

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

January 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Manager

By Bill DeGroot

Many people participated in the water survey conducted last year. The Township Board heard from their engineering consultant in December. Based on the findings, the new federal and state funding sources would not be usable to help defray the cost of installation. This would make the project 100% funded through local user fees. The fees would be about \$100 to \$200 per month based on current construction costs. 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.

Assessing

By John Gehres

Change of assessment notices will go out next month. Due to inflation, it will be the largest increase in taxable value since the passage of Proposal A. The taxpayers are fortunate that a cap of 5% was built into the law.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

2023 will be a year of organizing for me in the Clerk's department. I will continue to clean and organize our record files, maps, and retention schedules. This will keep me busy!

At the end of January, we were notified that MARESA will have a proposal for an increase in the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by the electors. This will go out to our voters on May 2, 2023. We are busy in the office preparing for this election.

The Absentee Voter applications will be going out mid to the end of February, ballots will be mailed at the end of March. Reminder, you will not be mailed a ballot until a completed application is returned to the Township office. The applications can be mailed, put in the secure dropbox, or brought in person to the office.

I will be reaching out to the "snowbirds" for confirmation on their mailing addresses as **election mail will not be forwarded with regular mail**. When you get your application, it is important to add a mailing address (if different from your residential address) of where your ballot can be mailed the end of March. By doing this, you can help cut down on the number returned to our office and having to re-mailed.

On a different note, the days are getting longer, and Spring is right around the corner, until then, stay warm.



Fire Department

By Lee Gould

The fire department has taken delivery of our new Pierce Quantum Pumper!! This will be replacing our 1998 Pierce Saber Pumper. This unit will serve Chocoday Township for 20 years or longer. This has been a 3-year process from research, discussions with other fire departments and trips to Pierce to ensure the operations of this truck meets today's calls but also being adaptive to future changes within the township infrastructure. Currently we are training on the new truck to learn how it operates as the newer technology is much different than our other apparatus. We are also working on mounting the equipment on the truck. Today's fire apparatus has shelving designed to hold specific equipment. Our goal is to have the training and equipment mounting done and the truck ready for emergency calls by the end of February.

January started busy with emergency calls! We responded to several vehicle accidents and structure fires.

We are currently working on future apparatus replacement. We are reviewing our options for a Wildland fire truck due to our former truck being taken out of service due to major mechanical repair needed. It was an older truck and not worth repairing with the high cost. We are looking to make a Wildland truck also our main water rescue truck and use it for structural fires where large apparatus can't go. Making a truck of this size that serves multiple purposes makes sense for the department.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

This has been a crazy winter for us. When it does decide to snow, it seems to snow in feet rather than inches and it seems to be the wet heavy snow that makes it very difficult to get everything opened up. We have been able to manage to keep everything

open so far but the biggest problem has been the bike path as that also gets all the snow from the highway as well with the actual snowfall amount.

The Marquette Board of Light and Power replaced the transformer banks at our lift stations 1 and 3.

We have posted to fill the vacant position in Public Works.

Last year we collected 42.52 tons of glass from our glass container. We collected approximately 360 pounds of batteries last year from the buckets located in the Township office collection site.

We are still unable to open the ice rink at the Lions field due to poor ice making conditions. This year is not looking promising that it will be open at all for skating purposes due to safety issues.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting on January 16 in the Township Fire Hall. There were four items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting.

New Business

Election of Officers

- 1) The Commissioners held their annual election of officers. Officers for 2023 are:

Ryan Soucy Chair

George Meister Vice Chair

Donna Mullen-Campbell Secretary

Rebecca Sloan Vice Secretary

The Commissioners voted to not review the Planning Commission bylaws, as the latest revision was done in 2022.

- 2) 2022 Planning Commission Annual Report

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the 2022 *Planning Commission Annual Report*. The Commissioners voted to forward the report to the Board for consideration.



3) Industrial Zoning District Conditional Use Discussion

The Commissioners decided to propose rezoning for seven parcels on US 41 South from Industrial (I) zoning to Commercial (C) zoning. They also voted to apply the mixed use overlay district to the same parcels.

4) Zoning Districts and District Intent Statements

The Commissioners discussed items for the Board to consider for the joint meeting between the Board and the Planning Commission in February.

Unfinished Business

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) met on January 5 to review a case regarding adding an addition to a structure at 100 Lakewood Lane that

was non-conforming. The ZBA approved the variance request with no conditions applied to the variance.

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

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month the police department offered Mason Mitchell and Alec Olivier the two open positions in our intern program. Mason is currently working at Marquette Co. Jail. He will continue there as he interns with the Chocolay Township Police Department. Alec is a graduate of Ferris State University and recently moved back to the area. We look forward to giving them this experience and helping them move forward with their decision to pursue a career in law enforcement.

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											
Pounds Year To-Date	5.5											

FOIA

There is no FOIA documentation for 2023 as of 01.31.23.



Web Page Statistics

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

Month	Unique Visits	Number of Visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth (GB)
January	2,121	4,153	16,070	30,207	7.85
Totals	2,121	4,153	16,070	30,207	7.85
Averages	2,121	4,153	16,070	30,207	7.85

Highest hits per day in January for the Township web site occurred on Sunday and the highest peak usage time was 10 PM to 11 PM.

Downloads

There were 905 downloaded documents in January. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2022 meeting dates	160
Township Board minutes – 11.14.22	149
2022 notification dates	147
Township Board minutes – 10.10.22	147
Township Board minutes special – 09.12.22	110
Township Board minutes – 12.12.22	97
FOIA request	84
Township Board agenda materials – 12.12.22	74
2022 adopted fee schedule	70
DPW Technician job description	62



Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in January were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Employment	970
Directory email	597
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	499
Contacts	346
Elected and Appointed Officials	326
Public Notices	298
Information and Newsletters	276
Recycling	264
Assessor	256
Fire Department	256

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through January, 2023:

2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	0	Addition	0	0
		Alteration	0	0
		Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
		Conditional Use	0	0
		Deck	0	0
		Fence	0	0
		Garage	0	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	0	0
		Home / Garage	0	0
		Home Occupation	0	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	0	0
		Pole Building	0	0



2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
			Approved	Denied
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	0	0
		Site Plan Review	0	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	0	Total	0	0

