



called “the Rock Cut” is the northern gateway to the Township and consists of some of the oldest exposed rocks in North America.

Two major watersheds (Chocolay River and Sand River) within the Township boundaries directly drain into Lake Superior. Within these watersheds are 86 miles of rivers and streams in the Township, which are used for recreation and to attract residential development. Portions of the Chocolay and Sand River are designated trout streams by the State of Michigan, and fishermen come to these rivers seeking brook trout, brown trout, steelhead, and pink and chinook salmon. Both systems also provide an opportunity to catch Northern Pike and a variety of panfish. The Township has about 561 acres of lakes and impoundments within its boundaries. Because of the proximity to Marquette, the Township is a particularly prominent place of residence for workers in Marquette County.

During the 1700s, the Ojibwa people (also known as the Chippewa) inhabited the area. Early explorers named the area “Chocolate” because of the dark brown color of the river that runs through the Township (the color was caused by tannic acid from decaying vegetation of the interconnected swamps and marshes).

The Chocolate River became the boundary for the Treaty of 1842 when the Chippewa gave the mineral lands to the west of the river to the United States government (the river name and marshes). The Chocolate River became the boundary for the Treaty of 1842 when the Chippewa gave the mineral lands to the west of the river to the United States government (the river name was changed to Chocolay in the 1800’s

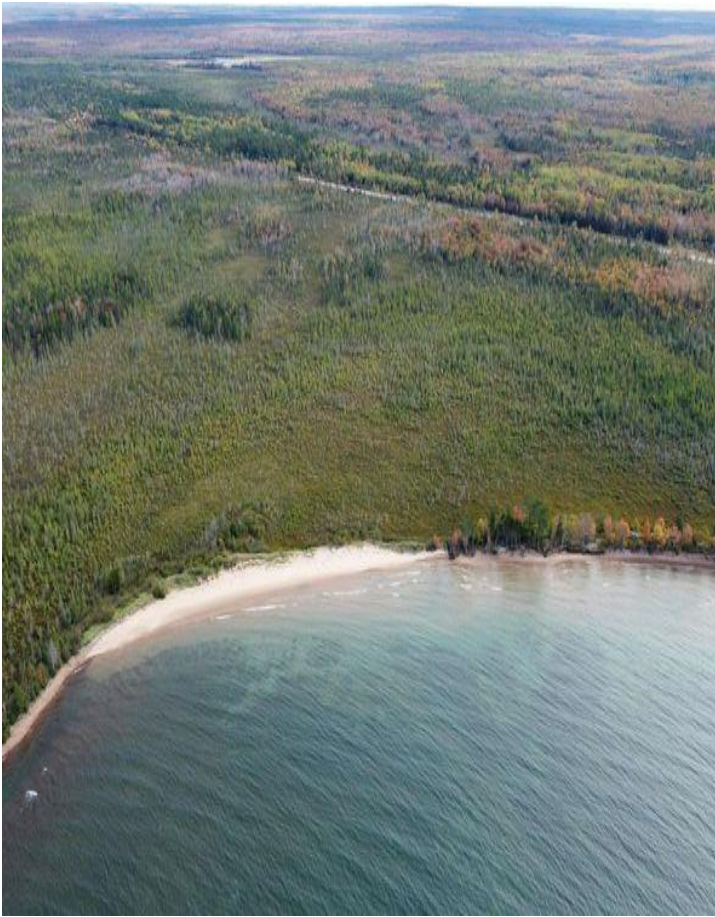
Chocolay Township’s rich history is evident in its well-preserved historic sites and landmarks. The city of Marquette, the county seat, showcases charming architecture and a downtown area that reflects the area’s past while embracing present-day businesses and cultural offerings.

The next Township Manager will undoubtedly have immense pride in where they live and work.

## **CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP MANAGER POSITION AVAILABLE**

### **THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CHOCOLAY, LOCATED IN MARQUETTE COUNTY, MICHIGAN, SEEKS ITS NEXT TOWNSHIP MANAGER.**

The Township is located on the southern shore of Lake Superior and contains almost 61 square miles of diverse natural features, of which about one square mile is water. Eleven miles of the Township border the Lake Superior shoreline, which contains spectacular stretches of beautiful sand beaches accessible to the public. A cliff of exposed bedrock



Educational Achievement (Over Age 25)	
High School or Higher	96.3%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	43..4%

Other Statistics	
Median Age – Chocolay/U.S.	44/38
Home Value Index – Chocolay/U.S.	\$216K \$344k
Median Household Income – Chocolay /U.S. (2022)	\$85.2K \$65 K per year
Poverty Rate – Chocolay /U.S.	7%/11%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



## POPULATION & DEMOGRAPHICS

Chocolay Township has a total area of approximately 61 square miles, of which 58.2 square miles is land and 1.8 square miles is water.

The Charter Township has a 2024 population of 6,015 and is currently growing at a rate of 1.8% since the 2020 census.

