

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

April 2023

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Assessing

**By John Gehres**

I've continued to organize the assessing department and prepare for field inspections this summer. Letters for the 20% reappraisal will go out this month to residents that are included in this year's inspections. Also, May brings State Equalization, where the 2023 assessments will be finalized.

### Clerk

**By Lisa Perry**

We are in the final stages of preparing for the May 2, 2023, Special Election. As of April 29<sup>th</sup> we have issued 1152 Absentee Ballots and have received 950 back in the office. This is 83% of the Absentee Ballots having been returned.

I will have a complete report on the election in the May newsletter.

### Fire Department

**By Lee Gould**

April was a slow month for the fire department for emergency calls. Traditionally this is not the case. Like most things, calls go in cycles so we know it will get busy soon. We were able to focus on some important training that we hold every few years. We participated in Semco Emergency Gas Line training and had the Michigan State Police UPSET division come in and hold an updated drug training. Both are important for fire departments to know what is going on in your current area to keep first responders

safe. Skandia and Sands Township Fire Departments joined us in these training sessions.

April also saw the fire department transition our equipment from the winter season to the warmer weather season and gear up for backwoods rescues and water rescues. Our summer trainings focus on these efforts also.

### Public Works

**By Brad Johnson**

We have been having ongoing issues with a pump at lift station 3 since the station was installed. The issues have never been significant until April 7<sup>th</sup>. When we came into work on April 7<sup>th</sup>, we checked the SCADA screen and noticed that pump 1 was having issues with having run time more than 6 hours at a time. Seeing that immediately told me that something was plugged somewhere. We went down and started investigating where the issue was coming from and found that the pump was plugged. We do have the capability of pulling the pump however, with this day being good Friday and a holiday weekend we decided that it would be best to turn that pump off and run the other pump since we didn't have a reliable plan with a service truck that could help us out in the event, we had an issue with our davit crane. On the morning of April 10<sup>th</sup>, we went down and pulled the pump and found what appeared to be construction rock in the pump. On April 13<sup>th</sup>, we had the City come down with their vac truck to vac out any debris that was on the bottom of the wet well. As they reached the bottom, we noticed that there was an empty 5-gallon bucket, a piece of 2x4 and a long drill bit that were used in the



construction of the station. The bucket was the only item able to be removed with the vac truck, the other items are still in there. The only way to clean all the debris out is to bypass the sewage flow from the wet well and have a person go into the wet well and clean it out by hand.

It appears that spring showed up, we are now busy now cleaning up after the winter mess. In the next few weeks, we will be cleaning up trash in the parks, fixing any areas where we tore sod up plowing snow, grading parking lots, sweeping the bike path, chipping the Christmas trees and getting the fields ready. Once the threat of the Chocolate River flooding is over we will be installing the dock at the marina. We are opening the brush drop off on May 1<sup>st</sup> and it will run for 2 weeks.

I attended a training in Livonia Mi on Public Act 222 regarding sanitary sewer overflows and backups.

## Technology

### By Dale Throenle

Comments regarding the proposed Township web site have been submitted to the developer for review.

Tentative go-live for the new web site is late May/early June.

## Planning / Zoning

### By Dale Throenle

#### Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a meeting held on April 17 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were three items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting; one was considered old business, and two were considered new business. The Commissioners also conducted a public hearing regarding proposed changes to the language for the Industrial zoning district.

Commissioners decided to address new business before old business.

## New Business

- 1) #34-23-01 Proposed Changes for the Industrial Zoning District  
Commissioners conducted a public hearing prior to discussing this item. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to add Single Family Residential and Registered Rentals to the Industrial zoning district as conditional uses. They voted to send the language to the Board for the Board's decision on adding the language to the Township *Zoning Ordinance*.
- 2) Final Site Plan Review Application SR 23-04 – Ironworkers Local 8 Training Facility  
Commissioners reviewed and discussed site plans with the applicants for a proposed Ironworkers Training Facility that will be located on M-28 East between the America's Best Value Inn and Nagelkirk Gardens.

