
Voice Mission Statement:

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



CONNECTING **OUR** COMMUNITY

#29

April 2025

From the Desk of Supervisor Bill Conklin

Please welcome Kayla Pennington as Deputy Supervisor for Hayes Township. Kayla is married to Charlie Pennington, and they are raising three daughters in Hayes Township. Kayla graduated from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science degree, accounting major. She has worked as an Accountant for Harbor Hall and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources for over 9 years. Kayla took her Oath of Office on February 18, 2025.

MCLA 41.61 (2) states that a supervisor may appoint a deputy supervisor, who shall serve at the pleasure of the supervisor.

MCLA 141.422b(e) states that the chief administrative officer of a township is the supervisor (if there is no manager), and that said officer is responsible for budget preparation, presentation to the township board and the control of expenditures.

MCLA 141.434 outlines the procedures.

Since the preparation of the budget is my responsibility as the chief administrative officer, and since I do not have the expertise to prepare the budget, I believe that I should pay for Kayla Pennington's assistance, not the township. Based on my personal opinions and past statements, I hope that you understand my position on this issue.

Kayla Pennington has prepared annual budgets using Quick Books and BS&A software and has implemented all accounting standards, without any audit deficiencies/irregularities over her 9-year career. Her expertise is essential as we commence and oversee the Township's 2025-2026 Budget.

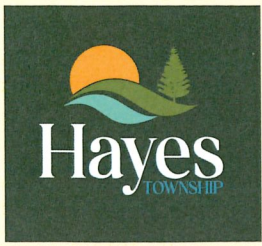
The proposed **Fire Protection Contract** from Charlevoix Township for Hayes Township for the fiscal year 2025-2026 is \$106,700.00; this represents a substantial increase from prior years. The 2024 Board members were aware last year that there would be a dramatic increase in fire protection beginning in July 2025. The Board is seeking assistance in assessing viable alternatives and options to meet this increase.

The Board of Review decided eight cases on March 10 and March 12. Four individuals qualified for the poverty exemption and will not have to pay real property taxes. One applicant was granted a reduction in SEV based on an appraisal; another applicant was granted a reduction in SEV based on evidence of an unbuildable lot. One applicant was denied relief due to only personal property losses, while another applicant was denied relief because there were no "comparables" to support the claim about its unique character. Assessor Alisa Abiney provided her insight and assistance to the Board throughout the process. We extend our thanks to Board of Review members Jim Rudolph, Cody Wheat, Tiffany George and Roy Griffiths for their work on behalf of the township.

We welcome **Charlevoix Meadows Assisted Living Facility** to Hayes Township, which will be constructed west of the Genesis Church on US-31. The owners presented a very well-designed plan which places the building south of the service road and includes a natural landscape buffer between US-31 and the service road. Their plan conforms in detail with our Ordinance and blends very well with the rural character of Hayes Township, while adhering to the historical intent of the service road.

We encourage future entrepreneurs who want to start a business in Hayes Township to model their comprehensive plans after the Charlevoix Meadows team. Many residents were happy to hear the owners remark that they wanted to work with Hayes Township while enhancing its rural character and blending in with the surrounding environment.

- Bill Conklin, Supervisor



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

Hayes Township Unveils 2024 Community Survey Results

On March 11, 2025, the Hayes Township Planning Commission released the comprehensive 2024 Community Survey Results & Recommendations, a pivotal document that will help shape the township's Master Plan update. Conducted with a budget of \$5,000 and led by a dedicated Steering Committee, the survey garnered a 26% response rate with 431 responses from taxpayers and renters. The findings reflect a community eager to balance its cherished rural character with managed growth to meet evolving needs.

The survey revealed a respondent base that skews older—80% over age 60—with higher income and education levels than the township's general population. Over half have resided in Hayes Township for more than 20 years, and 40% of part-time and non-resident landowners plan to make it their primary home within 5-10 years. Satisfaction runs high for EMS, fire protection, and law enforcement services, though ordinance enforcement and road maintenance emerged as areas needing improvement. Residents also praised recreational resources like hiking and biking trails but called for more bike paths and better beach access.

Growth and development preferences underscored a desire for managed, limited expansion, particularly in single-family homes on acreage (63% support) and subdivisions (40%), alongside a desire to encourage hobby farms and protect commercial farms. Tiny home communities were preferred over other affordable housing options, while industrial growth, especially gravel and mining, faced strong opposition. Short-term rental controls were widely supported, with most favoring limits based on location, zoning, occupancy, and stay duration. Looking ahead, 75% supported mandating open natural or landscaped spaces in new developments, reinforcing the township's scenic preservation ethos.

Age-based differences highlighted a generational divide: younger respondents (under 50) showed greater enthusiasm for residential and commercial growth, while older residents leaned toward maintaining the status quo. Open-ended comments, numbering 151, revealed frustrations with township governance—particularly legal costs and leadership disputes—alongside calls for fiscal responsibility, housing, and controlled growth.

The report's recommendations urge a growth management plan prioritizing scenic preservation, housing strategies that would include single family and tiny homes, enforceable rental regulations, and focused, limited commercial development along main corridors like US-31. It also calls for restricting industrial uses and enhancing infrastructure, such as completing the Boyne City/Charlevoix Road bike path. The Planning Commission faces the challenge of harmonizing these priorities with the township's rural identity as demographic shifts loom.

