

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

May 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

Mother Nature sure showed us that she is still in charge. The May 2, 2023 Special was held even though the county was cleaning up from a major snow storm. The following are some of the stats from this election. Thank you to everyone that came out to vote.

PROPOSAL SECTION--COUNTY				
<u>Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency Special Education Millage Proposal</u>				
This proposal will increase the levy by the intermediate school district of special education millage previously approved by the electors. Shall the limitation on the annual property tax previously approved by the electors of Marquette-Alger Regional Educational Service Agency, Michigan, for the education of students with a disability be increased by 1.5 mills (\$1.50 on each \$1,000 of taxable valuation) for a period of 20 years, 2023 to 2042, inclusive; the estimate of the revenue the intermediate school district will collect if the millage is approved and levied in 2023 is approximately \$4,765,811 from local property taxes authorized herein?				
	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total	
YES	319	382	701	
NO	246	247	493	
TOTAL	565	629	1194	
STATISTICS				
		Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
Registered Voters		2,634	2,440	5,074
Ballot Count (In Person)		77	95	172
Ballot Count (Absentee)		488	536	1,024
Ballot Count (In Person & Absentee)		565	631	1,196
Percent of Registered Voters		21.45%	25.86%	23.57%
Absentee Ballots	Issued	543	612	1155
	Returned on Time	488	536	1024
	Percentage	89.87%	87.58%	88.66%



Assessing

By John Gehres

We have begun reappraisal training with our new field person Justin Vasseau. Once our new appraiser is trained, he will be handling the bulk of field work. Other ongoing duties would include administering [principal residence exemptions](#), [principal residence exemption rescissions](#), [conditional rescission of principal residence exemption](#), the review of all deeds to reflect current property ownership, processing land division applications or any legal description changes to the assessment or tax rolls, and entering property transfer affidavits.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

The fire department completely transitioned to the warm season for rescue calls which includes water and land-based rescue. Our water rescue gear is out and ready and the rescue 4-wheeler is loaded. Each year we get a few rescue calls.

May usually brings the Wildland Fire season. This year was overly wet for most of May due to the late spring. We only responded to one Wildland Fire that was bigger once the drought started. Fire calls overall in May started slow but ended the month in a frenzy. We had an 8 day stretch with 12 calls that kept us busy.

We continue to work on our project of replacing our Wildland truck and our oldest Tanker. Our former Wildland truck was taken out of service in late 2022 due to major degradation. We are looking at what would serve our needs for our mixed rural/commercial areas. Our tanker replacement project will take some time. Trucks are still 35-48 months out from delivery once ordered. We are looking at what our needs are and what is the best

option for a tanker to serve the community for the next 20 years.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

The brush drop off is over for this spring. We received a fair amount and now have fresh wood chips available for residents.

We are now in full summer mode. Mowing has started, baseball and soccer has started, the dock is in, clean up from the winter is over and lots of people have been out in the recreation areas.

There will be a full road closure on Cherry Creek Road for about 2-3 weeks to replace a culvert under the road for Cedar Creek. There will be a detour in place and letters have been sent to the residents that will be affected by this project.

I have been working with MDOT on a fix for the water pooling in front of our fire station every time it rains hard and during the spring melt. At times I have seen the water pool out to the center lane, this causes a significant safety issue for drivers. The problem is the storm drain has a very low slope to it and it drains into Silver Creek over by the Quick Lube. If the creek happens to be high, the water has no way to drain resulting it to back up in the pipe and catch basin and into the highway. My suggestion to them was to put another pipe in the catch basin at a higher level than the current discharge pipe and drain it in our retention pond on the North side of the fire station. MDOT sent out a survey crew to shoot some measurements to see if the grades will allow them to move forward with this fix. I have not received the results from the surveyors at this point.



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 May 15 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were five items on the agenda for the regularly scheduled meeting; two were considered old business, and three were considered new business. The Commissioners also conducted a public hearing regarding a conditional use permit for JX Trucking Center.

Commissioners decided to address new business before old business.

