



City of Otsego Agenda

A Publication of the City of Otsego

Spring/Summer 2023

Public Safety Millage

City Manager Aaron Mitchell

On May 2nd there will be a ballot question for you to consider. It is to "Repeal and Replace" the existing 2 mills for Public Safety with 4 mills. This is in direct response to the need to change the staffing model in the Otsego Fire Department from an on-call firefighter response model to a staffed station model. This is needed from the steady increase in medical calls for the recent years. In 2022, the OFD ran on 1,238 calls! 76% of those calls were medical calls. The OFD on-call firefighters have always been where the responsibility falls. However, 1,238 pager tones, is a lot! That is long past the breaking point for switching to a staffed station model. A staffed station would have one firefighter on site at the fire station 24/7 who is ready to respond to the calls during their shift. The City of Otsego cannot afford to switch the staffing model without any additional revenues. If the Public Safety millage is approved then we will begin plans to create a staffed station model with one of the following options:

- 3 full-time employees, (or)
- 4-hour shifts covered by the current OFD firefighters, (or)
- A combination of options 1 and 2

Unfortunately if the millage is not approved, it would require for cuts to be made to the OFD budget. At 76% of the costs; medicals would have to be where those cuts are made. The OFD would only respond to fire, accidents and wires down calls. That means that when you call 911 for a medical emergency, only the ambulance would be responding. It is very important for everyone to know the effect of this upcoming millage. Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. If you have any election needs such as registering to vote or requesting an absentee ballot, reach out to City Clerk Angie Cronen.



HYDRANT FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Otsego Water Department will flush all fire hydrants April 24 - May 5. This is done to remove any stale water that may be in the system and ensure that the fire hydrants are working properly. You may experience some reduced pressure and discoloration during this process. If discoloration occurs, let your water run until it clears.



CITY OF OTSEGO'S PLANNING COMMISSION MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Purpose of this Survey is to give recommendations to the Planning Commission for the Master Plan which sets forth recommendations in regards to the City's Zoning for the next 10-20 years.

Surveys are available on the City's Website (cityofotsego.org); City's Facebook Page; QR Code, Copies at City Hall & Otsego Public Library. Please call City Hall if you would like a survey mailed to you at 269-692-3391



If you Have any Questions
Please contact
City Manager
AARON MITCHELL
Phone: 269-692-3391
Fax: 269-692-2643
AMITCHELL@cityofotsego.org



CITY OF OTSEGO ELECTION May 2, 2023

The polls will open at City Hall at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m.

If you are not Registered to Vote, visit City Hall.

Call the City Clerk if you want to verify your Voter Status!

Absentee Applications are available at City Hall, if you are on the Permanent Absentee Voter's List, you should have received your Application and a postage paid envelope to return the Application.

If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk, Angela Cronen at 692-3391.

DOOR TO DOOR SALES

Remember to make sure that the salesperson has a signed permit from the City. Just a reminder that the City is in no way endorsing any of the salespersons or their products by signing the permit. The signed permit only means that they filled out the proper paperwork and a background check has been completed, per the City's Ordinance. If you have a complaint - call the Police Department 692-6111, or City Hall 692-3391.



RECYCLE PICK-UP IS THE FIRST AND THIRD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH



"The City of Otsego Citizen's Guide, Performance Dashboard, Debt Service Report and Projected Budget Report are available for viewing at the Otsego City Hall or online at www.cityofotsego.org."

CITY HALL WILL BE CLOSED May 29, July 4, & Sept. 4, 2023

City Manager's View



City Manager
Aaron Mitchell

Resurfacing of Dix & Washington Streets

This summer, starting immediately after the 4th of July holiday, Dix and Washington Streets will be receiving a complete resurfacing. A dearly needed resurfacing at that! The scope of the project will include Washington Street from the west end of the city limits and will run the full distance of Washington and Dix St. to Allegan St. (M89). These streets are vital to our City. They have residential properties along with significant industry and four schools along this stretch. The schools being out of session is the reason the work is scheduled when it is. The contractors are confident that this project will be completed before schools open. Considering the nature of the project there should not be any extended closures.

The City of Otsego will receive \$396K in grant funding from MDOT's Small Urban program for the completion of this project. Dix St. and Washington St. are two of the few eligible streets within the federal aid highway map; which is a requirement for this funding option. The other eligible streets include Farmer (which was resurfaced in 2017) and River (which will be resurfaced in 2029).

I appreciate everyone's patience with Dix St. and Washington St. for the past few years. This project has been scheduled for many years now, knowing that 2023 was the only time this grant money would be available for this project. These roads are in rough shape! We have tried to repair when it made sense without wasting money knowing the asphalt will be milled up this year. But, those days are soon behind us. By the end of summer you will be seeing the beautiful new black asphalt and the ride will be smooth as silk! You will find small improvements to some sections of sidewalks as well. All adjacent sidewalks will be ADA compliant at the project's completion as well. If you have any questions or concerns, as always feel free to give me a call or an email. And again thank you for your patience with this stretch of road.

City Mission Statement and City Motto

We have been in the process of creating a Mission Statement for all of the public services that we provide the community. It has

been on the backburner for over a year and a half, but we finally have it across the finish line! Mission Statements are important. They not only remind us what our role is, but also informs everyone else exactly what we do. Mission Statements should state "what" we do and "how" we do it. The City of Otsego's new Mission Statement is:

"The City of Otsego strives to provide excellent and friendly public services to its residents, business owners and visitors. With measures of success being public health and safety, quality recreation, inclusion, innovation, stewardship and economic vitality for all today and tomorrow."