After discussion, the Commissioners approved the site plan with some minor conditions.

## Zoning

### New Flood Maps

FEMA has released a preliminary mapping of flood zones in Marquette County. The new maps are available for review and comment for ninety days (comments must be submitted to FEMA by August 3). Please contact the Zoning Administrator if you have questions regarding the new mapping.

### Zoning Board of Appeals

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



## Police

### By Liz Norris-Harr

We held DEA drug take back on April 22<sup>nd</sup> only bringing in 3 people and about 1lb of drugs. However, we had many people stop in the following week which was great.

Chief Jennings attended the UP Chief Conference here in Marquette this month. He made many new contacts and discussed employment and recruitment. Neal Rossow also did a presentation on leadership with many key takeaways.

Our Cadets start the academy on May 8<sup>th</sup> and we wish them luck!

## 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								
<b>Pounds Year To-Date</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</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	First Name	Last Name
23-1	2/6/2023	2/10/2023					2/7/2023	23-1 Glendon	Police Reports	Jessica	Glendon
23-2	2/15/2023	2/21/2023					2/15/2023	23-2 Dankin	Police Reports		Ferrell
23-3	2/24/2023	3/3/2023					2/28/2023	23-3 Skyline Lien Search 02-24-23	Property Information		Skyline Lien Search
23-4	3/6/2023	3/10/2023					3/10/2023	23-4 Hyde 03-06-23	Police Reports	George	Hyde
23-5	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/17/2023	23-5 Mulcahey 3-14-23	Job descriptions	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-6	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/16/2023	23-6 McLaughlin 3-14-23	Police Reports	Michelle	Philips
23-7	3/17/2023	3/24/2023					3/21/2023	23-7 Brjoser Request 3-17-23	Police Reports	Nicole	Brose
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	Deborah	Mulcahey
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		Metropolitan
23-10	4/5/2023	4/12/2023					4/12/2023	23-10 Eric Riley-GFL Environmental	Refuse/Recycle Information	Eric	Riley
23-11	4/12/2023	4/18/2023					4/18/2023	23-11 Carrie Vanlandshoot 04-12-23	Police Reports	Carrie	Vanlandshoot
23-12	4/14/2023	4/21/2023					4/18/2023	23-12 Tormis Request 4-14-23	Contracts and accounts receivable	Angel	Tormis/ Steep Steel
23-13	4/19/2023	4/25/2023					4/19/2023	23-13 Ryan Talbot-Flagstar Bank 4-19-23	Police Reports	Ryan	Talbot/Flagstar Bank
23-14	4/25/2023	5/2/2023		04/25/2023	5/16/2023		4/19/2023	23-14 Miller request 4-25-23	Election Materials	Yehuda	Miller michiganops

## Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through April 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
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,789</b>	<b>16,387</b>	<b>74,549</b>	<b>125,569</b>	<b>65.53</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>1,947</b>	<b>4,097</b>	<b>18,637</b>	<b>31,392</b>	<b>16.38</b>

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



## Downloads

There were 844 downloaded documents in April. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
2023 Meeting Dates	104
2023 Notification Dates	100
Township Board minutes – 02.13.23	80
Township Board minutes – 01.09.23	77
Township Board minutes – 12.22.22	66
Township Board agenda materials – 04.10.23	62
Township Board minutes – combined 2014	57
FOIA request for public records	55
2023 Adopted Fee Schedule	54
Township Board minutes – combined 2016	54

## Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in April were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Directory email	951
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	503
Agendas and Minutes – Board of Review	316
Contacts	312
Information and Newsletters	295
Agendas and Minutes – Zoning Board of Appeals	265
Employment	257
Public Notices	252
Forms	250
Agendas and Minutes – Planning Commission	247



## Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through April, 2023:

2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	0	Addition	1	0
February	0	Alteration	0	0
March	6	Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
April	11	Conditional Use	1	0
		Deck	1	0
		Fence	4	0
		Garage	1	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	2	0
		Home / Garage	0	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	3	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	1	0
		Site Plan Review	2	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>

