

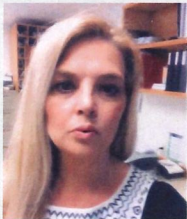
BOARD OF TRUSTEES



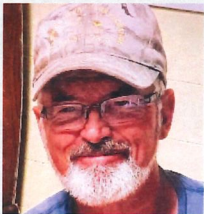
Ron VanZee, Supervisor
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



Matt Cunningham, Trustee
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



Kristin Baranski, Clerk
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Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



Julie Collard, Treasurer
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov



Hayes VOICE

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#17

April 2024

From the desk of Ron VanZee, Hayes Township Supervisor

The US Constitution gives us the right of free speech. I am sure the drafters of this extraordinary document could never have imagined the extent this right has travelled through today's world of social media platforms and the abuse certain individuals, through their self-promotion and disrespect, would take it.

Regrettably it seems this is the world we live in. A world where people feel empowered to present statements as truth while not considering-or even actively ignoring-the actual facts. Just because something is said-and said with conviction-does not make it the truth.

Public comment periods in our Township meetings, I believe, should be a time for the public to share concerns and bring ideas to the elected or appointed officials representing them in a manner that is constructive to the community as a whole. Unfortunately, in the last couple years, some have decided it should be their opportunity to voice a personal agenda trying to convince people of something they call truth, yet without the supporting facts.

Facts are facts. Any twisting of facts, taking them out of context, or even omitting/substituting/changing a word, or outright being untruthful makes way for something less than the truth.

The facts are in the Township records. Using those records when confronted with the altering of the facts, the Township has succeeded in disarming and defeating the untruths often stated about us. It is interesting how few people have actually come to the Township office to review the facts and the actual records. In contrast, those who have come without a personal agenda have left satisfied and complimentary of our Township's recordkeeping, transparency, and helpfulness.

Last month's Voice newsletter highlighted some of the on-the-record facts our files contain. That information was not from the Township's officials; it was directly from independent and unbiased professionals presenting facts. It has been inspiring to observe the calls by residents into the Township office, and hear your support of our sharing these facts with you.

We will continue to listen to all comments, reminding ourselves that the few will never speak for the majority, and that truth and facts will prevail.

All My Best,
Ron VanZee

Hayes Township Voters

2024 brings several new Michigan Election Laws. Early Voting at the County Building began in February for the Presidential Primary and will be available again for the August Primary as well as the November General. Permanent Ballot Voters will now automatically receive an Absentee Ballot for every election. If you are going to be traveling close to an Election, please reach out to the Clerk with a valid mailing address to avoid any delay in receiving your ballot.

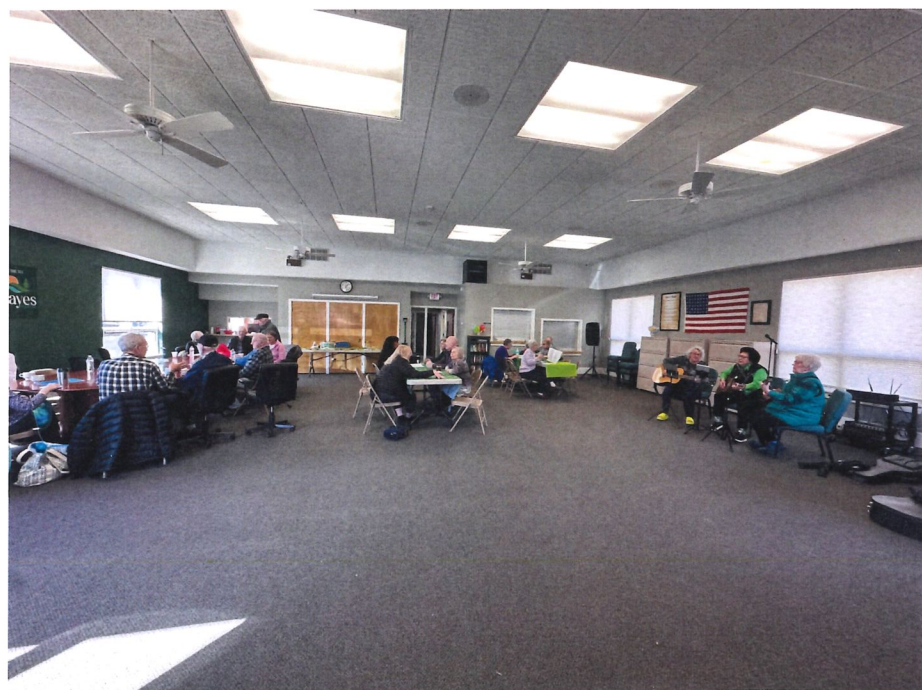
Hayes Township will have a Special Election on Tuesday, May 7, 2024. In person voting will be at the Township Hall (9195 Major Douglas Sloan Road) on Election Day 7am-8pm.

