

# CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

February 2024

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

### Assessing

**By John Gehres**

The annual change of assessment notices went out and as expected we've higher than normal call volumes. We will meet March 5<sup>th</sup> for the organizational meeting followed by meetings on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> to hear appeals.

### Clerk

**By Lisa Perry**

The start of the 2024 election season has started, to say the least, it has been interesting. Chocolay Township was chosen to be one of the Early Voting sites in Marquette County which brought a new precinct and procedures to the Township.

Early Voting was implemented with the passing of Proposal 22-2 back in November of 2022. Early Voting started on Saturday, February 17 and went through Sunday, February 25, from 10 AM to 6 PM. Chocolay hosted Sands, Skandia, and West Branch Townships. In those nine days, we had 85 voters cast ballots from all four jurisdictions. Please contact your local Clerk's office if you would like more information regarding Early Voting. Early Voting will be held for every State and Federal election.

Election Day was a smaller turnout with just over 400 voters casting ballots in person. Watch for the breakdown of Election Day in next month's newsletter. We have a great crew of election workers that make our elections run smoothly and for that I am grateful and want to thank them.

The Clerk's department will now start working on our August 6 Primary Election to implement any necessary changes that we encountered in the February election.

If you are unsure of your voter registration status, please check <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/>. If you have any questions, please contact your local Clerk's department.

### Fire Department

**By Lee Gould**

The fire department continues to work on our new Wildland/Rescue truck. After doing a thorough review of the needs of this truck to determine what it would carry for equipment, we narrowed our truck type and style down to meet our needs. We hope to place an order soon on the truck. Once that is completed, we will continue working on the storage box for the chassis of the truck that will hold our skid unit and equipment. Due to lead times for the truck and box build, we are hoping to have the major components completed by late summer or early fall.

Our call volume has been average. With the weather being mild, we aren't getting those typical cold season calls like vehicle accidents etc. With the prediction of a warmer and drier than average spring season, we are gearing up to what could be a busy wildfire season.

### Public Works

**By Brad Johnson**

Staff have put several RFP's together for projects this summer. They include work on the



sanitary sewer mains, a new restroom at Beaver Grove Recreation Area, the removal of the old restroom and electrical work there.

Smith Construction has started hooking up the reservation housing to the sanitary sewer system. This flow is very important to the Township because it will help the lift stations along M28 cycle more which will help reduce odors in those stations' wet wells.

## Planning / Zoning

### By Dale Throenle Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in both a joint meeting with the Board and a regular meeting on February 12 in the Township Fire Hall.

The Planning Commissioners participated in two meetings on February 12 in the Township Fire Hall.

The first meeting was a joint meeting between the Township Board and the Planning Commission.

Commissioners discussed with the Board the priorities for the next several months. Those priorities included finishing the rezoning classifications for the AF zoning district, determining zoning classifications for State lands and discussion of accessory dwelling units and housing issues throughout the Township.

The second meeting was the regular monthly meeting. There were three items on the agenda (one was added at the meeting); all were considered new business.

- 1) Site Plan Review SP 24-03 Dollar General Store # 30520

Commissioners discussed and approved with conditions a site plan for a Dollar General store that will be located at 4050 US 41 South.

- 2) Joint Meeting Considerations

Commissioners discussed the priorities for the Commission based on the conversation that occurred in the joint meeting. Commissioners decided to work on discussing the Lake Superior and Chocolay River shorelines and related natural features, the potential land use for the State lands, and housing, including accessory dwelling units.

- 3) Consideration for Moving the Public Hearing for the AG District from March to April (added agenda item)  
Commissioners discussed the public hearing for the new Agriculture (AG) zoning districts that are proposed to replace the Agriculture / Forestry (AF) zoning district. They decided to move the public hearing for the new districts to the April 15 meeting.

The Planning Commission will hold in a regular monthly meeting on **March 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 February and will not meet in March.



## Police

### By Liz Norris-Harr

This month Sgt Carrick, Officer Mitchell and Officer Harvala sat in on an active shooter training at Cherry Creek Elementary school. The training consisted of training the teachers in an active shooter situation which will lead to our response in the scenario.

The police department, including admin, attended CPR training and were all recertified.

Sgt Carrick and Liz attended an advanced excel training put on by NMPSA.

There has been a recent increase in on-line fraud. We will be continuing to educate the public about the newest scams. We have also posted on Facebook about the new gun laws in Michigan. We received gunlocks to distribute for free in our lobby. With these are included pamphlets on the new laws.

## 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	19	11										
Pounds Year To-Date	19	30										

## FOIA

REQ #	OF CHOCOLAY	Date	Sent	Invoice	Days	10 day Ext Sent	10 day Ext	Response Date	Link to Documentation	Description	First Name	Last Name
24-01		1/5/2024	1/11/2024					1/8/2024	24-01 Carlson 01.05.24	Police Reports	Britta	Carlson
24-02		1/8/2024	1/12/2024			1/9/2024	01/26/2024	1/24/2024	24-02 Mulcahey 01.08.24	Employee Information Salaries/Benefits	Deborah	Mulcahey
24-03		1/5/2024	1/11/2024			1/9/2024	1/26/2024	Cancelled	24-03 Gencheff 01.05.24	Voting Information	Stephanie	Gencheff
24-04		1/8/2024	1/12/2024			01/09/2024	1/26/2024	1/24/2024	24-04 Mulcahey 01.08.24	Employee Information email address	Deborah	Mulcahey
24-05		1/11/2024	1/17/2024					1/15/2024	24-05 Heidtman 01.11.24	Police Reports	Travis	Heidtman
24-06		1/26/2024	2/1/2024					1/30/2024	24-06 Hughes 01.26.24	Police Reports	Brittany	Hughes
24-07		1/30/2024	2/5/2024			01/30/2024	2/19/2024	2/16/2024	24-07 Kanerva 01.30.24	Police Reports	John	Kanerva
24-08		2/15/2024	2/21/2024			02/16/2024	3/8/2024	2/23/2024	24-08 Walters 02.15.24	Police Information	Kevin	Walters
24-09		2/22/2024	2/28/2024					2/23/2024	24-09 Schreiner 02.22.24	Employee Information	Chris	Schreiner
24-10		2/22/2024	2/28/2024					2/29/2024	24-10 Schreiner 02.22.24	Township Financial Information	Chris	Schreiner
24-11		2/26/2024	3/1/2024			02/28/2024	3/15/2024	Cancelled	24-11 Aughney 02.26.24	Election Information	Scott Aughney	Citizens for Electoral Justice



## Web Page Statistics

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

Month	Sessions	Page Views
January	1,889	6,150
February	1,657	4,579
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1,889</b>	<b>6,150</b>
<b>Averages</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>5,626</b>

## Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through February, 2024:

2024 Reviewed Permits by Month		2024 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits		Approved	Denied
		Permit Type	Number	Number
January	3	Addition	0	0
February	2	Alteration	0	0
		Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
		Conditional Use	1	0
		Deck	0	0
		Fence	0	0
		Garage	0	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	0	0
		Home / Garage	2	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	0	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	0	0
		Site Plan Review	1	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

