
Voice Mission Statement:

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



CONNECTING **OUR** COMMUNITY

#28

March 2025

Renewable Energy in Michigan

At the end of November last year (2024), Public Acts 233 and 234 (PAs 233 and 234) came into effect. Governor Whitmer signed these laws in November of 2023 with a one-year period to allow the Public Service Commission to develop the procedures to implement them. The laws severely limit local control over the location as well as the regulation of large-scale renewable energy projects (wind, solar and battery storage systems). These Public Acts prevent local governments from prohibiting large-scale projects. If a township were to try to significantly limit or prevent a commercial scale renewable energy project the developer has the right to go to the MPSC for permission to do the project. This permission must be granted.

Inquiries from developers and energy companies have already begun to come into Hayes Township office, asking about our zoning for renewable energy.

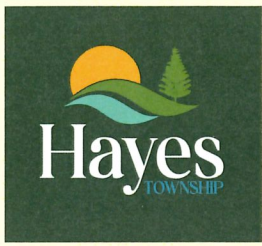
The Township had one of three choices to make: do nothing and leave the entire decision to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), create and adopt a "compatible renewable energy ordinance" (CREO) or adopt a "workable" ordinance. The Planning Commission members participated in a series of educational seminars from the Michigan Township Association, consulted with our township attorney and spoke with representatives of the MPSC in order to determine which type of ordinance best protects the township. "In short, there is no way to prohibit large-scale renewable energy projects in your township" (MTA Renewable Energy Q&A, Oct. 2024).

A CREO must match exactly the language of the State rules. A "workable" ordinance which provides some greater control for local governments and can set additional regulations or standards which may be more restrictive than the statute allows. A developer could voluntarily choose to follow the "workable" ordinance and not apply through the MPSC. Townships cannot force a developer to follow a "workable" ordinance, and applicants can always choose to apply through MPSC if they think our requirements are unworkable in their judgement. Hayes Township Planning Commission has submitted a draft "workable" ordinance to the Charlevoix County Planning Commission for review and comment. The submitted draft increased setbacks, height requirements, landscaping requirements, to name a few as well as the applicant will be working with the Township instead of seeking blanket approval from the State.

We hope to implement these safeguard ordinances in March.

A copy of the draft ordinance submitted to the County Planning Commission is available at the Hall for review as well as on the website under Planning Commission documents.

- Information provided by the Zoning Department & Planning Commissioners



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



Election 2025

HAYES TOWNSHIP VOTERS:



Please note that a Special Election will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025. Polls will open at 7 am and close at 8 pm. Absentee ballot application for the Permanent AV list will be mailed the third week of March. Hayes Township Permanent Ballot Voters will be receiving ballots by the first week of April. Please remember, Special Elections do not qualify for the 9 days of Early Voting at the County nor the Township. Voters can vote Absentee or in person on Election Day only.

Purpose of Election:

BOYNE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL

FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$24,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Boyne City Public Schools, 321 S. Park Street, Boyne City, MI 49712-1527

CHARLEVOIX PUBLIC SCHOOLS

GENERAL OBLIGATION UNLIMITED TAX BOND PROPOSAL

FOR BUILDING AND SITE PURPOSES IN THE AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$8,000,000

Full text of the ballot proposal may be obtained at the administrative offices of Charlevoix Public Schools, 104 E. St. Mary's Drive, Charlevoix, MI 49720. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions (clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov or 231-547-6961).

-Kristin Baranski, Hayes Township Clerk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



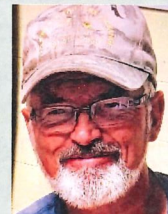
Bill Conklin, Supervisor
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



Matt Cunningham, Trustee
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



Kristin Baranski, Clerk
clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



Julie Collard, Treasurer
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov

Zoning Board of Appeals Opening

What does the Zoning Board of Appeals do?

A Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) in Michigan reviews and decides appeals of zoning decisions, and grants variances and exceptions to zoning regulations. The ZBA's purpose is to balance the needs of property owners with the community's welfare.

