

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

March 2024

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

A total of 18 petitions were filed with the Board of Review, which met on March 11th and 12th. A copy of the petitions will be sent to the taxpayers and the county. We are now required to file several reports with the county and state. Once those are completed, I will be looking forward to setting up these summer's inspections and getting a technician in place.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

We continue to work on our Wildland/Rescue Truck. The truck was ordered in early March with an anticipated build of 5-10 months. We are currently working on the box that will be attached to the rear chassis. These are custom made to fit this type of apparatus. The box compartments will hold our equipment and skid unit. We hope to have the box finalized in April to have it arrive at the same time as the truck.

The fire department holds elections for officers every other year. This April we will hold our elections. These are important positions as they each provide leadership on the fire ground and also are assigned leadership duties each year.

This weather has been challenging with the seasons flip flopping from warm to cold, dry to snow. Our call volume has increased with the weather also. We have responded to a few vehicle accidents and two structure fires. Our call volume is slightly lower than average due mostly to the mild winter.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

With the recent snow melt, staff has noticed a significant amount of dog waste on our baseball and soccer fields. We have posted on our website and facebook reminding people to please clean up after their pets.

We have already installed the dock at the River Access Park and put up the tennis/pickle ball nets at Silver Creek Park.

We were contacted by Superior Recover Center about having clients that do community service to help with their recovery process. They asked if we would be able to provide tasks for their group to support local communities. They had 4 clients willing to come here and start raking for us and washing outside windows. As the weather permits, we will be working with this group and finding other projects/tasks for them.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle
Planning Commission

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

There were two items on the agenda; one was considered old business, and the other was considered new business.



Old Business

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

Commissioners discussed attorney changes to the proposed zoning ordinance language for the new AG 1, AG 2, and AG 3 zoning districts. The Commissioners approved the language and will present the language and the related zoning map at a public hearing at the April meeting.

New Business

1) Proposed Accessory Dwelling Unit Language

Commissioners began a discussion on Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) within the Township. They reviewed possible ordinance language and discussed various aspects of how and where ADUs should be permitted in the Township. The discussion will resume at the meeting scheduled in May.

The Planning Commission will hold two public hearings at the April meeting. One will be regarding the language and zoning map for the proposed AG 1, AG 2, and AG3 zoning districts. The other will be regarding a home day care to that will be in the Harvey area. The regular monthly meeting is on **April 15 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 March and will not meet in April.

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month Chief Jennings put in his retirement date. After serving for over 35 years it is well deserved!

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	4									
Pounds Year To-Date	19	30	34									

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
24-01	1/5/2024	1/11/2024					1/9/2024	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 Aughtney 02.26.24	Blection Information	Scott Aughtney - Citizens for Electoral Justice	
24-12	3/28/2024	4/4/2024					4/2/2024	24-12 Gencheff (League of Women Vote	Blection Information	Stephanie Gencheff - League of Women Voters	
24-13	3/28/2024	4/4/2024					4/1/2024	24-13 Lorens 03.28.24	Police Reports	Steve	Lorens



Web Page Statistics

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

Month	Sessions	Page Views
January	1,889	6,150
February	1,657	4,579
March	1,601	4,091
Totals	1,889	6,150
Averages	1,759	5,243

Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through March, 2024:

2024 Reviewed Permits by Month		2024 Reviewed Permits by Type		
Month	Number of Permits	Permit Type	Approved Number	Denied Number
January	3	Addition	0	0
February	2	Alteration	0	0
March	6	Commercial Outbuilding	0	0
		Conditional Use	2	0
		Deck	0	0
		Fence	2	0
		Garage	1	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	0	0
		Home / Garage	3	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	0	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	1	0
		Site Plan Review	1	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	11	Total	11	0



Chocolay Township				
February 27, 2024 Presidential Primary Election Results				
Partisan Section	Candidate	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
Presidential				
Democratic Party	Dean Phillips	14	10	24
	Marianne Williamson	6	9	15
	Joseph R. Biden, Jr	322	330	652
	Uncommitted	32	51	83
	Write In	2	1	3
	Total	376	401	777
Republican Party				
Republican Party	Nikki Haley	122	164	286
	Asa Hutchinson	0	0	0
	Vivek Ramaswamy	2	0	2
	Donald J. Trump	236	254	490
	Ryan L. Binkley	1	0	1
	Chris Christie	1	1	2
	Ron DeSantis	3	6	9
	Uncommitted	17	15	32
	Write In	0	2	2
	Total	382	442	824
Registered Voters				
		2671	2482	5153
Ballot Count (In Person)				
		222	205	427
Percent of Registered Voters (In Person)				
		9%	9%	9%
Absentee Ballots				
Absentee Ballots	Issued	573	678	1251
	Returned on Time	518	607	1125
	Percentage (Absentee)	20%	25%	22%
Early Voting				
Early Voting	Chocolay Township	20	32	52
	Sands Township	19		19
	Skandia Township	3		3
	West Branch Township	11		11
	Total			85

