

Charlevoix Township

Winter 2023 Newsletter

The Year in Review

Township Supervisor's Report



2023 has proven to be a busy and forward looking year here in Charlevoix Township.

Over the past few months, the Township has upgraded and improved our internal information technology network to meet state mandates for election security measures, and we have also replaced our aging webpage with a new and more interactive online website.

This new site will provide the public with quick and easy access to local schedules, records and forms, along with complete contact information of board members and departmental staff.

Also of note, Charlevoix Township has developed and deployed a new logo, honoring the natural beauty of our area with a

stylized view of the Lake Michigan shoreline and McSauba dunes area.

In addition, the Township has appointed Todd Klinger as full time Recreation Department Manager, and we are currently organizing a citizen-based Parks and Recreation Committee to help set priorities for future recreation projects.

In an effort to acquaint the public with our Fire Department and our Fire Station on Martin Road, an inaugural open house was held during Venetian Week, providing guests an opportunity to meet and visit with members of the department, inspect equipment, and witness live demonstrations of life saving techniques and procedures.

The revised Township Master Plan is near

completion, and we are also in the process of revising our 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan.

We have recently finished the reconstruction and widening of Mercer Road (in cooperation with the County Road Commission), making it safer for cyclists and pedestrians. New signs and trail markers at the North Point Nature Preserve were funded in part by a Great Lakes Energy Grant. A new ADA accessible walkway and picnic tables near the pavilion were funded by the County Recreation Allocation.

Future capital projects include repair and repainting of each water tower, beginning in the spring of 2024. We have made tentative plans to resurface Old U.S. 31 South in the fall of 2024

Coming up

January - Christmas tree pick-up

May - trash pick-up

May - wood chipping (one time)

Leaf pick-up - spring and fall as needed

(check township website and newspaper for dates)

In conclusion, I would like to say that Charlevoix Township is a great place to live, work and play. It is a safe and caring community—a place we are proud to call home, and pleased to share with our guests.

Dan Ulrich
Supervisor

Completion of Mercer Road in Charlevoix Township



Charlevoix Township Water Department

Report from our Operator in Charge

Charlevoix Township's water system is unique, simply because there is a North and South side, neither of which are connected to each other. This results in our water operators maintaining two independent systems under one WSSN (Water Supply Serial Number.)

Currently our water system has two licensed water operators and one full-time non licensed operator in the training and education process..

Our water system distribution and production infrastructure currently has:

- Approximately 26 miles of water main infrastructure in the earth, with diameter sizing ranging from 4" to 12"
- 678 Water Service Connections
- 80 Water Meter Pits
- 1—200,000 Gallon Water Tower (Northside)
- 1—150,000 Gallon Water Tower (Southside)
- 187 Fire Hydrants
- 273 Water Main Valves
- 11 Water Production Wells



Production Amounts in Gallons

- 2019—73,679,600
- 2020—65,524,622
- 2021—67,905,100
- 2022—78,961,100
- 2023 (as of Oct. 31) - 74,211,600

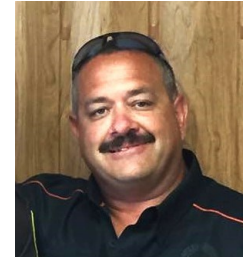
This past year, Charlevoix Township has performed routine maintenance on two of our production wells, which involved cleaning the screen located at the bottom of the well, replacing pumps, motors and drop pipes. Our biggest well is just over 490



feet in depth. Charlevoix Township was tasked with verifying the material of water service lines in which there is no record, to check for any lead components, per EGLE requirements. About 45 water services were exposed and visually verified for no lead components. Next year, we will continue with this requirement and verify approximately another 40-60 services.

Next year our Water Department will be subcontracting the exterior and interior painting of our south water tower to start in the Spring. In the fall of 2024, the North Tower interior will be painted.

Along with all of the items listed above, our operators perform the daily water sampling of our water at each well site, and at north and south side distribution sites to maintain clean and safe drinking water.



Introducing Russ McCraney

We would like to welcome Russ McCraney as the newest employee in our water department. Russ has lived in Charlevoix since 1995, and is a graduate of Boyne City High School.

Russ is married to Carrie and has two children and three step children.

He has been involved with the fire department since 2000 and with EMS for ten years. His background is in Law Enforcement and Management.

Russ also has a strong work ethic with experience in equipment operation. He is a team player who is excited to start this new chapter as water operator.

Water is sampled routinely for Bacteriology, Total Trihalomethanes, Haloacetic Acid, Lead, Copper, and other compounds. (A complete list can be found in our yearly water reports.)

Our operators also locate and mark our water utility for Miss Dig requests. (440 this year)

They are also cross trained with our Fire Department and respond to emergencies as needed.

*Dan Riley,
Water Department*

Charlevoix Township Fire Department *Yearly Report*

These are exciting times for our Volunteer Fire Department Station #56! I'd like to share with our township some of the responsibilities, dedication and training that is involved in becoming a "Volunteer Fireman."

What I have grown to appreciate, while working with the township, is the amount of training and education that is required for all of our fire crew members.

