



Hayes Township SENTINEL

Keeping Watch and Shining Light on the Politicians and Political News of Hayes Township

Published Monthly and Mailed Free to all Residences of Hayes Township, Charlevoix County

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SEPTEMBER 2026

AUGUST BOARD OF TRUSTEE RECAP:

Fire Contract & Summer Property Tax Deadline

The Hayes Township Board of Trustees met on Monday, August 10th. They had a very small agenda and were able to finish business in under an hour.

Treasurer Julie Collard reminded residents that all summer property tax bills

are due by Monday, September 14th. She will be in the office from 9am-5pm that day to process tax payments.

Supervisor Bill Conklin once again shared that no application for any Data Center has been submitted to Hayes

Township. The Data Center Advisory Committee has been working on a draft recommendation to present to the Planning Commission with recommendations on what to include in a strong ordinance.

The board members discussed the updated draft of the 2026/2027 Fire Contract. They were satisfied with the changes that had been made at the July meeting and voted to submit it to Charlevoix Township.

AUGUST PLANNING COMMISSION RECAP:

Shoreline Landscape Plans & PUD Amendment

The August Planning Commission meeting featured as main topics a shoreline landscape plan approval and a re-hearing of a proposed PUD amendment request. Additionally, the normal public comment sessions were held.

The shoreline landscape plan dealt with a Birdland property which was being replaced on an older developed lot that was recently granted a variance for the project. The PC reviewed the updated plan submitted by the land-

scape firm that contained additional information on plantings and feedback from the Tip of the Mitt member of the subcommittee. After a review, the submitted plan was approved.

The PUD amendment public required re-hearing was the result of a challenge to the initial noticing process. The PC in July decided that it was better to be conservative on the issue and asked for the hearing to be re-noticed.

After the presentation of the proposed change of project from 44

condominium units to 16 single family homes and clarification from the zoning administrator, public comment from the audience were primarily the concerns of the owners of existing condos. These focused on a construction timeline and the location of the initial four houses in the development. Concerns over landscaping, traffic and road maintenance during and after the project, repaving an existing cart path, a construction bond increase and also a rise in common element contribu-

tions were raised. Finally, Bill Conklin raised the issue of whether this should be considered an amendment to an existing PUD or a new PUD application.

After much discussion regarding the difference between subjects which the PC could consider under the ordinance versus issues that are negotiating points between the parties, the PC opted to seek guidance from the township attorney on the question raised by Mr. Conklin. If necessary, another public hearing could be scheduled.

NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER:

The township recently received mail at the hall that was intended for the Sentinel. The staff gave the mail to me, the publisher. I had to chuckle at the messages the unidentified sender chose to share, and it was no surprise to see that they had not only sent their message to the wrong address, but

they are grossly misinformed.

The Hayes Township Sentinel does NOT use taxpayer money. Generous donations from local donor's fund 100% of the cost of publication. It is an independent local paper that is dedicated to shining light and truth on all local issues and news in Hayes Town-

ship. I publish the truth, like it or not, so our residents can be aware of the decisions being made by the people they elect in our township. We want to cut through the small-town misinformation and tell our neighbors what is happening and how it affects them. For any future correspondence, our

address is:

Hayes Township Sentinel
PO Box 581
Charlevoix, MI 49720

--David Zipp, Hayes Township
Sentinel Publisher

Come to the Hayes Township Meetings!

9195 MAJOR DOUGLAS SLOAN RD. • CHARLEVOIX

Board of Trustee Monday, September 14 @ 7:00 pm

Planning Commission Tuesday, September 22 @ 7:00 pm

Summer Property Taxes due by Monday, September 14th

CONTACT
YOUR
OFFICIALS

SUPERVISOR Bill Conklin 231-373-0059

CLERK Kristin Baranski 231-547-6961

TREASURER Julie Collard 231-547-6961

TRUSTEE Doug Kuebler 906-298-1416

TRUSTEE Matt Cunningham 231-881-1533

NEVER FORGET

The Lives Sacrificed at Abbey Gate



August 26, 2021

The Fallen Service Members

*The 13 fallen service members included 11 Marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Army soldier.
The complete roster and details of the fallen personnel can be found in the referenced documents, including:*