48.2% are females, and 51.8 % are males

20.1% of the population is Senior Citizens (65+)

The racial and ethnic makeup of the township is:

- 89.4 White
- 5.9% Two or more races
- 2.0% Black or African American
- 1.7% Native American
- 1.0% Asian

## CLIMATE

No matter the time of year, Chocolay Township is worth visiting. While June, July, and August are widely seen as the most pleasant months, the spring flowers and fall colors are exceptional. Moreover, the winter months bring joy to those seeking the peace and serenity of snowfall while providing ample activity opportunities.

## TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT

The Chocolay Township Board of Trustees is the legislative body and discharges its duties as required by state law. The three broadest mandated responsibilities are assessment administration, elections administration, and tax collection, which are legally assigned functions of the supervisor, clerk, and treasurer. Beyond the mandated functions, Michigan townships are authorized to provide a wide variety of services that are generally expected from general-purpose governmental entities. Virtually all townships provide fire protection, and many also offer law enforcement. Other standard township functions include parks and recreation programs, public water and sewer services, trash collection and recycling programs, sidewalks and trails, and cemeteries. Townships and other local governments can provide these services by themselves or jointly with another entity, and townships can buy from and sell to other governments any function they can produce by themselves. In some but not all cases, townships can also contract with private entities to provide programs and services. It is the function of the Board to set policy for the Township, adopt and monitor an annual budget and property tax assessments, set fees, contract for a yearly audit of all township funds, and implement the recommendations of its auditing firm to ensure the legal and efficient use of tax dollars.

Michigan has 1,242 townships, which govern most of its land area and serve over forty-five percent of its residents. Townships were Thomas Jefferson's brainchild and were created before Michigan became a state. Andrew Jackson's philosophy of direct democracy further shaped the township government structure that serves and thrives today. Townships embody the values of "grassroots government." In townships, citizens contribute their talents, skills, and ideas to preserve the quality of life and deliver important programs and services.

Township officials live in the communities they serve and stay in touch with ever-changing needs. Limited by law in the amount of taxes they can levy, township officials are creative in delivering quality services with the least possible burden to taxpayers.



Chocolay Township operates on a \$2.94 million budget with an estimated revenue of \$3.73 based on tax and grant improvements.

Currently, the township has 38 employees, of which 14 are full-time.

Chocolay Township is in good financial standing and has many years of well-run governance and administration. Its employees are talented and very committed to the township.

## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The Chocolay Township Board of Trustees seeks an experienced leader to work with as a supporter and a trusted advisor. The next Township Manager will work closely with the Board to implement its priorities and policies. The individual will have a working knowledge of Michigan Township Government. The Board understands that it should set policies while the Manager should run the day-to-day operations. To be successful, the following skills are required:

**Transparent Communication:** Strong communication skills are essential. The next manager should be able to articulate complex ideas and policies clearly to various groups, ensuring transparency in decision-making processes and fostering public trust.

**Hands-On Approach:** a proactive individual willing to participate in various projects and initiatives through an “open door” policy.

**Experience in Local Government:** Previous experience in local government or related fields is highly beneficial.

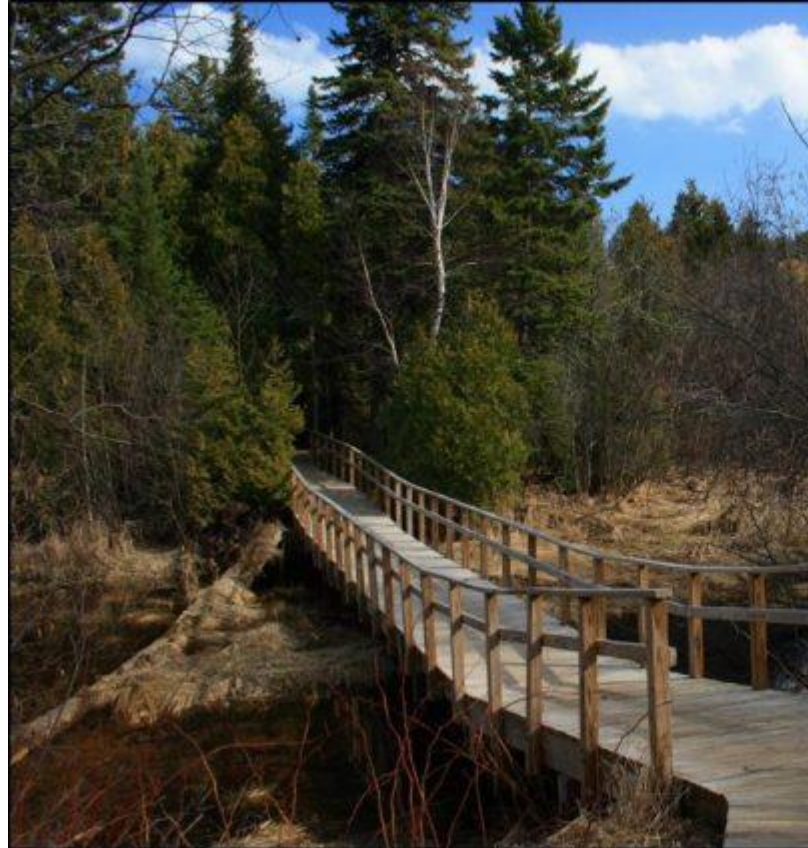
**Collaborative Leadership:** The candidate should excel in building partnerships and working collaboratively with diverse groups,

**Problem-Solving and Decision-Making:** Demonstrated ability to analyze issues, propose effective solutions, and make sound decisions

**Community Engagement:** A commitment to community involvement and listening to residents' concerns. The candidate should be approachable and accessible, actively seeking input from citizens and community groups.

