



Voice Mission Statement:

To share, educate, and connect with our residents and support a strong and engaged community.

Hayes VOICE

TOWNSHIP

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#26

January 2025

Letter from the Supervisor

Thank you for the opportunity (and the responsibility) to be elected as your Supervisor. Your vote issued a mandate to me to advance your expressed ideas and interests. As I have zealously represented my private clients over the past 40 years, I will do the same to represent you and to advance your interests.

Since education is essential for understanding, I will be writing a series of articles over my term of office, explaining and outlining every aspect of Township Government to you. I will add my notes and observations, but the bulk of the education will come from the Michigan Township Association manuals; it is not my work.

What is a Township? More than half of all Michigan residents live in one of 1240 townships, within our 83 counties. Michigan is only one of 20 states that currently have some form of township government. Before Michigan became a state in 1837, the township system was established as a tool for mapping the Northwest Territory to facilitate the surveying into 36-square-mile numbered "survey townships". In 1827, an Act was passed to divide counties into townships; 33 named townships within 10 counties met in homes, courthouses (one on the Island of Michilimackinac), schoolhouses, taverns and forts. The principal functions of early townships involved relief for the poor, cemetery maintenance, road development, assigning damage caused by stray cattle and fence viewing to determine responsibilities of adjoining livestock owners.

Where do townships get their authority? The short answer is from the people, but practically speaking, from the State of Michigan. A township only has the authority given to it by the Michigan Constitution and the Michigan statutes. Our Constitution, gives to the people in a township the treasured right of self-governance.

What does it mean to be "Public"? One of the hardest concepts for people to understand about townships is the fact that they are "public" government. There are and must be limits on what the government can do to persons and property, especially when that property impacts an entire community.

Most of us spend our work and personal lives in the private sector. You may own a business or had special training in a field where your work is private or between your employer and you and not open to public scrutiny. A township board member holds public office; it is not "just a job", but open to public review.

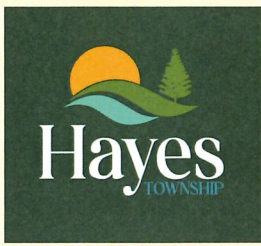
Government is limited by the concept of "due process". This requires a clear form of notice and an opportunity to be heard when it is proposing to regulate or restrict a legal right.

The Michigan Constitution states: "all political power is inherent in the people"; Government is instituted for equal benefit, security and protection of the people. People have the right to peaceably assemble, to consult for the common good and to instruct their representatives.

Every person may freely speak, write, express and publish their views on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of such right; and no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech or of the press.

I will be walking door to door in January in the Bayshore area and in February in the Murray/Upper Bayshore area. I am look forward to meeting with you and listening to your ideas.

- William M. Conklin



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

Planning Commission - Year in Review 2024

2024 was a busy year for the planning commission. Two new members were seated on the commission with the resignations of Derrick Burnett and longtime member Marilyn Morehead. Derrick opted to best serve the township through participation in the fire department. Marilyn has been a guiding force on the planning commission for 16 years and has been a steadfast force in protecting Hayes township's environmental resources. Joining the commission are Carey Cuddeback and Alex Curley. Alex and his family have a long history in Hayes township in the Bayshore area, and Carey brings a wealth of experience in major retail organizations with special skills and interests in survey processes.

The PC met 13 times in 2024. It has addressed a review and update of the zoning ordinance which has resulted in a draft of several changes sent to our planning consultants for further development. The standing shoreland review subcommittee conducted 9 site visits during the year with the active participation from Tip of the Mitt staff. Working with property owners, plans approved enhanced the quality of lakes through the protective plantings developed. More reviews are to be scheduled as weather conditions allow for site inspections.

A new project focused subcommittee was formed to develop, administer and evaluate a survey of township's residents for use in the required master plan. Initial review of the existing plan was begun and final drafts will incorporate the survey findings.

A major concern has emerged in the form of commercial scale renewable energy development. The State of Michigan has implemented a law which provides that under certain circumstances a developer can seek permission to build a project without local review and approval. The PC has been very active working through this new situation and will be proposing new workable commercial scale renewable energy ordinances in the next months, to best protect the township from the unknown.

2025 is shaping up to be another busy year as projects begun in 2024 will finish in 2025 and as property owners wish to build or further develop their land, we anticipate that more projects will come before the commission to review. Thank you to our Planning Commissioners for their hard work and perseverance on their large undertakings.

ZBA - Year in Review 2024

At the beginning of 2024, the ZBA appointed Janice Vedder-Whipple as their new chair and Rod Slocum as their new Vice-Chair. The ZBA also advanced their knowledge during a training session with Hayes Township Attorney Todd Millar. The members used this new knowledge during a public hearing from the Little Traverse Conservancy requesting multiple variance request in order to create an ADA Accessible viewing platform at their largest waterfront parcel located in Hayes Township. The ZBA will be expanding their knowledge with another training session by the Township Attorney Todd Millar in the coming year of 2025. ZBA members will schedule cases for the 2nd or 4th Wednesday of the month as needed. Thank you ZBA members for your dedication to serving Hayes Township.

