

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

September 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

The annual re-appraisal continues, and we are approaching our goals. We are also visiting the new construction from this year's permits and follow-ups from last year. The number of permits is somewhat down from previous years but not as bad as previously thought given the state of the economy. We have one Michigan Tax Tribunal case involving a cell tower, but I expect to straighten that out before the scheduled hearing in December.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

Changes due to the roll out of Proposal 22-2 are beginning to take place. Marquette County jurisdictions have entered into an agreement with the County. There will be six early voting sites with the jurisdictions divided between them. Chocolay Township residents in both precincts will be early voting at the Chocolay Township Hall, along with Sands Township, Skandia Township, and West Branch Township.

There will be a letter mailed in the near future that will explain the changes made by Proposal 22-2 and your voting options.

Please remember if you have just moved into an area, to check your voter registration. One way to make sure you are registered in your new location is to change your address on your driver's license with the Secretary of State. This notifies your old jurisdiction that you have moved out and your new jurisdiction that you have moved in.

You can always check for voting information at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/> or call your local Clerk's office for more information.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

The fire department will put our new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) into service this month. We received them in August and have spent the last month getting the members trained to their use and getting fit tested to our new masks. SCBA's have an end of service life of 15 years. The township received State of Michigan budget monies through our local Senators budget initiatives to pay for our SCBA.

With fall season upon us, the fire department is beginning to transition to the cold season and the challenges they bring. Ice rescue, snowmobiles, freezing water and safety of the members and apparatus are the focus each fall/winter. We train for these cold weather events. It is a team effort to stay safe.

We are busy preparing for Fire Prevention Week. This year it is October 8-14. We are working with Cherry Creek School and our local daycares to have the fire department get into these places to teach our young kids fire safety. These lessons are lifelong! Getting our children involved as well as their parents is essential to our future. We are excited for this year's fire prevention opportunity to teach our young children.

Our call volume slowed in September. This is generally the case from year to year in September. We usually see our call volume increase as the cold season comes upon us.



Public Works

By Brad Johnson

Fall brush drop off will open on September 29th and close on October 16th.

Annual sewer cleaning is nearing completion. We had to call the City of Marquette to bring their vac truck out and clean wet wells 3 and 5 along with cleaning a bunch of sand that we have found that we are not able to get out.

We had to have Crane Engineering come up to pull a pump at lift station 1 due to a pump being plugged. When we pulled the pump, we found a T shirt stuck in the impellor. Since they were here with the service truck, we had them adjust the clearances on both pumps and the station is now running as it should again.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting held on September 18 and a work session on September 26; both were in the Township Fire Hall.

For the September 18 meeting there was one item on the agenda:

- 1) Draft Ordinance Considerations for the Agriculture / Forestry (AF) District Work Sessions

Commissioners discussed the items to be presented at the three town hall meetings scheduled for September and October. Discussion included items to be displayed and how the town halls would be conducted.

For the work session on September 26:

Commissioners attended the meeting to hear talking points from the public regarding the proposed changes for the Agriculture / Forestry (AF) zoning district. Chair Soucy gave a short presentation, after which the Commissioners interacted with the public to get their input. 27 participants attended from the public.

There are two additional public work sessions scheduled: October 10 from 7 PM to 8:30 PM and October 17 from 6 PM to 7:30 PM. Both sessions will be in the Township Fire Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month Liz went to a conference in Traverse City for Law Enforcement Records Management. She found it to be very informative and looks forward to going again next year. The conference covered a wide range of topics from the VIP law to updates in the state programs used in the department.

Sgt Carrick is completing a class at the end of the month held at NMU called Instructor Development. We look forward to hearing what his takeaways are from the training.

We are also preparing for our fall DEA Drug Take Back that will be held on October 28th 10a-2p.



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 | 6.5 | 5 | | | |
| Pounds Year To-Date | 5.5 | 9.5 | 18 | 25 | 27.5 | 34 | 46 | 52.5 | 57.5 | | | |

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 Brjoser Request 3-17-23 | Police Reports |
| 23-8 | 3/20/2023 | 3/27/2023 | | 03/24/2023 | 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 | Expired | 23-14 Miller request 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 | 6/5/2023 | 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 |
| 23-20 | 6/22/2023 | 6/28/2023 | | | | | 6/27/2023 | 23-20 Roose 6-22-23 | Police Reports |
| 23-21 | 6/27/2023 | 7/3/2023 | 6/27/2023 | 8/24/2023 | | | cancel ed | 23-21 Miller 6-27-23 | Election Materials |
| 23-22 | 7/13/2023 | 7/19/2023 | | | | | 7/14/2023 | 23-22 Johnson 7-13-23 | Police Reports |
| 23-23 | 7/21/2023 | 7/27/2023 | | | | | 7/24/2023 | 23-23 Mulcahey 7-21-23 | Rental Registrations |
| 23-24 | 7/24/2023 | 7/31/2023 | | | | | 7/27/2023 | 23-24 Barnes and Thornburg, LLP 7-24-23 | Fire Report |
| 23-25 | 8/9/2023 | 8/16/2023 | | | | | 8/9/2023 | 23-25 Miller 2020-2025 Elections Request 8-9-23 | Election Materials |
| 23-26 | 8/16/2023 | 8/22/2023 | | | | | 8/17/2023 | 23-26 Soucy 08-16-23 | Police Reports |



Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through September 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 |
| September | 2,915 | 4,445 | 39,954 | 49,006 | 15.55 |
| Totals | 22,228 | 38,963 | 310,423 | 470,593 | 176 |
| Averages | 4,446 | 7,793 | 62,085 | 94,119 | 35.22 |

Highest hits per day in September for the Township web site occurred on Thursday and the highest peak usage time was 2 AM to 3 AM.

Downloads

There were 1017 downloaded documents in September. The top ten documents downloaded were:

| Page | Number of Downloads |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2023 Meeting Dates | 150 |
| Township history | 138 |
| 2023 Notification Dates | 105 |
| Township Board agenda materials – 09.11.23 | 90 |
| Township Board minutes – 07.10.23 | 87 |
| Township Board agenda – 09.11.23 | 84 |
| Township Board minutes – 06.12.23 | 78 |
| Township Zoning Ordinance | 73 |
| Township Board minutes – 05.08.23 | 65 |
| Adopted fee schedule | 61 |



Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in September were:

| Top ten pages visited in July were: Page | Number of Views |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Recreation listing | 1,092 |
| Recycling | 746 |
| Directory email | 696 |
| Agendas and Minutes – Township Board | 542 |
| Contacts | 446 |
| Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission | 382 |
| Information and Newsletters | 352 |
| Public Works | 352 |
| Clerk | 347 |
| Forms | 341 |

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through September, 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 | 16 | 0 |
| July | 15 | Garage | 6 | 0 |
| August | 6 | Grading | 0 | 0 |
| September | 9 | Home | 4 | 0 |
| | | Home / Garage | 2 | 0 |
| | | Home Occupation | 1 | 0 |
| | | New Commercial | 1 | 0 |
| | | Outbuilding | 16 | 0 |



| 2023 Reviewed Permits by Month | | 2023 Reviewed Permits by Type | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | | | Approved | Denied |
| | | Pole Building | 2 | 0 |
| | | Rezoning Application | 1 | 0 |
| | | Sign | 6 | 0 |
| | | Site Plan Review | 2 | 0 |
| | | Zoning Variance Request | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 67 | Total | 67 | 0 |