Our crews responds to an average of 275 calls a year. Their willingness to assist at a moment's notice, to leave their homes any time, day or night, to ensure the safety of our citizens is a Silver Lining in our township!

Our fire department is called upon to assist with traffic accidents, traffic control, hazardous materials situations, lift assists, water rescue/dive calls, downed power lines, and bomb threats, along with fire calls involving structures, vehicles and grass.



One area, often overlooked by most of us is the training that is required. Our members are trained in structural fire tactics, fire behavior, building construction, hazmat, vehicle extrication (Jaws of Life), search and rescue, confined space, incident command system, and water rescues, to name just a few.

This past summer our Dive Team completed a training session in Round Lake. While practicing their search and rescue training, they cleaned up the trash that blew or was thrown into the lake during the past season at the City marina. They collected enough trash to fill a dump truck, that would otherwise have remained in our beautiful lake.

Additionally, as a public service, our department offers tours of the fire station and trucks; they will come into homes or businesses to train and educate the occupants on the proper use of fire extinguishers, how to make an evacuation plan and establish a "safe" meeting spot to insure all parties have exited the building.

I spoke with our Fire Chief, Dan Thorp about the cost to outfit one person for the Turnout Gear that is required

Jacket and Pants	\$5,600.00
Boots	\$625.00
Helmet	\$600.00
Gloves	\$175.00
Nomex Hood	\$175.00



The department is required by law to replace this equipment every 10 years to insure the safety of the fire fighter.

Chief Thorp also stated that the ISO (International Organization for Standardization) recommends first run engines be replaced every 17 years. The average cost of an engine/pumper today is \$800,000.00.



Chief Thorp receives a grant check from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chipewewa Indians for \$15,000.00 to cover costs of turnout gear.



Starting the Jaws of Life demonstration at the Venetian Open House

Many of us can recall the various structure fires that plagued our downtown. It was through the vigilance in the training and responding to those structure fires that our Volunteer Fire Department, along with the help of other departments, was able to keep our city safe.

In times of crisis, the collaboration with other fire departments, and all of the training our crews receive are a tribute to the character of the individuals who answer the call to serve our community. Their dedication, community service and environmental stewardship have made a significant impact!

Thank you to those who serve!

Kate Stewart
Trustee



Meet Our New Trustee

J.B. Hoyt

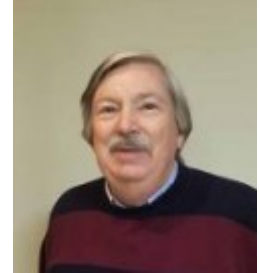
Municipal Leader, Strategic Planner and Sustainability Consultant

While J.B. is new to the Township Board (having been appointed to a vacancy in December 2022), he has a long history in the Charlevoix area. His experiences in the area began at age 6. Since that time he has been a part-time resident, a property owner & investor, becoming a full-time Charlevoix Township resident in 2020.

J.B. has extensive experience in both industry and non-profit leadership. His career spanned over 36 years at

Whirlpool Corporation where his experiences included mergers & acquisitions, government relations, sustainability and more. He has also served in leadership positions at a number of nonprofits including one of Michigan's largest credit unions and the foundation at Michigan Technological University.

Since joining the Board, J.B. has put his energy into a number of projects to improve the township, including



J.B. Hoyt

the new website. He also serves on our Planning Commission. He and his wife Cathy are proud residents of the home ruled by their Golden Retriever, Stetson!

Recreation Department

Report From our Recreation Director



Recreation Department Highlights 2023

- 6 Baseball Tournaments were hosted with local players participating.
- Charlevoix Youth Soccer held their fall and travel seasons.
- We purchased a Kubota Tractor and UTV for multiple uses.
 - Tractor—aerating lawns, baseball field maintenance, mowing non-irrigated areas, park landscape maintenance.
 - UTV—park maintenance, hydrant flushing/pumping, utility vehicle for North Side.
- Consistent activity on Pickleball and Tennis Courts.
 - Venetian tournaments, Cancer fundraiser, and movie filming.
- Maintenance and upkeep for Soccer Field, Dale Glass Baseball Field, North and South Fire Stations, Charlevoix Township Stroud Hall, Shanahan Park Playground, Dog Run, and Open Spaces.
- Maintenance on Township properties along U.S. 31 South and Lake to Lake Trail.
- Improved drainage for recreation area beyond baseball field.
- Shanahan Pavilion was used for many family and group outings.
- Dog Run is used daily.

Contact Information:

charlevoixtownship.gov
(231) 547-4611
(231) 547-3579 (fax)

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9:00 - noon

Township Board:

Dan Ulrich, Supervisor
supervisor@charlevoixtownship.gov
Sandra Witherspoon, Clerk
clerk@charlevoixtownship.gov
Theda Williams, Treasurer
treasurer@charlevoixtownship.gov
Kate Stewart, Trustee
trusteestewart@charlevoixtownship.gov
J.B. Hoyt, Trustee
trusteehoyt@charlevoixtownship.gov
John Ferguson, Zoning Admin.
john@fcasurveying.com
Robert Englebrecht, Assessor
renglebrecht@gmail.com