Navy Corpsman: Maxton W. Soviak

Army Staff Sgt.: Darin T. Hoover

Marine Corps Sgt.: Nicole L. Gee

Marine Corps Personnel and Lance Corporals: Johanny Rosario Pichardo, Taylor Hoover, Hunter Lopez, Daegan W. Page, Humberto A. Sanchez, David L. Espinoza, Jared M. Schmitz, Rylee J. McCollum, Dylan R. Merola, and Kareem M. Nikoui.

Greedy Unreasonable Demands Cloud Resident Judgement

I sat thought the August PC meeting and watched an appalling display of neighbors trying to spend other people's money. It is sad commentary on how far our society has fallen.

The meeting started with public comments, including the usual lecture from our self-appointed expert on how things are being done wrong. She never fails to find fault and it seems she would complain if she won the lottery that it had not being done correctly.

Other speakers focused their comments on the topics at hand and spoke cogently of their concerns.

Last month, the topic of changing a project scope at the Fairways Condos development from all 4-unit condo buildings to single family homes was widely praised as a welcome step forward in completing a project that has languished for years. Our own supervisor spoke with approval of the project and looked forward to see-

ing it done. There was one person, a lawyer of course, who spoke against the project and raised a technical issue on noticing the hearing. The PC did the right thing and chose to re-notice and re-hear the proposal for safety's sake. At that time questions that were raised by the condo owners were directed to the developer and they were requested to try to resolve them amicably before the next meeting.

What a difference a month makes. The condo owners elected a new board and chose the complainer to be the board leader. He brought in a new slate of concerns and rallied the owners to change their tune to seeking concessions from the developer.

Now, the developers are being told

where to build, to pave certain areas, plant trees, change the lot to fit their idea of what space should be between a condo and garage should be. It is being demanded that they add money to the common maintenance

Planning Commission to get their demands accepted. They have no ownership over the property under review, yet they want to control how it is developed. They share an access road and a mailbox location. They are

using all the lawyer-ish strategies they can come up with to delay and confuse the issues as much as possible.

It is a shame that some self-important people think that they should be able to tell others how to spend their money

and use their property. Although, if these past few years have taught us anything, I'm not surprised to hear this nonsense from the small faction of residents who think their viewpoint is the only viewpoint that counts.

Let's call a spade a spade: this is a clear money grab by the condo owners. They are trying to use the Planning Commission to get their demands accepted.

pot, as well as post a huge bond in case the new construction does not sell. The owners presented a whole list of concerns and suggestions.

Let's call a spade a spade: this is a clear money grab by the condo owners. They are trying to use the

Do you look forward to the Hayes Township Sentinel in your mailbox each month?

**Do you like to keep up with the current events and
news of Hayes Township?**

**Is knowing the truth about decisions being made and
taxpayer money being WASTED important to you?**

The Sentinel is committed to continue to provide the most current news and events in Hayes, and keep our community aware of important topics.



**DONATIONS ARE WELCOME TO SUPPORT OUR
FREE MONTHLY PUBLICATION:**

Hayes Township Sentinel
P.O. Box 581
Charlevoix, MI 49720

Thank you for helping us continue to shed light on the truth in our community.



OPINIONS

Shining Light on Political News

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Personal Issues Cloud Professional Responsibilities

Is Bill Conklin Going to Sue Hayes Township Again?