New Business

- 1) Conditional Use Permit CU 23-11 - JX Trucking Center

JX Trucking Center requested a conditional use permit for their business proposal that will be located in the former Blondeau Trucking building behind the Dry Dock; Commissioners conducted a public hearing prior to discussing this item. After discussion, the Commissioners decided to grant the conditional use permit for the project.

- 2) Final Site Plan Review Application SR 23-12 - JX Enterprises, Inc.

Commissioners reviewed and discussed site plans with the applicants for the proposed trucking facility that will be located on in the former Blondeau Trucking building. The

applicants stated that the facility will have an addition added to accommodate a proposed sales area.

After discussion, the Commissioners approved the site plan.

- 3) Planning Commissioner Training - Site Plan Review

Township Manager Bill DeGroot presented training to the Commissioners regarding site plan review.

Old Business

- 1) Proposed Zoning Ordinance Definitions
Commissioners reviewed several definitions and decided to table the remaining discussion until the June meeting.

- 2) Proposed Agriculture Zoning District Language

Commissioners decided to table the remaining discussion until the June 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 May and will not meet in June.



Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

Cadet Mitchell and Cadet Harvala have completed their first few weeks of the academy. They are doing very well and learning a lot. Keep an eye out in the community for them as they have been volunteering through the academy for security at local events!

Sgt Carrick took it upon himself to attend an American Sign Language class at NMU this semester. Sgt Carrick feels ASL is a tool that will help him communicate with civilians he meets

whether it be a traffic stop or in Cherry Creek School. Thank you, Sgt Carrick, for going above and beyond!

Sgt Carrick also completed his Taser Instructor training this month. This will recertify him to continue instructing our department in taser use.

Administrative Assistant Liz graduated from NMU this semester. She obtained a certificate in Applied Workplace Leadership. The focus of this certificate was diversity and inclusion in the workplace. Liz says she took these classes to help build and strengthen a cohesive team. Thank you, Liz, for taking that initiative.

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							
Pounds Year To-Date	5.5	9.5	18	25	27.5							

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	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 Broser Request 3-17-23	Police Reports	Nicole	Broser
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	Reporting Bureau
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	5/10/2023	6/27/2023	04/25/2023	5/16/2023		23-14 Miller request 4-25-23	Election Materials	Yehuda	Miller michiganops
23-15	5/3/2023	5/9/2023					5/8/2023	23-15 Nicole Brozek-Curran & Co 05.03.23	Police Reports	Nicole	Brozek/Curran & Co.
23-16	5/4/2023	5/10/2023					5/8/2023	23-16 Lombard 05.04.23	Police Reports	Kristen	Lombard
23-17	5/17/2023	5/24/2023					5/24/2023	23-17 Cass 05.17.23	Police Reports	Cheyenne	Cass



Web Page Statistics

Year to date totals through May 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	702	1,379	5,299	6,399	3.11
Totals	8,491	17,766	79,848	131,968	68.64
Averages	1,698	3,553	15,970	26,394	13.73

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

Downloads

There were 481 downloaded documents in May. The top ten documents downloaded were:

Page	Number of Downloads
FEMA Flood plain map revisions	73
2023 Meeting Dates	35
2023 Notification Dates	35
Township Board minutes – 03.13.23	26
Township Board minutes – 02.13.23 joint meeting	24
Township Board minutes – 04.10.23 draft	24
Township siding RFP	24
Township Board minutes – 01.09.23	24
Township Board agenda materials – 05.08.23	23
FOIA request for public records	22



Page Visits

Top ten pages visited in May were:

Top ten pages visited in July were: Page	Number of Views
Agendas and Minutes – Township Board	152
Agendas and Minutes – Board of Review	83
Contacts	121
Information and Newsletters	126
Public Notices	117
Forms	110
Recreation directory	108
Recycling	92
Fire	83
Public Works	82

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through May, 2023:

2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	0	Addition	2	0
February	0	Alteration	0	0
March	6	Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
April	11	Conditional Use	2	0
May	11	Deck	2	0
		Fence	8	0
		Garage	2	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	4	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	1	0
		Sign	1	0
		Site Plan Review	2	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	28	Total	28	0

