reports



Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through June 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	21.7
Totals	13,356	25,147	172,773	271,865	107.40
Averages	2,226	4,191	28,796	45,311	17.90

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

Downloads

There were 1197 downloaded documents in June. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2023 Meeting Dates	167
2023 Notification Dates	117
Appealing Property Assessment	97
Township Board agenda materials – 06.12.23	95
Township history	90
Township Board agenda– 06.12.23	81
Township Board minutes – 04.10.23	79
Township information guide	79
Township Board minutes – 03.13.23	77
2023 adopted fee schedule	74



Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in June were:

Top ten pages visited in June were: Page	Number of Views
Recycling	922
Directory email	737
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	550
Recreation listing	480
Contacts	476
Information and Newsletters	432
Forms	415
Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission	410
Assessor	409
Public Works	400

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through June, 2023:

2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	0	Addition	3	0
February	0	Alteration	0	0
March	6	Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
April	11	Conditional Use	2	0
May	11	Deck	2	0
June	8	Fence	10	0
		Garage	3	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	3	0
		Home / Garage	0	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0



2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
			Approved	Denied
		Outbuilding	8	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	1	0
		Sign	1	0
		Site Plan Review	2	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	36	Total	36	0

