

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

December 2023

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

The December Board of Review was held on Tuesday December 12th at 10 a.m. covering clerical errors and mutual mistakes of fact. We had 5 total petitions on two properties. 1 was a poverty exemption and the other an uncapping issue.

I continue to work on the sales and e.c.f. analysis. For the second year in a row the Consumer Price Index is at the proposal A limit of 5% which will be applied to all taxable values in the township. The assessed values will be taking a larger jump than last year as the lag time has caught up with Equalizations new studies.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

The Clerk's office is busy getting ready for the Presidential Primary Election that will be held on Tuesday, February 27, 2024.

Letters went out regarding the changes in voting with the passage of Proposal 22-2 in November 2022. If you are on the Absentee Ballot APPLICATION list, you do not have to do anything unless you want to be put on the PERMANENT BALLOT list. If you want to change to the permanent ballot list, please mark the appropriate box on the application you will be receiving in early January. By doing so, you will no longer receive an application prior to an election, you will just automatically receive your ballot.

Absentee ballot applications will be going out early January 2024 for the Presidential Primary, I have contacted many "snowbirds" to check their

mailing addresses, if I have not reached out to you and you have a different address for the winter, please let me know (I may have left you a message). The Post Office will not forward election mail and it will be returned to the Township. This helps keep mailing costs down. 2024 is going to be a busy election year so please check your voter registration if you are not sure where you vote, you can do so by going to the Michigan Secretary of State website at <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>

As always, if you have questions, you can call the Township office and I will be glad to help you with any elections questions you may have.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

2023 was a good year for the fire department. We ended the year at 108 calls for service. This is lower than the past few years. We didn't have any storm related calls this year so that is most likely the cause of the lower call volume. Everything cycles so I am expecting things to turn around in 2024.

We took delivery of our new fire engine this past year. It was 3 years of hard work by the department developing a specification that would meet the growing needs of our township. The truck was delivered last winter and put into service in the spring after extensive training on the new truck. Our former truck was 23 years old and technology changed for the better on the truck systems. We sold our former truck to Wells Township in southern Marquette County. We are excited about the future with this new truck as to date it is exactly what we hoped for.



Newer and younger fire department staff continue to develop and are taking additional roles on the department. This is important to the future sustainability of our department by developing that younger core staff into proven leaders.

With the help of the township grants planner Joe Nuemann, the fire department has been successful in several grants this past year. We are excited to continue searching and writing grants.

2024 is going to be a good year as we continue to grow as a department and township.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

I was contacted by the Marquette County Landfill, and they wanted to thank us for being a large contributor to the glass recycling program and that we have the cleanest glass that they receive.

The Christmas tree drop off will open on December 26 and end at the end of January 2024.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a regular meeting on December 18 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were four items on the agenda, and the Commissioners decided to do new business prior to unfinished business:

New Business

1) Preliminary Site Plan Review - Dollar General Store # 30520

Commissioners discussed the preliminary site plan for a proposed Dollar General store that will be located at 4050 US 41 South, the former site of the St. James the Lesser Episcopal Church. Commissioners suggested minor changes to the applicant. The applicant will be bringing the formal

site plan back to the Planning Commission at a future meeting.

2) Proposed 2024 Planning Commission Meeting Dates

Commissioners discussed the planning commission dates for 2024. The Commissioners changed the dates for two of the scheduled meetings – from January 15 to January 22 and November 18 to November 25.

Unfinished Business

1) Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendments for the Agriculture / Forestry (AF) Zoning District (34-23-02)

Commissioners discussed the proposed zoning ordinance language for the AG 1, AG 2, and AG 3 zoning districts. Commissioners made minor changes and recommended the language be put forward into a public hearing at a future meeting.

2) Proposed Zoning Map for the Agriculture / Forestry (AF) Zoning District (34-23-02)

Commissioners discussed the proposed zoning district locations for the AG 1, AG 2, and AG 3 zoning districts. Commissioners made changes, and will review the proposed mapping again at the January meeting.

The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for **January 22 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 December and will not meet in January.



Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month Chocoley Police Dept partnered with another township business and put together 20 ham dinners complete with all the fixings. These dinners were distributed throughout the township to families as well as to the women's center for their THS families.

December 15th- January 1st the department was granted 50 hours from the State of Michigan for impaired driving. Each Officer will do 1-2 extra shifts to fulfill these hours over the holidays.

Also, this month, Officers Mitchell and Harvala have successfully completed their field training and are now able to work on their own. We are very proud of them and their accomplishments in 2023. We look forward to seeing what they bring to the department and community.

On December 15th the Chocoley Township Police and Chocoley Township Fire faced off ringing the Salvation Army bell at Lofaros. We want to thank the community for all of their support for this event. It was very successful.

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	4.5
Pounds Year To-Date	5.5	9.5	18	25	27.5	34	46	52.5	57.5	63	66	70.5

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 Lein 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	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 Borzek-Curran & Co 05.03.23	Police Reports	Nicole	Brozek/Curran & Co.
23-16	5/4/2023	5/10/2023					5/24/2023	23-16 Lombard 05.04.23	Police Reports	Kristen	Lombard
23-17	5/17/2023	5/24/2023					6/6/2023	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 Soucy 08-16-23	Police Reports	Emily	Soucy
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 Nyeste 11-28-23	Payer contracts	Annie	
23-34	11/30/2023	12/8/2023					12/1/2023	23-34 Mulcahey 12-1-23	Charter	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-35	12/5/2023	12/11/2023	12/21/2023	2/29/2024	12/06/2023	12/27/2023		23-35 Mulcahey 12-4-23	Police Information	Deborah	Mulcahey
23-36	12/28/2023	1/6/2024						23-36 Metropolitan Reporting Bureau 12-28-23	Fire Report	Metropolitan Reporting Bureau	



Web Page Statistics

Starting November 2023, 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

No statistics are available for December. Statistics reporting will resume in January.

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through December, 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
December	0	New Commercial	1	0
		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

