

State of Michigan
Chippewa County
Sugar Island Township

State of the Township

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Sugar Island Township Supervisor*

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Order of Presentation

- *Where have we been?*
- *Where are we now?*
- *Where do we want to be?*
- *Goals & Objectives.*

Where have we been?

- Weak Transition of Government
- New Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer with Limited Experience (Nov20)
- Elected with a mandate to make significant changes.
 - Pending Litigation was Terminated (Hann)
 - Purchasing Process Overhauled (Eff. April 1, 2021)
 - Conflicts of Interest Addressed
- Assumed an Unbalanced Budget & Undisciplined Spending Practices
- Former Attorney Quits

Where have we been?

- Planning Commission was Dysfunctional
- Survived the Restrictions of COVID-19 Without Trauma (Zoom, etc)
- Forced to:
 - Make Last Minute Decisions on Plowing
 - Empty the Septic Tank, Clear Backup
 - Deal with Late Reporting to State Treasurer*
 - Deal with Unfinished Maintenance Projects at the Hall
 - Deal with a Dirty, Unsanitary Kitchen

Where have we been?

- Financial Audit Findings in Previous Years:
 - 2009. 5 Material, 11 Significant, 4 Statutory
 - 2011. 7 Material, 1 Significant, 3 Statutory, 4 Other
 - 2013. 0 Material, 11 Significant, 1 Statutory
 - 2015. 1 Material, 8 Significant, 3 Statutory
 - 2017. 1 Material, 9 Significant, 3 Statutory
 - 2019. 1 Material, 6 Significant, 2 Statutory

Quote from Page 50, 2019 Audit Report: “Audit reports are to be filed with the Michigan Department of Treasury within six months after the end of the fiscal year being audited. However, the Michigan Department of Treasury has required the Township to obtain audits annually until the reported deficiencies are rectified and timely audits are filed.” (Report Dated January 13, 2020)

Where are we now?

- Have to Fill One More Spot in our Standing Committees (April 2021)
- Selected New Attorney
- Adjusting to Restrictions of COVID-19 Without Trauma (Zoom, Hall Capacity, Community Meals)
- Cleaned Facility Including Kitchen, Set Higher Expectations
- Have Current Issues With:
 - Empty the Septic Tank at North Park
 - Update Park & Recreation Ordinance (April)
 - Deal with Unfinished Maintenance Projects at the Hall

Where are we now?

- Have to Fill More Spots to Fill in our Special Committees (Beautification and Personnel)
- Scheduling Broadband Committee Meeting in April.
- Conduct a Public Hearing on April 8, 2021 to address upcoming millage renewals.
- Final Reconciliation of 2020-2021 Budget Today
- Present a New Balanced Budget for 2021-2022 Today
- Based on a Review of the 2019 Report, We Are Likely to have at Least One Material Weakness, and Multiple Significant Deficiencies in the Upcoming Audit.

Where are we now?

- Preparing Priority List for Ditching for CCRC (Turning In by May 1st)
- Meeting Facilitation is Improving –Meetings are Lasting One Hour
- Minutes are Improving with more Detail
- Website is Improving with more Content & Detail
- Maintenance and Repair Projects with the Plow, Hall Tables, and Office Lighting have been completed in last 30 days.

Where Do We Want to Be?

- Update Master Plan (Recommended Every 5 Yrs)
- Update Zoning Ordinances
- Update Non-Zoning Ordinances
- Maximize Transparency with a User-Friendly Website Including More Detail and Content.
- Establish a Comprehensive Inventory & Maintenance Program for all major pieces of equipment.
- Purge all Extraneous or Unnecessary Equipment

Where Do We Want to Be?

- Reduce Operational Expenses without Sacrificing Service to Allow the Growth of Fund Balances in All Six Funds.
- Build Solid Waste Fund Balance to Exceed \$250,000 to Add a Larger Paved Area, a Water Line and new Safety Equipment.
- Build Fire Fund Balance to Exceed \$400,000 to Permit the Purchase of a Newer Tanker.
- Build Ambulance Fund Balance to \$300,000 to Permit the Building of Separate Male & Female Sleeping Areas.
- Grow General Fund Balance to \$250,000 to permit the addition of space for a multi-media center/library and audio-visual equipment storage area.

Where Do We Want to Be?

- Bring Broadband Internet to the Island so that our children have every competitive, educational advantage available to their peers on the mainland.
- Will ask Planning Commission to consider creating a five year strategic plan to improve roads on the Island.
- Repair and sustain improved relationships with the County, the CCRC, the City, the DNR, EUPTA and the Coast Guard.
- Reduce the Instances Where the Township is Involved in Picking Winners and Losers, Especially When Conflicts between Neighbors Exist.

Where Do We Want to Be

- Establish and Utilize a Detailed Set of Administrative Workbooks that Outline Each Board Member's Duties, Responsibilities, and Operational Functions Especially the Supervisor, Clerk and Treasurer.
- Establish and Utilize a Personnel Handbook that Outlines the Process of Hiring, Training, and Evaluating Sugar Island Township Employees.
- Establish and Utilize a Brochure to Help Sugar Island Residents Clear Their Land of Old Vehicles.
- Establish a Business Friendly Environment, Especially if those Businesses Reduce the Need for Travel to the Mainland.

Goals & Objectives

- Focus on the Big Rocks First, then the Pebbles, then the Sand.
- Become the Most Technically Competent General Law Township Government in Chippewa County
- Create an Environment Where All Resources of the Township Are Used Exclusively to Benefit the Township, NOT Individuals, Groups, or Office Holders.
- Have No Material Weaknesses, Significant Deficiencies, or Statutory Violations in our Annual Audit Findings.
- Restore Honesty, Dignity, Integrity and Transparency to Sugar Island Government.