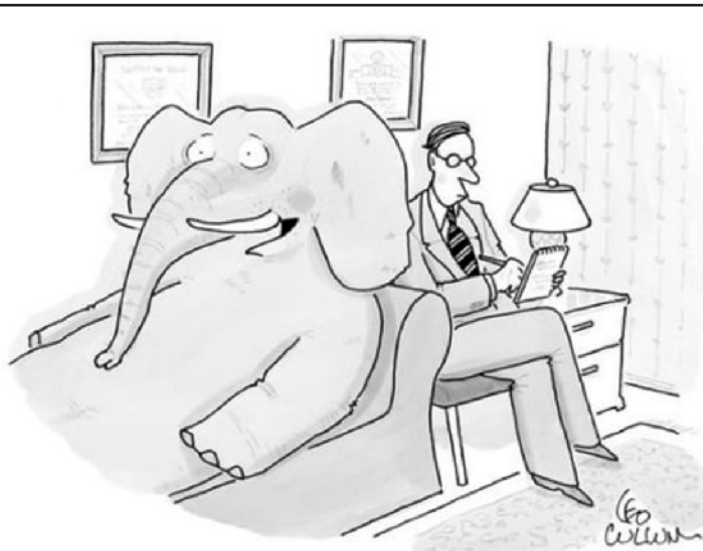
William Conklin signed an oath of office to perform in the best interest of the township. Before taking office, he filed a lawsuit against the township. It is still not fully resolved. This nonsense has cost taxpayers almost \$37,000.

After the judge threw him out, he sued the township taxpayers again. He appealed to the state and his lawsuit is still pending in the court of appeals.

Conklin has written a letter to the Hayes Township Planning Commission and has indicated that he has objections of the proposed project near where he lives and that if his personal objections and demands are not considered and approved "it will have to be resolved in court". In a recent Planning Commission meeting he spoke at public comment and again threatened legal action against the Township.

Personal interest seems to be a common theme in his township criticism. Where is his support of township commissions, boards, staff? How long do we let this continue? He has sworn to protect the township as a whole. Just when the community has a little taste of unity, he shows his true colors, and flips a bird to the taxpayers, and shows everyone that it is only his self-interest that matters. He has already driven DeWitt Marine out of the township, feel free to ask the owner.

And he clearly indicated that growing attorney bill you as taxpayers have to pay is "not his concern." His recent work has been on enforcing more regulation on our community. We don't need more government control, especially regarding issues that have little to no impact on the majority of our residents.



"I'm right there in the room, and no one even acknowledges me."

Hayes Township
Principles of Governance

To maintain the highest standards and traditions of Michigan townships, we embrace these principles to guide our stewardship, deliberations and constituent services as we commit to safeguard our community's health, safety and general welfare.

We pledge to:

- Insist on the highest standards of ethical conduct by all who act on behalf of this township
- Bring credit, honor and dignity to our public offices through collegial board deliberations and diligent, appropriate responses to constituent concerns
- Actively pursue education and knowledge, and embrace best practices
- Treat all persons with dignity, respect and impartiality, without prejudice or discrimination
- Practice openness and transparency in our decisions and actions
- Cooperate in all reasonable ways with other governmental entities and consider the impact our decisions may have outside our township's borders
- Communicate to the public township issues, challenges and successes, and welcome the active involvement of stakeholders to further the township's well-being
- Strive for compliance with all state and federal statutory requirements
- Refuse to participate in any decisions or activities for personal gain, at the expense of the best interests of the township
- Further the understanding of the obligations and responsibilities of American citizenship, democratic government and freedom

These principles we pledge to our township, our state and our country.

William Conklin, Supervisor
Kristin Baranski, Clerk

Julie Collard, Treasurer
Doug Kuebler, Trustee
Matt Cunningham, Trustee

Date: April 13, 2026

MICHIGAN TOWNSHIPS ASSOCIATION

Hayes Township Board Members signed this Ethics Pledge. Pay extra attention to the 9th item on this pledge. "Refuse to participate in any decisions or activities for personal gain, at the expense of the best interest of the township." Is it in the best interest of the township to threaten a 2nd lawsuit against the tax payers? He may make public statements as a resident, and has every right to an opinion, however, he is the current Supervisor. How can Conklin make balanced decisions in his capacity on the board without his personal opinion clouding judgement? His decision needs to be: Do I want to be the Supervisor or do I want to step down and be ANOTHER resident who drains the township with lawsuits?