

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

November 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

The December Board of Review has been cancelled as the legislature has given assessor's the power to grant veterans exemptions and principal residence exemptions. Those were normally what we had to correct at those meetings. I am currently working on the E.C.F. and land value studies. Also, this time of year is spent finalizing what percentage of completion the new construction is for the 2024 roll.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

The Presidential Primary will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. There are many changes with the passing of 22-2 in November of 2022 that will be implemented. A letter will be sent to registered voters in mid-December explaining the changes and also informing voters about Early Voting. Please watch for that letter and if there are any questions, feel free to contact me at the Township office.

Absentee ballot applications will be mailed the end of December, if you are a "snowbird" and will not be at your Chocolay Township address, please call me at the office to advise me of your winter address as election mail will not be forwarded by the post office. This will help save time and postage.

Please remember if you are new to Chocolay or moving to another location in Michigan, to change your driver's license, this will alert your new and former jurisdiction of your location

change. To check your voting registration status or find voter information, please go

<https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

The fire department call volume for November was slow. This is not abnormal for this month, especially when the weather is warmer. We generally see an uptick in calls for December. With the cold season, we are focusing our training on ice and snowmobile and structure fire training as those call types increase in winter months.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

I have been working with the Townships Attorney and the KBIC on finalizing the easement work for ownership of lift station 9. Smith Contracting has scheduled the start up for tentative December 8. Once startup happens, they will start tying the houses into the system. This additional flow should help any odor issues at the M28 stations by preventing the stations' wet wells from going stagnant.

We haven't groomed the cross-country ski trail in many years due to the State clear cutting that area. The trees are starting to get big enough where they should help hold the snow in place rather than be blown away and causing drifts, so we are going to attempt to groom the trails out there this year.

The hockey rink is ready to go once the weather cooperates and stays a little colder.



The siding project is nearing completion and we have had many compliments on the color. We will be staining the DPW/Police garage next summer.

The Marquette County Road Commission is planning to mill and repave Cherry Creek Road from Fraco to County Road 480. This project is scheduled for 2025 and the completion date will be before schools starts in the fall and the traffic will be controlled by flaggers.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle Technology

This is a reminder that there is a new website for the Township; the Township has switched from chocolay.org to chocolay.gov with this new site. The new website is also mobile-device ready.

All email addresses for the Township staff and officials have a new extension; all have changed from @chocolay.org to @chocolay.gov. You can send your email either to the old address or the new; both will be received.

Check out the new site and let us know what you think. You can send comments regarding the site to publiccomments@chocolay.gov or let us know at the office front counter.

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a regular meeting on November 20 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were two items on the agenda:

Old Business

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

Commissioners discussed the work sessions and the discussions at the work sessions. Commissioners outlined zoning sections within the

current AF zoning district that will result in the new zoning districts listed as AG 1, AG 2, and AG3. The Commissioners instructed staff to bring a draft map of the proposed districts to the next meeting.

New Business

1) Housing Discussion

Commissioners began discussing housing options for the Township. The discussion primarily focused on accessory dwelling units, their types, and the possible locations in the Township.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for **December 18 at 6 PM** in the Township Fire Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month Officer Harvala and Officer Mitchell completed their radar/lidar training allowing them to run traffic speed.

Sgt Carrick and Officer Mitchell attended a school lock down drill at Cherry Creek School with their staff and school resource officer. This was an excellent opportunity to make sure everyone is acting quickly and together with each other in case of an emergency.

Sgt Carrick rang the Salvation Army bell outside of Lofaro's Food Market over Thanksgiving weekend.

The police department teamed up with 906 Firearms and distributed 15 turkeys throughout the community for Thanksgiving. The recipients included residents, the women's shelter and Silver Creek Church.



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	5.5	3	
Pounds Year To-Date	5.5	9.5	18	25	27.5	34	46	52.5	57.5	63	66	