**Ethical Leadership:** Integrity and honesty are paramount. The manager must uphold high moral standards and lead by example in all interactions.

Chocolay Township prides itself on being financially conservative, so the individual will be expected to examine current operations critically for cost-effectiveness. As a result, the individual will have strong analytical skills and understand how to apply and leverage sound management techniques and technologies.



This position requires a bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in public administration, business administration, finance, or related fields. Desired qualifications include at least three years of direct government or five years of equivalent Board experience in a similarly sized organization.

## COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

**The salary range for this position is \$97,000-\$112,000 with a \$3,000 increase after a six-month successful evaluation plus a comprehensive benefits package that includes a housing and moving stipend,**

medical, dental, vision, life insurance, retirement system contributions, holiday, vacation, and sick leave.

Subject to negotiation and final approval, the Board seeks a multi-year contract that includes annual performance reviews.

Mailed resumes can be sent to:

**Administrator Search**

c/o Chet Janik  
Chocolay Township Manager's Office  
5010 US 41 South  
Marquette, MI 49855

Questions should also be directed to Consultant Chet Janik at [cjanikmli@geneseeisd.org](mailto:cjanikmli@geneseeisd.org) or

231-633-7680

CONFIDENTIALITY

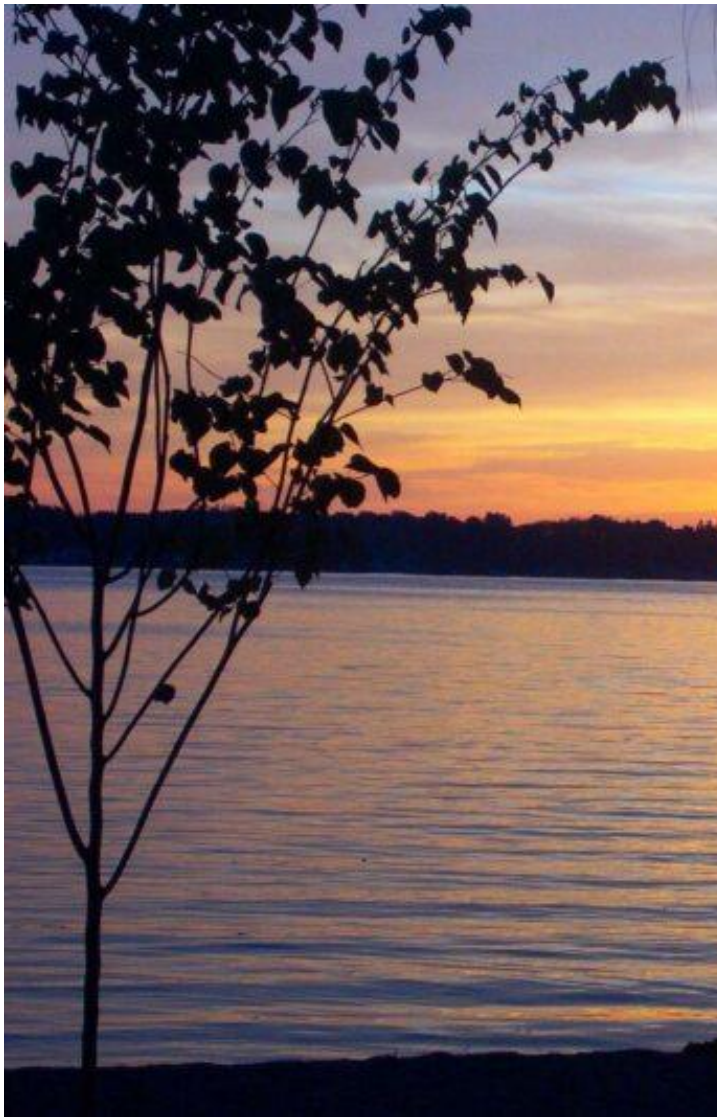
Candidate names will not be released during the application and resume screening process without the candidate's permission. However, if a candidate is selected for the interview, their name will be released to the public.

PROCESS

Applications will be screened the week of February 24, 2025. The first round of formal interviews will tentatively occur the week of March 3, 2025. The preferred candidate will be identified shortly after that.

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Chocolay Township is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



HOW TO APPLY

Please email your cover letter and resume in PDF format to [cjanikmli@geneseeisd.org](mailto:cjanikmli@geneseeisd.org) by **February 22, 2025** with the subject line "Chocolay Manager Application."

