

CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

April 2024

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Assessing

By John Gehres

I've continued to organize the assessing department and prepare for field inspections this summer. Letters for the 20% reappraisal will go out this month to residents that are included in this year's inspections. The County Equalization process has concluded, and the numbers move on to the State in May.

Clerk

By Lisa Perry

We have been busy finalizing the February Presidential Primary election by getting the reimbursement and retention completed.

Chocolay Township did not have a May election so the focus will be getting ready for the August Primary. If you are on the absentee ballot list and have not returned your application, you can still return the one that was mailed to you in January. Please check the boxes at the top of this application for the corresponding elections that you would want ballots for (August 6 and November 5). If you do not have this application, another will be mailed to you at the end of May or beginning of June.

Absentee voters can receive their ballots in the mail and return them to their clerk's office via USPS mail, in person, or via the drop box as in the past or with the passing of Proposal 22-2 Michigan voters can now bring them to their early voting site (nine days) or to their precinct on election day and put them through the tabulator. This will be

beneficial with the August election as the voter CANNOT CROSS PARTY LINES on this ballot.

A voter can check their voting status by calling your local clerk's office or by using the Secretary of State's website, <https://mVIC.sos.state.mi.us/>.

Fire Department

By Lee Gould

We continue to work on our Wildland/Rescue Truck. We ordered the truck/chassis after the board approved the purchase. We ordered a Ford F550 that has the weight rating to carry our equipment and skid unit with 200 gallons of water. We hope to have the truck delivered by the end of summer. We are currently working on the rear box of the truck. This is a specifically built box for wildland trucks that has compartments to carry Wildland Fire and Rescue equipment and also allows for our skid unit to sit between the compartments. We hope to have the box design finished up by the end of April.

We have transitioned our equipment to the warm season. This means winterizing the snowmobile and getting the rescue 4-wheeler load onto the trailer with our rescue sled. We are getting our water rescue equipment ready as this warm spring and predicted warm summer may have water rescue calls happening earlier than normal.

Our call volume was up in April. We responded to two major structure fires in our township. The first fire was a large pole barn that mostly collapsed upon arrival of the first truck. The second fire was a mobile home and detached garage that were well evolved upon



arrival of the first truck. Both fires were total losses. We also responded to a structure fire as mutual aid in the City of Marquette. We responded to numerous other emergency calls from motor vehicle accidents, fire alarms and power lines down.

Public Works

By Brad Johnson

Baseball and soccer fields are in use already for the summer. This is the earliest we have been able to allow people to use them in at least 20 years.

The Chocoday river is low this year. As of now, people can launch boats at the Chocoday River Access Park but if we don't get some rain to bring the river to normal stage, there could be a very good chance that the boat launch could become too low to launch.

The restroom at Beaver Grove is torn down. The electrical work is half done and we are waiting on the BLP to move the underground feed and transformer to complete the electrical portion. The new restroom is tentatively scheduled for delivery in June.

The spring brush drop off is going to be opened on April 19th through May 5th.

Planning / Zoning

By Dale Throenle

Planning Commission

The Planning Commissioners participated in a regular meeting on April 15 in the Township Fire Hall.

There were two items on the agenda; one was considered unfinished business, and the other was considered new business. Commissioners moved the new business in front of the unfinished business on the meeting agenda.

New Business

1) CU 24-05 164 Baker Street - Home Day Care

Commissioners reviewed and approved an application for a new day care that will be located on Baker Street in Harvey.

Unfinished Business

1) 24-24-02 Proposed Agriculture / Forestry (AF) Zoning Ordinance Amendments and Map

During the public hearing, Commissioners heard viewpoints from the public regarding proposed changes in the AF zoning district and the related map. After the public hearing was closed, the Commissioners voted to table the item until the May meeting.

The next regular Planning Commission meeting is on **May 20 at 6PM** in the Township Fire Hall.

Zoning Board of Appeals

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

Police

By Liz Norris-Harr

This month was filled with training courses! Liz attended the first annual Administrative Conference in Mt. Pleasant. This conference was put on by the Michigan Association of Chief of Police. The conference gave tools for handling stress, trauma, secondary trauma and was a great avenue for networking.

Detective Carter attended a Cellebrite course in Menominee Wisconsin. "Cellebrite empowers agencies to modernize their investigative workflow and close a widening "public safety gap" driven by the ever-growing digital sophistication of crimes and evidence." We look forward to being able to use Detective Carters new techniques.



Chief Jennings and Sgt Carrick attended the UP-Chief's Conference. There was a large amount of takeaway regarding grants and new equipment. Sgt Carrick and Liz have already gotten the ball rolling on a few!

skills and knowledge for defensive tactics and use of force situations. At the end of this hands-on course Sgt Carrick will be a trainer.

Sgt Carrick is attending an Effective Fitness Combative Instructors course. The purpose of this course is to provide Law Enforcement with the

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	11.5								
Pounds Year To-Date	19	30	34	45.5								

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
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	
24-12	3/28/2024	4/4/2024					4/2/2024	24-12 Gencheff (League of Women Voters) 03.28.24	Election 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
24-14	4/8/2024	4/12/2024			04/10/2024	4/26/2024	4/11/2024	24-14 Zakrzewski 04.08.24	Police Reports	Bartlomiej	Zakrzewski
24-15	4/9/2024	4/15/2024			04/10/2024	4/29/2024	4/17/2024	24-15 Peterson 04.09.24	Police Reports	Hannah	Peterson
24-16	4/15/2024	4/22/2024					4/18/2024	24-16 Ghiardi 04.15.24	Police Reports	Luke	Ghiardi
24-17	4/25/2024	5/1/2024					4/25/2024	24-17 Soper 04.25.24	Police Reports	Timothy	Soper

Web Page Statistics

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

Month	Sessions	Page Views
January	1,889	6,150
February	1,657	4,579
March	1,601	4,091
April	2,059	5,380
Totals	1,889	6,150
Averages	1,819	5,270



Zoning Permit Counts

Zoning permit counts through April, 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
April	10	Conditional Use	2	0
		Deck	0	0
		Fence	8	0
		Garage	2	0
		Grading	0	0
		Home	1	0
		Home / Garage	3	0
		Home Occupation	1	0
		New Commercial	0	0
		Outbuilding	2	0
		Pole Building	0	0
		Rezoning Application	0	0
		Sign	1	0
		Site Plan Review	1	0
		Zoning Variance Request	0	0
Total	21	Total	21	0

