
Voice Mission Statement:

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



CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY

#27

February 2025

From the Desk of Supervisor Bill Conklin

I would like to welcome Cody Wheat and Tiffany George to the Hayes Township Board of Review. Their willingness to participate in training, to learn the process and to serve is commendable. They will join our faithful Board of Review member, Jim Rudolph, in making fair and decisive decisions for our township.

A township is most effective when a majority of residents are actively involved in the government process. The five-member Township Board must reflect the ideas and interests of the majority. However, if only some township residents communicate with the Board, then only some portion of the residents will be guiding the direction of the Board members.

In order for your taxes to be spent according to your values and ideals, it is essential that you participate via emails, letters, contact and appearances at Board meetings (in person or via Zoom). You need to know the issues facing the township and to learn how our taxes, a/k/a public money, are being spent. It is the taxpayers who must hold each of our elected, hired and appointed officials and employees accountable. We need each person performing his/her duties accurately and responsibly; and we must require that he/she demonstrates it through his/her conduct. Your active involvement is essential to this process.

In 2022, the Michigan Department of Treasury distributed more than \$319 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars to more than 1,650 communities in Michigan. According to the AARPA website, Hayes Township received \$202,295.79 from ARPA. The past Board and four of the current Board members voted to use over \$60,000.00 of the ARPA funds to implement a new accounting software, (i.e., BS&A software). In December of 2024, the Clerk and Treasurer received training in this new government software system in order to help correct the financial, accounting and budget processes. I will inform you once I determine where the rest of the money has either been allocated or spent.

All township revenues are public funds, and the Township Board owes a duty to the taxpayers and to the public to use the funds lawfully, carefully and responsibly after full and thoughtful deliberation. It is not the Township Board's money – it is the taxpayers' money. There are legal restrictions on how public funds can be used or spent. Unless the people pay close attention to how the money is being used, the money will be spent and then a request for more taxes will be made. I only have one vote out of five. A majority vote or three out of five votes is necessary to pass any decision about incurring debt and/or spending tax money.

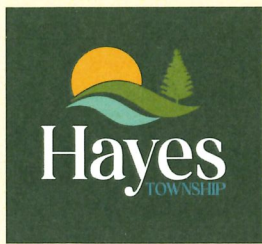
THE TOWNSHIP BOARD

A township exercises its authority and acts through the Township Board. As a governing body, the Township Board makes the public policy decisions for the township. The five-member Township Board – 2 Trustees, Treasurer, Clerk and Supervisor with equal voting – decide what happens in a township. These five (5) persons:

1. Define, decide and direct public policy for the township.
2. Set the tax levies and budget, determine revenues and decide how your money is spent.
3. Appoint committee members, election commission members, planning commission members, zoning board of appeals members and board of review members. a. This is why we need you to apply for a position, to express an interest in serving on a committee or a board to help plan for our township, and to attend meetings in person or via Zoom.
4. Exercise planning and zoning authority over land uses.
5. Determine and operate township programs and services.

The Township Board has equal authority when seated at a board meeting. It is a "Board of Trustees". All board members are equal and have equal voting rights. It is very important that township residents understand the reasons behind each board member's decisions/votes. We need to know how you feel about important township issues which affect you and our environment. You can always call me or send an e-mail to me and you will get a prompt response.

- William M. Conklin / (231) 373-0059 / supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



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

Where do my tax dollars go?

Summer property taxes are divided between Charlevoix County and Charlevoix Schools. A handful of our residents pay Petoskey and Boyne School taxes, which are collected with winter property taxes. Winter property taxes are distributed to many entities in our area. The millages that collect during the winter tax season are: Petoskey & Boyne Schools (if you are in those sections of the township), Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix Community Pool, Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority, Char-Em, and both the township operating millage and road millage. Charlevoix County collects for: Grandview, Transit, Recycling, County Roads, County Parks, Veterans, and Senior Citizens. All of these entities get a piece of your tax dollars, which are disbursed as the taxes are paid through the season. Keep in mind that all entities that receive tax dollars were on the ballot and the voters chose to support them.

How much money do these entities receive each season?

Here are approximately what will be disbursed at the end of this tax season:

Char EM	\$1.2 million
Charlevoix Library	\$290,000
Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority	\$420,000
Recreation Authority (Charlevoix Area Community Pool)	\$93,000
Charlevoix Schools	\$1.3 million
Petoskey Schools	\$65,000
Boyne Schools	\$100,000
Hayes Township	\$281,000
Hayes Township Road Fund	\$293,000
Charlevoix County Treasurer	\$3 million
Charlevoix County Entities (recycle, transit, etc.)	\$1.4 million

So, when you are out and about in your beautiful township and city, know that your tax dollars are spread out all over to help the schools, the seniors, the veterans, and to support programs that help the residents of our area.