Elections - 2024 Review

Within the year of 2024, Hayes Township successfully administrated 4 elections, the Presidential Primary in February, Special School election in May, General Primary in August and topped it off with the General Election in November. Many new election laws for the year 2024 including but not limited to: 9 days of early voting (thanks to collaboration with Charlevoix County) and a new permanent absentee ballot list. Hayes Township appreciates all the hard work and dedicated time of the election workers through the 2024 election year.

Parks and Recreation Committee

Year in Review 2024

The Park and Recreation Committee was able to continue to improve and add some new amenities to our parks. Bayshore Park was cleaned up and had a lot of brush cleared. New swings were added to the existing set, as well as a two-person swing donated as a park amenity by a resident in memory of his wife. An ADA beach mat was added to Eastern Avenue Beach to assist with access to the water for individuals with mobility issues.

The committee was very excited to host their first annual Community Picnic in August. A silent auction was held, the weather was a picture-perfect Charlevoix summer day, and the breeze off of Lake Charlevoix helped keep our local musicians cool as they performed in the shade of our rustic pavilion. The water station granted by a Charlevoix Millage grant was installed in the lower level of Camp Sea Gull, which even includes a low water bowl for our furry family members.

B,S&A

Hayes Township Clerk and Deputy Clerk spent over two weeks in training, learning the new Accounting software from BS&A. Hayes Township is proud to join the many other townships in the State of Michigan already using the BS&A software system. The Hayes Township Assessor, Treasurer and Clerk are united in using the B,S&A software to better serve all the residents needs.

Do you want to get involved in Hayes Township?



Come on in and fill out an application. When there are openings on our various boards/committees we will reach out to all interested applicants. Keep an eye on our website for the most up to date positions available.

WINTER TAX INFORMATION

Happy winter, Hayes Residents! Please note that all winter tax bills are due without penalty by Friday, February 14th, 2025. Julie will be in the office for her regular office hours each Thursday through January and February from 11am-1pm, and she will also be in the office from 9am-5pm on February 14th and February 28th. February 28th is the last day to pay summer or winter taxes to the township before they go to Charlevoix County.

Feel free to call or email with any questions: 231-675-5927 or treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov



Hall Rental

Our hall is looking better than ever! We have fresh paint, new carpet, updated fixtures, and our new front doors. Dates are filling up quickly for 2025 for hall rentals. Residents can rent the hall for \$100 for their events. Give us a call to reserve your date and fill out the application.



Free Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who helped shop for, organize, and deliver the holiday meal boxes to our community. A HUGE thank you for the donations that made these possible. This volunteer run donation funded free food pantry has gotten a lot of traffic. We do our best to keep it stocked and have a variety of items for those in need.

Master Plan Survey

Please remember to return your Master Plan survey! The Planning Commission is working hard to compile the results. Your input is important-don't miss out on the chance to help shape the future of our township.



Boyne City to Charlevoix Trail Project Update

AS OF: DECEMBER 19, 2024

Phase 3: Construction of Phase 3 of the Trail, which will run from Springwater Beach Road to Horton Bay, has not yet been completed. This phase includes six (6) block retaining walls. Five (5), possibly all six (6), of the walls were placed too close to the paved path to allow space for installation of a wood fence, based on the approved construction plans. These retaining walls will have to be removed and reinstalled in Spring 2025. As part of this work, portions of the paved path near the walls will also have to be removed and reinstalled. Remaining items to be completed include installation of a wood fence along most of the retaining walls, concrete at each end of the boardwalk near Springwater Beach Road, placement of two (2) park benches, each on a concrete pad, installation of permanent signage, and seeding/restoration. Unfortunately, it will likely be early Summer 2025 before this phase of the Trail is completed. Once all construction is finished, a dedication/ribbon-cutting ceremony will be scheduled.

Phases 4 & 5: In November, Charlevoix County issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Engineering Services to complete the final two phases of the Boyne City to Charlevoix Trail (Phases 4 & 5, which will run from Quarterline Road to the west side of Horton Bay, a distance of approximately 6 miles). Several engineering firms in the area have indicated interest in submitting a proposal. The submission deadline for proposals is January 24, 2025. At that point, the Trail Steering Committee, who is overseeing the development of the Trail, will review the proposals, interview the prospective engineering firms, and make a recommendation to the County Board of Commissioners to hire one of the firms. It is anticipated that an engineering firm will be selected in March 2025.

Prepared by: Kiersten Stark, Planning Director, Charlevoix County Planning Department

Hayes Township Calendar

January 2025

January 2

Community Coffee, 1pm

January 6

Park & Rec, 6pm

January 7

Planning Commission, 7pm

January 13

Board of Trustees, 7pm

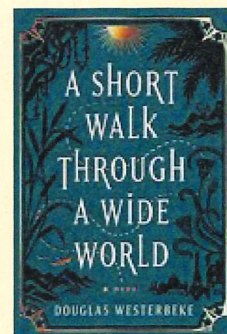
January 16

Book Club, 1pm

January 21

Planning Commission, 7pm

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



January Book Club Pick!

*A Short Walk Through
A Wide World
by Douglas Westerbeke*

To get more information or be added to
our Book Club e-mail list, please
contact Clerk Kristin Baranski at
(231)547-6961

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