

## **STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 3/8/2022**

I want to welcome the resident's joining us this evening for the 141<sup>st</sup> State of the Township report. This is my fifth opportunity to address our residents to report on the accomplishments your township government

### **GERRISH TOWNSHIP ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Gerrish Township Clerk: Kathleen Patchin

Gerrish Township Treasurer: Leasa Tulgetske

Supervisor: David Udy

Township Trustees: Mary Jo Oppy / Terry Newton

### **GERRISH TOWNSHIP BOARD PROJECTS**

Improvements to your township hall include:

- A new electronic sign was purchased for the township hall.
- Old, cracked sidewalks were removed and replaced.
- The township parking lot was crack sealed, recoated and lines repainted.

### **GERRISH TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR AND BOARD OF REVIEW**

Our township assessor is Julie Tatro. Julie is in our office on Monday's for in-person visits. She is also available by phone, leave a message. The BOR has three meetings each year. March, July, and December.

### **GERRISH TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION**

The Gerrish Township Planning Commission team is chaired by Jim Ostling. Last year the GTPC met 12 times. In addition to their regular agenda, they also reviewed Roscommon County Storm Water Management Standards, and possible Zoning Ordinance changes pertaining to Seawall vs. Retainer Walls and Fences/Screening.

### **GERRISH TOWNSHIP PARK AND MARINA**

The manager of the Gerrish Township Marina is Steve Myer.

- TV 9 & 10 installed a camera at the marina that is available to residents 24 / 7.
- 143 In water boat slips, 10 outdoor storage and 12 inside storage, 12 in water jet ski slips. 100 ft. of broadside dockage is available for transient customers.
- Last summer the marina sold 29,475 gallons of recreation fuel.
- We currently have 170 persons on our waiting list.
- We are looking for additional seasonal staff for the 2022 summer season.

- Of special note, not one dollar of Gerrish Township tax revenue is used to fund the purchase and operation of the marina.

## **GERRISH TOWNSHIP PARK**

In 2021 60 yards of beach sand was delivered to refresh the beach area.

## **GERRISH TOWNSHIP BUILDING AND ZONING**

Jason Janson is our township Building and Zoning administrator.

Permits Issued: Building 118 Electrical 119 Mechanical 82 Plumbing 27

## **GERRISH TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The Gerrish Township Police Department is commanded by Chief Brian Hill.

## **DEPARTMENT STAFFING**

- Currently the Department is funded for a staff of seven full-time Officers, one full time Administrative Clerk and one part-time Custodian. The Department maintains administrative hours from 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office has no administrative hours on the weekend. At all times, an Officer is available through the Roscommon County Central Dispatch.

## **TECHNOLOGY UPDATES**

- The GTPD upgraded our Automated External Defibrillators that we carry in each patrol car.
- In the fall of 2021, Chief Hill applied for a Small Rural and Tribal grant in preparation of bringing Body Worn Cameras to each Officer. The department has been selected to receive up to \$2,000.00 per camera per officer.

## **Building and Grounds**

- The Department parking lot area was crack sealed, re-coated and lines repainted.
- GTPD secured the cost quotes of replacing our 25 yr. old full building generator which we have planned for replacement in 2022.

## **TRAINING**

- This year, GTPD recorded a total of 721 hours of training in various topics during the year.
- Officers received Firearms training in the Spring and Fall. Both classroom and Range firing occurred with all the Department carried firearms.
- Officers received training on a new approach by the Community Mental Health agency.
- One of our Officers became a certified Child Safety Seat Technician to work with the Child Protection Council in safety inspections and proper installation of seats as required.

## **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION ITEMS IN 2021**

- Gerrish Township Trunk-or-Treat
- The department continues its work with our Gerrish Township Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- The department hosted our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Outing and fundraiser at the Redwood Golf Course which netted \$3,928.94 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township.
- The department hosted a “Glow Golf” Fundraiser at Ye Olde Country Club where we raised a total of \$1,492.14 towards our continued benevolent activities yearly in the Township.
- This year’s Annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Michigan Special Olympics raised \$2,300.00 toward the project for our local and state athletes.
- Additionally, the department delivered our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Shop-With-A-Cop program providing Christmas for 7 full families with 18 children and 9 adults were served with an expense of \$4,560.00.
- GTPD and CERT assisted the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries with their monthly Food Distributions servicing 2736 families and 6053 individuals and distributed 212,664 pounds of food.
- We continued our partnership with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council in collecting and properly disposing of the collected discarded prescription drugs. We are currently averaging over 100 lbs. a year that are discarded in our drug drop box.

## **STATISTICS AND INFORMATION OF INTEREST**

The Gerrish Township Public Safety Team generated various responses to 3053 Events/Calls for Service per Central Dispatch statistics.

## **GERRISH TOWNSHIP FIRE / EMS**

The Gerrish Township Fire / EMS is commanded by Chief Jim Fisher

- The department saw a huge increase in calls for service. 88 additional calls over any year in the past, that's an increase of 16% over last year.
- During this past year the department has started looking at long-range planning for facility needs. A committee of department staff, community members, planning commission and board members met several times, reviewed our current facilities, and looked at future needs for the department.
- During the year the department applied for several grants to replace or refurbish the Safety Education Trailer and are working with the Grayling City and Township FD and the Richfield Township FD on this project.