Charlevoix Area Community Pool Update

The Charlevoix Area Community Pool has been a busy place! They have welcomed new swim coach Megan Smithburg for the Stingray Swim Team and have been participating in local meets. The classes and special events have been busier than ever, and they now carry pool logo clothing. Open swim sessions are offered during the weekends as well as lap swim. The number of certified lifeguards has also gone up and are now employed by the pool.

The warm pool is preferable to the cold outdoors for many of our residents, and they have been keeping active and enjoying this gem in our community.

Visit their website at charlevoixpool.org to view the pool calendar and get information on special events.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



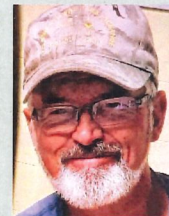
Bill Conklin, Supervisor
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



Matt Cunningham, Trustee
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



Kristin Baranski, Clerk
clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



Julie Collard, Treasurer
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov

What is Board of Review?

Michigan Board of Review is a local committee of residents that hears appeals from taxpayers about their property assessments. The board's role is to ensure that assessments are accurate, complete, and fair.

Hayes Township will hold their Board of Review on Monday, March 10 from 9am-3pm and Wednesday, March 12, from 3pm-9pm. Our Assessor Alisa will be here for both sessions. If residents have any questions, they can contact Alisa at assessor@hayestownshipmi.gov.

B,S,&A Software

Our township has joined the 604 other townships in Michigan, as well as the 5 townships in Charlevoix County, that utilize the fantastic made for municipalities B, S, & A software in our office. Our office has used the Tax and Assessing software for years, and with the encouragement of our auditing and accounting firm, our trustees approved the use of ARPA funds to purchase the recommended accounting software. Our Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Treasurer have been trained in the new software. The excellent team from B, S, & A converted all the township files to the new software, and now all three programs-Assessing, Taxes, & Accounting- are linked together. Moving forward, we now have the best software for the unique accounting procedures townships necessitate.

Poverty Exemption

At our January Board meeting, the trustees passed a resolution to increase the federal poverty guideline for 2025 by 10%. **What does this mean to our community?** This means that you may qualify for a tax exemption under the poverty guidelines. They are assessed by household size and yearly income. Hayes Township increased the cut-off point for our residents by 10% to assist residents in qualifying for an exemption. If you would like to fill a poverty exemption form out, please contact Julie Collard at treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov or (231)675-5927.

PRE Homestead-Exemption

If you look at your tax bill or assessment, you will see a section that shows your PRE. It will say 0% or 100%.

If your home is your primary residence, your PRE should read 100%. This means you are exempt from the school operating cost millage. If you are in the Charlevoix School District, this exemption is reflected on your summer tax bill. If you are in the Petoskey or Boyne District, you will see this exemption on your winter tax bill.

What should you do if you believe your PRE rating is incorrect?

If you believe you should be exempt and your tax/assessment form does not reflect 100%, please contact Treasurer Julie Collard or Assessor Alisa Abiney. They will be able to quickly review your PRE and provide you with the paperwork to correct any errors that may exist.