To those of you on the Permanent Absentee Voter list-ballot applications have been mailed, please complete pertinent information, sign and date and return via drop box, US Mail or email to clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov.

To those of you on the new Permanent Ballot list- ballots were mailed beginning on March 13, 2024. Again, if you are going to be traveling close to an Election, please reach out with a valid mailing address to avoid any delay in receiving the ballot.

On April 22, 2024 at 10 am, the Election Commission will meet to appoint Election Inspectors and perform the Public Accuracy Test on all voting equipment.

The Clerk will hold Election Hours the weekend before Election Day- Saturday May 4 9am-1pm and Sunday May 5 9am-1pm for those voters that need to register and for any absentee voting questions or concerns.



Hayes Township Calendar

April 2024

Community Coffee

Thursday, April 4th, 2024, 1pm

Board of Trustees

Monday, April 8th, 2024, 7pm

Planning Commission

Tuesday, April 16th, 2024, 7pm

Hayes Book Club

Thursday, April 18th, 2024, 1pm

Parks and Recreation
TBD - See website for
rescheduled meeting info

*All events are held at the
Hayes Township Hall unless
otherwise noted.*

**For information on
Hayes Book Club, please
contact Kristin at
(231)547-6961.**

Clarification from March's edition of The Voice:

On page 2 of March's Voice, there was an accidental typo. The word 'Council' should have read 'Counsel'. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Hall Rental

The Hayes Township Hall has never looked better! With fresh paint and new carpet, our community space is more welcoming than ever. Be sure to reserve your spring and summer dates for graduation and other celebrations. This season fills up quickly and we book by first come first served.

Rental forms can be found on our website, hayestownshipmi.gov, as well as at the hall. Give us a call a (231)547-6961 to reserve the date for your special occasion.

Understanding Property Classification

The assessor in each governmental unit classifies property each year. The General Property Tax Act (MCL 211.34c(2)) provides for uniformity in property tax assessments as well as taxation. It also defines each of the six tax classifications. The tax classification assigned to any given property is determined by how the property is currently being used. If a parcel has multiple uses, the use that most affects the value of the property is the classification that is assigned to it.

These six property classifications are:

- **Agricultural** (includes sub-classifications for Agricultural: improved, vacant, building on leased land, and other agricultural categories)
- **Commercial** (includes sub-classifications for commercial: improved, vacant, renaissance zones, condominiums, personal property, and more)
- **Industrial** (includes sub-classifications for industrial: improved, vacant, renaissance zones, personal property, and more)
- **Residential** (includes sub-classifications for residential: improved, vacant, condominiums, and more)
- **Timber** (includes sub-classifications for timber: cutover, Commercial Forest Act, and more)
- **Developmental** (includes sub-classifications for vacant, improved, leaseholder approved, and more. This classification is used near population centers where uses are changing)

(It should also be noted that when a parcel is classified as improved in any of these six classifications, that it means that the parcel is not vacant, not that there has necessarily been a recent improvement)

In conclusion, property classification should not be confused with zoning. Zoning districts commonly use similar names but are very different. Zoning has to do with allowable uses according to a Township's master plan. If you feel your property classification is incorrect or have any questions, please reach out to Alisa Abiney, our Assessor, at assessor@hayestownshipmi.gov or (231)497-9361.