## **FACILITIES REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS**

- The flooring in the kitchen/meeting room was replaced. The old brown worn out carpet and tile were replaced with an industrial vinyl flooring.
- The department members also donated their time to paint the entire kitchen/meeting room, offices, and doors.
- The cement entryway pad at the south door and the front garage apron were becoming a safety hazard and were removed and replaced.
- Ambulance #232 has been replaced this year and was a 2008 Chevrolet with approximately 110,000 miles. The new Ambulance is a 2021 Ford F350 truck chassis with an updated box design to better fit our operational needs.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

We recently signed an agreement with First Due an incident reporting and response application. This product will replace several of our current web-based tools.

## **STAFFING**

Paramedic/Firefighter	8
Paramedic	2
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	2
EMT/Firefighter	6
Firefighter II	7
Fire Officer III	3
EMS Instructor Coordinator	5
Firefighters Training Council Instructor	2
Ice Rescue Technician	11

EMS and Fire Calls for Service			
Year:2021			
<b>EMS</b>		<b>Fire</b>	
Medical	318	Structure	6
Trauma/Accident	115	Wildland	5
Medical assist	49	Powerline	43
Standby	6	Vehicle Accident/Fire	27
Cancelled	18	Gas Leak	8
Alarms	8	Standby	10
<b>Total:</b>	<b>514</b>	Alarms/Good Intent	16
		Ice/Water/Other Rescue	4
<b>Intercept</b>	<b>45</b>	Public Education	8
<b>Non-Transport</b>	<b>136</b>	Assist EMS/Police	5
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>132</b>
<b>Mutual Aid</b>		<b>76</b>	

- The department has been working closely with other fire departments from both Roscommon and Crawford Counties to improve mutual aid response.

**Listed below are many of the events that we hosted or participated in during 2021:**

- ❖ Higgins Lake Sunrise Run
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade in the Village
- ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> of July standby at South Higgins Lake State Park
- ❖ Gerrish Fire/EMS Department Open House
- ❖ Firemen's memorial Service, past chiefs John Patchin and Ralph Deslover names placed on wall
- ❖ EMS Stand-By at Roscommon High School Football Games
- ❖ Fire Prevention Week at area Schools
- ❖ Gerrish Township Trunk or Treat
- ❖ Northern Michigan Children's Assessment Center (Christmas Tree Auction)
- ❖ 52 smoke detector and 24 carbon monoxide detectors were distributed and installed
- ❖ 2 CPR and AED training for local groups
- ❖ Assisted with Roscommon Area Food Distribution throughout the year
- ❖ Rotary downtown cleanup

Stuff the Ambulance (December) – Raised over \$800 and a large quantity of infant and child supplies for the Crawford-Roscommon Child Protection Council Baby Shower program

## **ACT NOW**

### **“Neighbors with Police...Caring Together for Our Community.”**

- Last year the ACT-NOW Annual meeting and Picnic was held at the Gerrish Township Community Park Marina. 70 residents attended.
- This past year, GTPD and ACT-NOW have partnered to award two graduating seniors of the Roscommon High School \$1000.00 scholarships each to the university/college of their choice.
- Shop-With-A-Cop
- Trunk-Or-Treat at the Middle School
- Kids Helping Kids Christmas
- Spring / Fall Road Clean-up

## **CERT (COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM)**

- Each month we assisted the Roscommon Area Christian Ministries' Food Distributions at the RAPS [Roscommon Area Public Schools] Bus Depot, by providing traffic control.
- Seven of our members attended CPR/AED training.
- Five of our members attended a virtual Pipeline Safety training meeting.
- Six of members attended First Aid Training.
- We helped with Safety and Traffic control at the annual Higgins Lake Sunrise Run.
- One of our members helped patrol the grounds for the Independence Day Fireworks.
- We had a Team Training session in August, where ten of our members participated.
- Four of our team members assisted with the Law Enforcement Torch Run.
- Five CERT members assisted with traffic control at the Michigan Firemen's Memorial Parade.
- We had six members help with traffic crowd and traffic control at the Roscommon Bucks Homecoming Parade.
- Seven CERT members assisted at the Gerrish Township Trunk or Treat event.
- Six helped at Christmas in the Village.

## **SANITARY SEWER PROJECT**

The GLUA (Gerrish Lyon Utility Authority) continues to gather information relating to a sanitary sewer project. Last year in August and October, the GLUA held two special meetings at the Roscommon High School Auditorium. Presenters at these meetings were representatives from our engineering team, scientists, municipal advisors, GLUA board members and legal representatives. Over 200+ residents attended each meeting. In addition, the GLUA board has continued to hold monthly special public meetings to discuss the business at hand, and residents in attendance asked questions of our engineers and guest speakers. All Gerrish Township residents received sewer project information as a part of the Gerrish Gazette that is

included in the summer and winter tax bills. Everyone wants to know what are the next steps? When the work of the GLUA and both Gerrish and Lyon Township Boards have completed their work, all property owners within the final sewer service area will receive a letter from the township that will give property owners the complete cost breakdown of the project.

David Udy / Gerrish Township Supervisor