IMPORTANT TAX INFORMATION

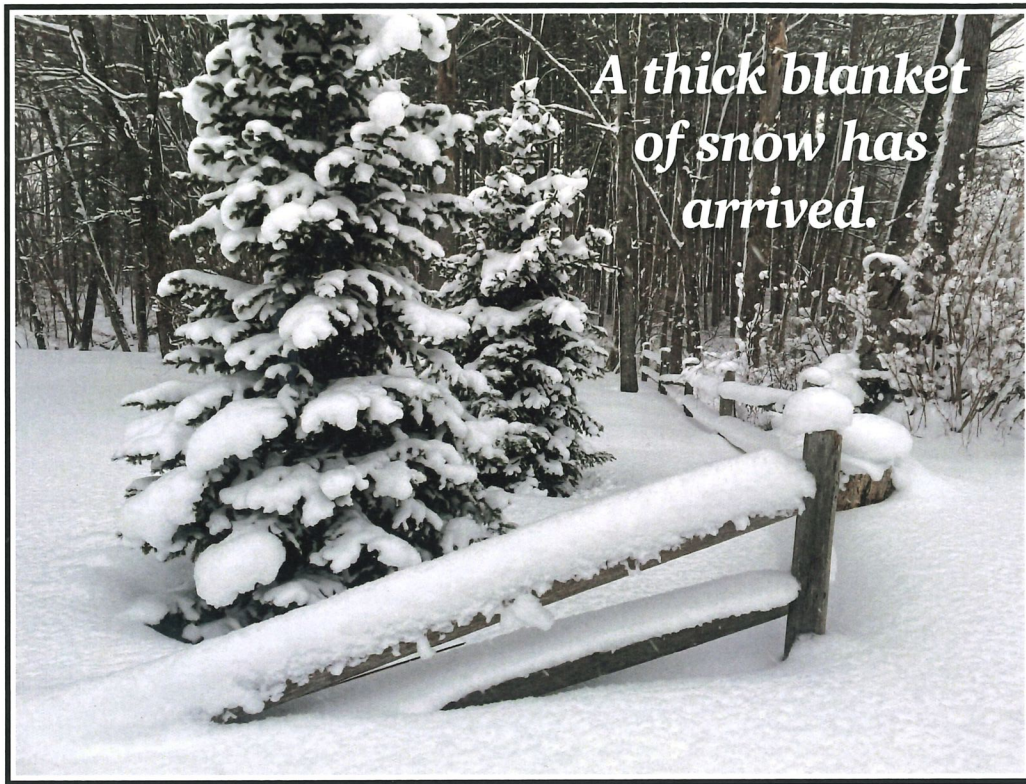
Hayes Township residents: Your property taxes are due without penalty by Friday, February 14, 2024.

I will be in the office on both February 14 and February 28 from 9am-5pm. February 28 is the last day to pay your summer and/or winter taxes to Hayes Township. Any payments made March 1st and after need to go to the Charlevoix County Treasurer.

You can make your payment online through BSA Payments on our website, hayestownshipmi.gov. You can drop your payment in the mail or in the drop box across from the front doors of the township hall. I do accept postmarks. Of course, you can pay in person as well. If you misplaced your bill, or need a receipt from this season or a previous season, please let me know and I can absolutely help resolve your issues. Please contact me anytime at treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov or (231)675-5927.

-Julie Collard, Hayes Township Treasurer





January 2025 Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees approved two resolutions for the Parks & Recreation Committee to apply for Charlevoix Millage Grants. One grant application is for interpretive signage at 4 parks, and the other is for a playground sunshade, basketball nets, and basketballs/ball storage.
- Board members voted to increase the poverty levels by 10%. This will help residents qualify for poverty exemptions in our township.
- Cody Wheat & Tiffany George were appointed to the Hayes Board of Review.
- Bruce Deckinga was re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
- Roy Griffiths, Lake Charlevoix EMS Authority Chair, gave an EMS report. He shared that emergency runs are way up and the first responders have been busier than ever.

Planning Commission Meetings January 2025 Meeting Summaries

- The Planning Commission voted Roy Griffiths as Chair and Mark Snyder as Vice-Chair.
- Commissioners reviewed drafts of the CREO (Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance). They discussed specific edits that they would like to make specific to Hayes Township and will seek legal counsel regarding these edits.
- Carey Cuddeback reported that over 340 Master Plan Surveys had been returned, and she will be compiling all the data from the surveys to share.
- A public hearing will be held on February 18 for a SUP (special use permit) to have a kennel and dog daycare facility on Burnett Road.

Hayes Township Calendar February 2025

Thursday, February 6
Community Coffee, 1pm

Monday, February 3
Park & Recreation
Meeting, 6pm

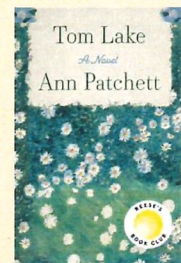
Monday, February 10
Board of Trustees, 7pm

Tuesday, February 18
Planning Commission/Public
Hearings, 7pm

Wednesday, February 26
Zoning Board of Appeals Public
Hearing, 7pm

**March 10: 9am-3pm
& March 12: 3pm-9pm**
Board of Review

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



February Book Club Pick! *Tom Lake*

A novel by Ann Patchett

Taking place in Michigan, this is the story of a mother's life before her husband and family, told to her daughters in pieces as they navigate decisions in their own lives. You will relate to the winters they deal with, the renewal of life in the spring, the refreshing water of Lake Michigan in the summer, and the many chores and responsibilities that fall brings on a farm.

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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