Residents can download the full 2024 Community Survey Report at www.hayestownshipmi.gov or obtain a copy at the Township Hall.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



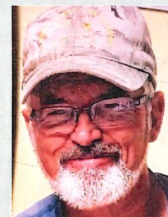
Bill Conklin, Supervisor
supervisor@hayestownshipmi.gov



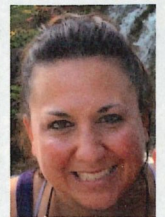
Matt Cunningham, Trustee
Trustee2@hayestownshipmi.gov



Kristin Baranski, Clerk
clerk@hayestownshipmi.gov



Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Hayestrustee5@gmail.com



Julie Collard, Treasurer
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov



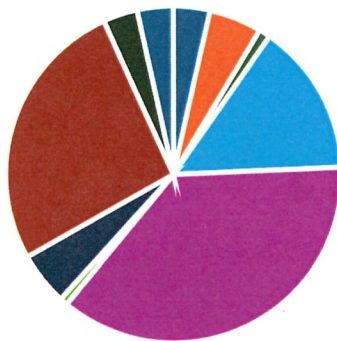
**Happy Birthday to
Anna Kuebler**

She celebrated her 99th
birthday in February. Thank

you, Anna, for your dedication
and service to Hayes Township
through the years. We wish
you all the health and
happiness in the world.

**Our March Community Coffee was so much fun.
Thank you to the Swing Sisters for providing their wonderful music!**

2024 Property Tax Breakdown

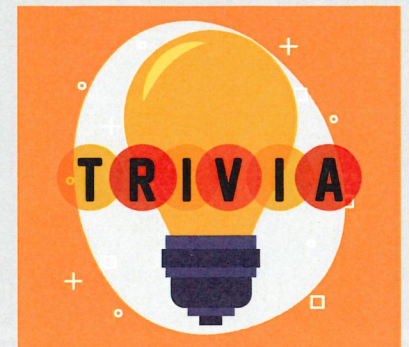


- Library
- LCEMSA
- Charlevoix Pool
- Char EM ISD
- Charlevoix Schools
- Petoskey Schools
- Boyne City Schools
- Charlevoix County
- Hayes Township
- Hayes Township Roads

A note from our Treasurer, Julie Collard:

Hayes Residents, thank you so much for a smooth and well-communicated tax season. Knowing where your hard-earned tax dollars go make a big difference. The pie chart above gives a strong visual of where your money goes. Listed from highest to lowest, here is the approximate breakdown of tax dollar disbursements from the 2024 season:

Charlevoix Public Schools	\$2,900,000
Charlevoix County	\$2,085,000
Char EM ISD	\$1,155,000
Boyne City Schools	\$405,000
Lake Charlevoix EMS	\$400,000
Charlevoix Library	\$280,000
Hayes Township Roads	\$273,000
Hayes Township	\$262,000
Charlevoix Area Pool	\$86,000
Petoskey Schools	\$58,000



Hayes Township Trivia

**Congratulations to
Rick Daniel on his correct answer
to the March Trivia question:**

*E.H. (Eugene Hiram) Burgess was
the sawmill owner,
and in 1877, he helped
start the sawmill settlement
in Hayes Township.*

**HERE IS THE QUESTION
FOR OUR MAY EDITION:
What event took place
in 1971 that became a
big part of Hayes Township
history?**

Submit your answers to
treasurer@hayestownshipmi.gov.
Good Luck!

First Day of Spring 2025 Hayes Township



March 2025 Board of Trustees

- The Board of Trustees set the Election Commission meeting (for the May Election) for April 9, 2025 at 1:00pm followed by the Public Accuracy Test at 1:30pm at the Hayes Township Hall
- The Board approved for Performance Engineers to request bids for Drainage Improvements at Hayes Township Park. The project is designed to direct water runoff directly into rain gardens for filtration. This will not only protect Lake Charlevoix, it will also keep runoff off sidewalks/ADA parking as well as protect against erosion.
- Bill Conklin has appointed Kayla Pennington as Deputy Supervisor.
- The Board approved appointments for Zoning Board of Appeal Members. Joni Hosler will move from an alternate to a full member. Rod Slocum will sit as an alternate as well as new member Jessica Perry.
- The Board approved two Resolutions for text amendments to the Zoning Ordinance to provide zoning regulations for Solar and Battery Energy Systems.

March 2025 Planning Commission

- Special Meeting on March 11, 2025 Survey Steering Committee presentation.
- Planning Commission held a Special Use Permit Public Hearing request from Charlevoix Club Park, LLC. The Planning Commission conditionally approved the request for a state licensed, 40 bed assisted living as well as memory care facility (Charlevoix Meadows) located on a 5 acre parcel on US-31.
- Members voted to amend current PC By-Laws to move Public Hearings under New Business on the agenda.

Hayes Township Calendar April 2025

Thursday April 3 • 1pm
Community Coffee

Monday April 7 • 4pm
Park and Recreation

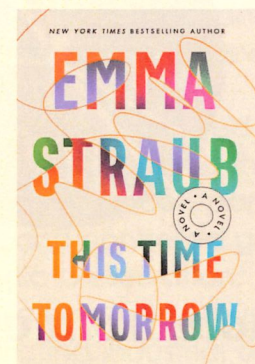
Wednesday, April 9 • 1pm
Election Commission
(Public Accuracy Test)

Monday April 14 • 7pm
Board of Trustees

Thursday, April 17 • 1pm
Book Club

Tuesday April 29 • 7pm
Planning Commission

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



April Book Club Pick!

This Time Tomorrow

by Emma Straub

This beautiful and unexpected novel is our April book. If you are new to Emma Straub, you will not be disappointed in this novel.

Meeting Thursday, April 17, at 1pm.
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

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