

*Sarah Etelamaki, Clerk
Pete Koski, Trustee*

Jeff Ogea, Supervisor

*Chris Grund, Treasurer
Betty Grund, Trustee*



WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Introducing Something NEW!!!

Break up the winter blues with a little music!! In an attempt to brighten up the winter months, my sister and I are going to introduce a once a month, 3-chord jam session and we would like to invite any and all to join us. Whether you can play music or would just like a chance to get out and listen, all are welcome. The first session of the new year will be January 19th, 2023 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Weather permitting. We can discuss further dates at our January session. We further hope to have a night of Christmas music December 15, 2022 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm., feel free to join us! Coffee and refreshments will be provided. For further information, contact myself, Betty Grund at (906) 204-4422 or Gail Warner at (906) 361-7063. Thank you and Happy Holidays! -Betty Grund/Gail Warner

Supervisor's Scoop: Hello Humboldt residents. As most of you know we as a Board are continuing to make improvements to our township roads and other facilities. We are still looking for ideas for more and improved recreation plans. I would also like to remind residents about blight, this is a zoning violation. Let's keep our township clean. Wishing everyone a safe a happy Holiday season! I'm looking forward to serving the residents of Humboldt again this coming year. Thanks for your support.

-Jeff Ogea

Clerk's Corner: As the Clerk, the most important and stressful job I have, is conducting elections! This 2022 election season has been a long one! I am happy to have a break for a few months before the next cycle. If you want to be more involved in the election process, become an Election Inspector. The polls don't run without these important individuals, and we always welcome more. Anyone age 16 or more can apply to work elections. It can be a great learning experience. Have a Merry Christmas!

-Sarah Etelamaki

Treasurer's Topic: Happy Holiday's Everyone!! That's the good news, the bad news, December taxes. Tax collection begins December 1, 2022. No notable changes. We collect taxes locally through the month of February, 2023, but remember, interest and penalties kick in on February 15, 2023. On March 1, 2023 taxes are turned over to the County as delinquent. Reminder that we do have a secure drop box located just outside the entrance of the Township Hall office for your convenience. One note of warning to mention, before sealing the envelope with you tax payment, please be sure it is written out correctly. We have been catching checks where the numeric number doesn't match what is written out. Verify your checks are written properly so that we can process your payment timely. Wishing you a safe and blessed Holiday Season!!!

-Chris Grund

Planning Commission Press Release: During the past 6 months with assistance from Jason McCarthy of Northwoods Planning and Zoning, the PC has advanced efforts with update of the Township's

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Zoning Ordinance and Recreation Master Plan. The PC continues to seek feedback on the draft work so please let us know your thoughts. (See below for meeting times)

Zoning Ordinance: A few items which have been considered for modification include:

- Mixed Residential Use in Waterfront Districts
- Solar and Wind Farms and Public Utility Substations
- Short Term Rentals (AirB&B)
- Fee Structure
- Relaxing Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace Regulations

Draft Recreation Plan Ideas for Improving Current Facilities:

Humboldt Township Hall Complex: A recreational facility that includes a half court gym, exercise equipment, indoor restrooms with showers. It could also serve as an event venue and emergency shelter. Paved or aggregate landscaped pathways that would connect the Hall Complex with the Ice Rink and Cemetery.

Humboldt Township Park, located East of the Township Hall: Construction of an additional bridge over the dam on the east side of the park. An expansion of the existing pavilion. Expansion of the parking area on the east side of the park. Construction of a "fit strip" exercise circuit. Additional playground equipment.

Koski Baseball Field and Basketball Facility: There is a desire for the field to serve as both a baseball and softball field. This conversion would require minimal earthwork and grading. Additional or replacement fencing may also be needed. With plenty of acreage on this property, there are options for additional amenities. The addition of tennis and/or pickle ball courts. Expansion of the parking area.

Black River Recreation Area: The addition of off-street parking, a restroom facility, picnic table, bench, trash/recycling receptacles, and playground equipment. Investigating the feasibility of re-establishing the skating rink.

Draft Recreation Plan for New Opportunities:

Iron Ore Heritage Trail: As a non-participating unit of government, HT does not receive the benefits of trail maintenance and improvement from the IOHT organization. As such, the PC has discussed recommendations of placing the issue on the ballot for voters to decide.

Fish Lake Access Site: This unique property could be improved with the development of a site master plan that contains an expansion of the dock to include a kayak launch, improved parking, and a potential restroom facility.

Tower Lake Site: A re-use plan is needed to consider enhanced recreational use such as the development of IOHT and snowmobile trail access development that would connect neighboring townships and feature interpretive, historical, and cultural signage.

Republic Mine Wetland Preserve: Central Humboldt Township features yet another opportunity to work with adjacent communities to enhance recreational opportunities by developing coordinated natural trail networks and bird watching areas.