What the ZBA does

- Holds public hearings
- Reviews applications for variances
- Interprets zoning regulations
- Determines the outcome of dimensional variance requests
- Decides appeals of administrative decisions
- Recommends amendments to the zoning ordinance

How the ZBA operates

- The ZBA is a quasi-judicial board
- The ZBA is made up of appointed members with expertise in zoning ordinances and land-use regulations
- The ZBA reviews appeals on a case-by-case basis
- The ZBA may reverse, affirm, or modify the administrative decision

Why the ZBA is important?

The ZBA helps to ensure that zoning regulations are applied consistently and fairly. Without the ZBA, land use decisions could lack transparency and community input.

If you are interested in serving on the ZBA, please submit your application to the Hayes Township Clerk. Applications are available on our website and in person.

March Board of Review

Board of Review Reminder: Board of Review is scheduled two days in March: Monday, March 10th, from 9am-3pm, & Wednesday, March 12th, from 3pm-9pm. Our Assessor and the Board of Review members will be available to discuss any questions or concerns residents may have.



Hayes Township Trivia

The first person to correctly answer this month's trivia question will get the bragging rights and a special mention in our April edition of the Voice.

In 1877, Burgess Corner was founded.

Who was it named after?

Send your answers to: treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov
Good luck!

Assessments

Assessors use a state required mass appraisal method to value properties. We estimate land values from sales data and building values from a state cost manual. Then, we analyze sales data from your neighborhood and develop factors we use to further adjust our estimates to reflect local market value. If you have questions regarding your most recent assessment, please contact our Assessor, Alisa Abiney, at (231)497-9361 or assessor@hayestownshipmi.gov.

A note from our Treasurer, Julie Collard:

Thank you so much to all of our wonderful residents for another great tax season! I loved seeing and talking to so many members of our community. Your notes and cards through the season were so thoughtful and appreciated. I'm humbled to serve this township, and am always here to help in any way I can.



**Come join us for
LIVE IRISH MUSIC
on Thursday, March 6th, at
our Community Coffee!**

"Opinions don't change facts.
But facts should change
opinions, if you're rational."
- Unknown



October 25, 2008 - Wedding Celebration

The Old Pine Tree

Last year, there was a storm that split a huge pine tree behind the EMS building. One of our residents stopped at the hall to share her special memories of that tree. It is the tree her and her husband were married under, as well as the tree they took family pictures under. The pictures are such special memories and beautiful reminders of milestone moments for this Hayes family. Thank you to Brenna Cordner (Bergmann) for sharing her story and pictures with us.



October 25, 2017
Anniversary Family Photo

February 2025 Board of Trustees

At the February Regular Meeting the Board of Trustees:

- Approved an Intergovernmental Data sharing agreement with Charlevoix County
- Discussed contractual agreements with Planners Beckett & Raeder
- Approved monies to plow an area at Hayes Township Park for ice fishing access
- Approved a new application for open positions for employment or commissions
- Approved a new contract for office equipment (will save 14%)

February 2025 Planning Commissioners

At the February Regular Meeting of the Planning Commission:

- Approved a final edited version of the CREO (Compatible Renewable Energy Ordinance) to be forwarded to the Charlevoix County Planning Commission for review and comments
- Approved a Special Use Permit for a dog boarding kennel on Burgess Road
- A Special Meeting will be scheduled for a recap of the results from the Master Plan survey

Hayes Township Calendar March 2025

Monday, March 3

Parks & Recreation Meeting, 4pm

Tuesday, March 4

Board of Review Organizational Meeting, 1pm

Thursday, March 6

Community Coffee, 1pm

Monday, March 10

Board of Trustees, 7pm

Monday, March 10 • 9am-3pm

Wednesday, March 12 • 3-9pm

Board of Review

Tuesday, March 18

Planning Commission, 7pm

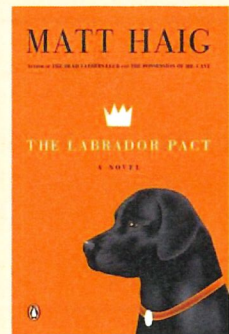
Thursday, March 20

Book Club, 1pm

Wednesday, March 26

Zoning Board of Appeals, 7pm

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



March Book Club Pick! *The Labrador Pact* by Matt Haig

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

*****ECRWSSSEDDM****

Local Postal Customer

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