



State of Michigan
Chippewa County
Sugar Island Township

State of the Township

*Presentation by Mark S. Eitrem
Sugar Island Township Supervisor*

March 27, 2024

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Order of Presentation

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

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Where have we been?

- Transition/Election of First Term Clerk, Supervisor & Treasurer
- Inhibited by Response to COVID-19 Pandemic
- No Purchase Policies
- No Administrative Policies
- Number of Qualified EMS Volunteers is Decreasing
- Outdated Community Center Policies
- Unimpressive Audit Results
- New Auditor has been Hired

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Where are we now?

- Two Standing Committees have Vacancies (BOR is full)
- Administrative Policies in Place
- SOPs for Ambulance & Fire are Operational
- New Community Center Policies are in Place
- Master Plan Update Approved with Improvements Planned in Street Lighting, Ongoing Road Improvement Plan, Pavement Marks are Scheduled, and Broadband is Planned for 2024 & 2025
- Youth Group has Added a New Playscape to the North Westshore Park
- All Recent Millage Requests have been Approved

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Where are we now?

- Millage Renewals were Passed in 2023 at Highest Level.
- Final Reconciliation of 2023-2024 Budget Today
- Present a New Balanced Budget for 2024-2025 Today
- Upcoming Audit in March 2025 is Likely to Include Fewer Deficiencies.
- Increasing Safety-New Street Lights to be Added
- New Playground Initiated & Playground Set is Installed
- Turned Liquor Oversight Responsibility to County
- Rock Garden in Community Center Parking Lot has Been Removed
- Agreement to Restructure Ambulance & Fire Departments is Pending

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Where Do We Want to Be?

- Execute Master Plan (Including Broadband, Street Lighting, Pavement Marks, Roads Paving, Etc.)
- Update Zoning Ordinances (Where Applicable)
- Update Non-Zoning Ordinances (Where Applicable)
- Establish a Comprehensive Inventory & Maintenance Program for All Major Pieces of Equipment.
- Build Children Playground Adjacent to Community Center

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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.

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Where Do We Want to Be?

- Bring Broadband Internet to the Island so that Every Resident Residing at every E911 Address has access to Highspeed Internet thereby providing Islanders every competitive and educational advantage available to their peers on the mainland.
- Will ask Planning Commission to consider creating a strategic plan to improve roads on the Island.
- Continue to Improve and sustain relationships with the County, the CCRC, the City, the DNR, EUPTA and the Coast Guard.

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Where Do We Want to Be

- 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 Property of Old Vehicles, House Trailers, etc.
- Establish a Business-Friendly Environment, Especially if those Businesses Reduce the Need for Travel to the Mainland and Promotes Full Employment of All Employable Islanders.
- Reduce the Instances Where the Township is Involved in Picking Winners and Losers, Especially When Conflicts Between Neighbors Exist.

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Goals & Objectives

- 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.
- Continue to Focus Efforts Toward Improving the Values of Honesty, Dignity, Integrity and Transparency to Sugar Island Government.
- Use remaining ARPA funds for water & septic project at the Solid Waste Transfer Station

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