Other Ideas: Consideration of moose/wildlife viewing area and a dark sky park.

-Jim Kippola

Township Office Hours:

- Monday-Wednesday 8:30am-2:30pm
- Treasurer Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00am-12:00pm

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- Closed during the following Holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve
- There is also a 24 hour secure drop-box located at the top of the porch stairs

Township Employee Contact Information

- Assessor: Dylan Jurasin: humboldtassessor@gmail.com (906) 361-6787
- Zoning Administrator: Howard Robare: hrobare@aol.com (906) 235-1050

Annual Christmas Party and Sleigh Rides: This year's Christmas party date will be December 10th from 1:00-3:00pm. There will be hotdogs, hot chocolate, sleigh rides (weather permitting), Santa, and the ice rink will be available, as long as the winter weather cooperates! Bring the kids and enjoy the season!

Sanitation Information: Garbage and curbside recycling is picked up every Monday. Please have your garbage out by 6:00am. If you utilize one of the Township provided garbage sheds, please be courteous and follow the rules so we can continue to provide the service. We would hate to discontinue the shed availability due to improper use. The recycling continues to be single stream with no glass allowed. There are recycling containers inside the sheds for your convenience. Ishpeming Township does provide glass recycling on the first Wednesday of every month from 1-6pm. If you need Transfer Station Tickets, you can purchase them at the Hall during regular business hours. They are \$8 per ticket per 100 pounds. The Township will host 2 clean-up events taking place in June and September. More information will be available in the spring newsletter. One more positive point to highlight pertaining to sanitation, is this winter's tax levy. Due to a surplus in the sanitation fund, the Township Board approved a one year reduction from 1.5 mills to 0.5 mills. The Board will revisit the fund revenue before next winter's tax season to reassess, with the possibility of raising it back to the original voter approved amount of 1.5 mills. The tax process can be complicated to understand. If you have questions, please call.

Cemetery News & Information: The project with Tri-Media is still under construction, but, with completion in sight! Watch for information to be available soon for online access to our cemetery. Next summer you may see a new look to the cemetery as we are working on new options for fencing and general appearance. If you currently own plots and realize you no longer need them, please reach out to us. We hope to reclaim un-used plots for future generations to use. Please stop in for any questions or inquiries you may have about cemetery plots.

Road Improvements: For the year 2023, the Board approved a list of potential paving projects. We continue to make improvements where needed and as funds allow.

Streetlights: If you notice a burnt out streetlight, the easiest and fastest way to report an outage is to do it on-line. Simply go to www.we-energies.com/services/streetlight and you can zoom in on the map to pick the light that is out. It is very easy to do, and you get a confirmation email of your submission stating they try to fix them within 72 hours of reporting.

Winter Taxes: Winter taxes are payable at the township starting December 1st through February 14th, 2023. Treasurer hours are Tuesday's & Thursday's from 10am-12pm. There is also an option to pay them online for a 3% fee. Just go to <https://bsaonline.com/?uid=1466>. After February 28th, 2023 taxes become delinquent and are turned over to the county treasurer.

Fishing Derby: The Annual Children's Fishing Derby will be held during the DNR free fishing weekend which is slated for June 10th, 2023. Look for more information in the Spring.

Zoning Ordinance: Humboldt Township is self-zoned and has its own Zoning Ordinance. One thing that is often over-looked is the fact that our ordinance **requires** a Zoning Compliance Permit for **any** structure that is placed on your property to ensure that it fits within the assigned Zoning District. ZCP information can be found in Section 905. Depending on the structure, the fee is minimal. If no permit is applied for and approved, you may find yourself in violation. There is a penalty of 5 times the fee for a permit after the fact. Marquette County also requires a Township permit before they will issue a county permit.

Our Zoning Ordinance also covers Blight in Section 407 and is available on the website or at the hall for review. If you happen to have a complaint of blight in our Township, please try to take a picture of the issue and have the property owner name and address if available, so we can properly address the situation. You can call the hall or the Zoning Administrator, Howard Robare, with any questions.

Schedules of Meetings and Events:

- Township Board: Second Monday of each month at 7:00pm
- Planning Commission: Fourth Monday of each month at 6:00pm
- Fire Department: First Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the fire hall.
- Senior Lunch: Second Wednesday of each month at 12:00pm-Potluck or donation.

General Announcements:

- An addition to the ice rink this year is a warming shack! Come put your skates on and make the most of winter in the UP!
- The West End First Responder Authority is always accepting applications for responders. If you would like to join, please contact the office for more information.
- If there is important information to pass along, we try to post it on our website and on the township Facebook page. There is also other helpful information, including approved minutes, and various forms you may need on the website. www.humboldt.town. There is a new survey on the website for Fire Numbers and Phone Numbers. We are trying to collect as much information as we can so we can properly update our records and get ahold of anyone if the need arises. Please take a moment and fill out the survey.

Merry Christmas!