Spring Clean Up

Happy Spring! Just a reminder to everyone that we will be holding a spring clean up for our residents. As soon as Hayes Township is on the schedule, we will post the dates on our website, in the Voice, and at the Township Hall. This is always a great motivator to everyone to start their spring cleaning.

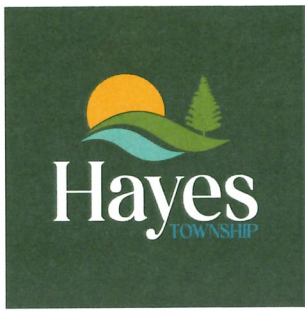
*Unexpected kindness
is the most powerful, least
costly, and most underrated
agent of human change.*

- Bob Kerrey



**April 7 to 13 is
National Library Week!**

*What a great time to visit our
wonderful Charlevoix Public Library.*



VOICE VIEWS

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

Hayes Township Hall
9195 Major Douglas Sloan Rd.
Charlevoix, MI 49720
(231)547-6961

For the most up to date information,
Visit:
Hayestownshipmi.gov

A note from our Clerk, Kristin Baranski:

While the recent audit by Gabridge and Co. reported a clean audit with no financial irregularities, it contained some recommendations for administrative improvements that the Hayes Township Board of Trustees has fully embraced.

Most of the changes recommended within the audit relate to our antiquated legacy bookkeeping system runs on QuickBooks. QuickBooks is a powerful accounting software program generally used by businesses and commercial entities for regular accounting but it is not suitable for the fund accounting requirements of the Township. We are particularly grateful for the highlighting of this issue by Gabridge, which was retained as our auditors for the first time in 2023.

According to the auditor: "The Township currently uses two sets of QuickBooks (one for the Township and one for the Township Road Fund) as the records for the Township along with written accounting ledgers. These written ledgers limit the ability of the Board to monitor and assess the financial condition of the Township during the year. In addition, QuickBooks does not have the capacity to separate multiple funds of the Township, as is required with government fund accounting."

The result is that it is challenging for the Township staff to keep the various funds separate without errors and inconsistencies.

Moreover, our QuickBooks system of accounts and its structure relates back to the Township's prior administration. These accounts were set up using the former clerk's private email and repeated attempts to have her and/or QuickBooks to change the account administrator profile to that of current Township staff have been repeatedly rebuffed. This significantly hampers the Township's ability to make changes to the accounts within QuickBooks and to the way in which they are set up. In addition, communications with the Michigan Department of Treasury department were established using the prior Supervisor's home address. It has been a difficult process to get the State to update its records. Needless to say, these issues have caused us numerous unnecessary headaches and tedious workarounds that haven't always been successful.

But the good news is that the Township Board of Trustees recently approved the purchasing of BS&A software (www.bsasoftware.com), a software solution which has been designed specifically to support the operations of local government and that will replace QuickBooks. BS&A has been providing exceptional municipal software to over 2,100 local governments since 1987. The Township uses BS&A software in the Tax Assessor's work and in the Tax billing system and our experience with it has been extremely positive, especially with the level of BS&A's service and support. In addition, the Township has budgeted funds to hire an accounting consultant to work with us managing the QuickBooks issues until such time as the new BS&A system is online and training has been completed. It is anticipated that the BS&A system will be fully operational by the second half of 2024.

*****ECRWSSDDM*****
Local Postal Customer

USPS Mktg. Mail
ECRWSS
U.S. Postage Paid
EDDM Retail