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	23-1Glendon	Police Reports	Jessica	Glendon
23-2	2/15/2023	2/21/2023					2/15/2023	23-2Dankin	Police Reports		Ferrell
23-3	2/24/2023	3/3/2023					2/28/2023	23-3Skyline Lein Search 02.24.23	Property Information	Skyline Lien Search	
23-4	3/6/2023	3/10/2023					3/10/2023	23-4Hyde 03.06.23	Police Reports	George	Hyde
23-5	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/17/2023	23-5Mulcahey 3-14-23	Job descriptions	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-6	3/14/2023	3/20/2023					3/16/2023	23-6McLaughlin 3-14-23	Police Reports	Michelle	Philips
23-7	3/17/2023	3/24/2023					3/21/2023	23-7Brjoser Request 3-17-23	Police Reports	Nicole	Brosier
23-8	3/20/2023	3/27/2023			03/24/2023	4/11/2023	4/5/2023	23-8Mulcahey 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	23-9Metropolitain 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 Vanlandshoost 04.12.23	Police Reports	Carrie	VanLandshoost
23-12	4/14/2023	4/21/2023					4/18/2023	23-12 Tomnis Request 4-14-23	Contracts and accounts receivable	Angel	Tomnis/ Steep Steel
23-13	4/19/2023	4/25/2023					4/19/2023	23-13 Ryan Talbot-Figstar Bank 4-19-23	Police Reports	Ryan	Talbot/Figstar Bank
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	Yehuda	Miller
23-15	5/3/2023	5/9/2023					5/8/2023	23-15 Nicole Borek-Curran & Co 05.03.23	Police Reports	Nicole	Bozek/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
23-18	6/6/2023	6/13/2023					6/6/2023	23-18 Holm 6-6-23	Police Reports dog bite	Cathy	Holm
23-19	6/13/2023	6/19/2023					6/19/2023	23-19 Harry 6-13-23	Police Reports	Susan	Harry
23-20	6/22/2023	6/28/2023					6/27/2023	23-20 Roose 6-22-23	Police Reports	Erica	Roose
23-21	6/27/2023	7/3/2023	6/27/2023	8/24/2023			cancelled	23-21 Miller 6-27-23	Election Materials	Yehuda	Miller
23-22	7/13/2023	7/19/2023					7/14/2023	23-22 Johnson 7-13-23	Police Reports	Brad	Johnson
23-23	7/21/2023	7/27/2023					7/24/2023	23-23 Mulcahey 7-21-23	Rental Registrations	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-24	7/24/2023	7/31/2023					7/27/2023	23-24 Barnes and Thornburg, LLP 7-24-23	Fire Report	Barnes & Thornburg, LLP	
23-25	8/9/2023	8/16/2023					8/9/2023	23-25 Miller 2020-2025 Elections Request 8-9-23	Election Materials	Yehuda	Miller
23-26	8/16/2023	8/22/2023					8/17/2023	23-26 Sauer 08-16-23	Police Reports	Emily	Sauer
23-27	10/4/2023	10/10/2023					10/10/2023	23-27 Brugman 10-04-23	Police Reports	James	Brugman
23-28	10/17/2023	10/23/2023					10/20/2023	23-28 Mulcahey 10-17-23	FOIA documentation	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-29	10/19/2023	10/25/2023					10/23/2023	23-29 Reynolds 10-19-23	Police Reports	Brenda	Reynolds
23-30	10/19/2023	10/25/2023					11/8/2023	23-30 Mulcahey 10-19-23	Zoning Permits	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-31	10/24/2023	10/30/2023					10/23/2023	23-31 Mulcahey 10-24-23	Police Reports	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-32	11/14/2023	11/20/2023					11/17/2023	23-32 Mulcahey 11-14-23	Property Information	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-33	11/28/2023	12/5/2023					11/28/2023	23-33 Nye 11-28-23	Payer contracts	Annie	Nye
23-34	11/30/2023	12/8/2023					12/1/2023	23-34 Mulcahey 12-1-23	Charter	Deborah	Mulcahey

Web Page Statistics

Starting this month, web page statistics will have a new format. The categories that will be reported are the number of sessions (single user visitor to the website), number of page views (number of pages visited), and top ten pages visited.

Sessions and Page Views

Year to date totals through November are shown in the table

Month	Sessions	Page Views
November	1,689	4,193
Totals	1,689	4,193
Averages	1,689	4,193



Sessions and Page Views

Year to date total through November are shown in the table.

Page	Count
Main Page with Announcements	1,382
Meeting Minutes	200
Township Board	184
Contact Form	143
Information	126
General Government	109
Township Directory	104
Planning Commission	98
Planning and Zoning	81
Recycling	80

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through October, 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	18	0
July	15	Garage	7	0
August	6	Grading	0	0
September	9	Home	4	0
October	6	Home / Garage	2	0
November	2	Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	1	0



2023 Reviewed Permits by Month		2023 Reviewed Permits by Type		
			Approved	Denied
		Outbuilding	20	0
		Pole Building	2	0
		Rezoning Application	1	0
		Sign	7	0
		Site Plan Review	2	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	75	Total	75	0