In the 1st sentence take notice of the intentional use of the word "strive" for the amount of effort we put into our work and the words "excellence" and "friendly" demonstrate the level of service we are expecting to offer. The 2nd sentence should be viewed as a hierarchy of the services we provide. Starting with a foundation of public health and safety and including many positive goals such as "inclusion" and "stewardship" and ending in "economic vitality" which is the sign of a highly functioning community. We are excited to have a Mission Statement that we can use as a compass to make sure that we are staying on track of our City expectations and goals.

As for the Motto...

This is a much less technical procedure. It is utilized in marketing efforts and is something that should catch everyone's eye and draw them to Otsego. There are many different ways to look at this. The Motto should be relevant and inviting in today's society. We went over many options, and we decided to have as wide of an approach as possible. The City of Otsego offers a wide range of positives that should be highlighted such as the safe residential neighborhoods, quality large employers, welcoming environment, small town experience near large metropolitan centers as examples. We wanted to have a Motto that includes all of our assets and is general in nature while making it rather unique. This should keep its relevance for years to come. We have come up with: **"The greatest small town in Michigan!"** It is bold. However, I am confident many who live, work or just enjoy Otsego agrees with that statement. Otsego is special and we should not be afraid to make such a bold statement as that. Plus, we were recently listed as a top small town in Michigan by a magazine. I would say that they were close by putting us in the top 5, but we should have been listed as #1!



OTSEGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

Fire Chief, Brandon Weber

It is March 20th, 2023 as I write this, and Spring is just around the corner, hopefully for good this time. It's been an interesting winter to say the least, with SNOW-MELT-REPEAT having been the name of the game. In the last 3 days we've gone from a Winter Weather Advisory with high winds and blowing snow to 48 degrees and sunny!

The Otsego Fire Department has run 286 calls already for the year, an average of 3.77 calls per DAY. To put that into historical perspective, in 1995, it took until October 21st to reach that many calls; in 2000, it took until July 31st; in 2005, July 25th; in 2010, May 28th; in 2015, May 26th; in 2020, May 2nd; and last year, April 15th!

The department has been using a partially staffed station model, providing coverage with one (1) Firefighter on duty from 8am until Midnight, seven days a week since January 29th, 2023. This has allowed the department to have a 1-2 minute "chute" time (length of time from being dispatched to responding to the call) rather than a 4-5 minute "chute" time when paid-on-call personnel have to respond in to the station from whatever activities they were doing. This means we are arriving on scene much faster and are able to initiate care & treatment that much more quickly.

As call volume continues to climb, the Otsego Fire Department seeks ways to continue providing high quality Firefighting, Technical Rescue, and Emergency Medical care to the community, and retain Firefighters.

CITY OF OTSEGO'S WEBSITE



For up to date information regarding the City of Otsego, visit our website at:

<https://www.cityofotsego.org>

[City of Otsego, Michigan | Facebook](#)

The City also has a Facebook Page that you can follow for information. Public Notices are published in the Union Enterprise, as legally required. Please check our website regularly for updates. If you have any questions, please feel free to call City Hall at 692-3391; or email a Department Head.

GARAGE SALES

Don't forget to obtain your garage/yard sale permit before having a sale. Cost of the permit is \$1.00 and may be obtained at the City Clerk's Office. Each residence is permitted two sales per year with a maximum duration of three days each.



PLEASE SEE THE CITY'S FIREWORK ORDINANCE ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE.

FRIENDLY REMINDERS - The City has many Ordinances that you might not be aware of, here are a few that may be of interest to you: Barking Dog Ordinance, a tall grass ordinance, no open burning ordinance, and front yard parking ordinance, to name just a few. Ordinances can be found in detail on the City's website www.cityofotsego.org. The City also asks now that mowing season is here to please not blow yard clippings into the road, as they can plug the street drains and increase pollution in the rivers. Please feel free to contact City Hall if you have specific questions.



Police Chief, Brad Misner

There is plenty of change happening within the Otsego Police Department. From the policing activities to the officers who work in it; there is a lot that is changing. Throughout the spring we will be implementing more of our Community Policing efforts. The first step is making the School Resource Officer position permanent. Making this relationship permanent will be finalized in the coming weeks. It has been a great success and we want for that relationship with the Otsego Public Schools to continue.

Another new endeavor is the Otsego Police Department's Facebook page. This page will be used to share useful and important information with the community. Please like and follow us on Facebook.



Otsego Police Department - Michigan



With Spring finally here, we will see the lifting of the prohibition of night time parking on city streets come April 30th. The vanishing snow is always a blessing. It also allows for us to see

POLICE DEPARTMENT



the junk and rubbish that piled up over the winter. Please take some time to clean up any excess garbage on your property. Officers will be keeping an eye out for blight on properties within the city. City residents can use the transfer station for some of these items. Check out the City website for details on what recyclable materials the City takes at the transfer station free of charge. Even non-recyclable items can be taken to the transfer station at a very inexpensive cost. A reminder that you can pick up your Transfer Station pass that allows for one pickup truck load to be taken, free of charge at City Hall.



There is also a new face at the Otsego Police Department. Please help me in welcoming Benjamin "Ben" Gillion! Officer Gillion just graduated in 2022 from Grand Rapids Community College Police Academy and started his career with OPD on February 1, 2023. He is a great asset to the department as he brings positive energy, the drive to want to continue his learning, and his desire to be a part of a great team.

The department has room for growth. If you have the ability and desire to serve the great community of Otsego as a police officer, please contact our department to learn more about the exciting opportunities that await.



Visit the City's Website for more details on the City's recent Housing Study. This Housing Study will assist the City identify future housing needs.

<https://www.cityofotsego.org/city-of-otsego-housing-study-news/>

"THE GREATEST SMALL TOWN IN MICHIGAN!"

CITY OF OTSEGO CALENDAR

APRIL, 2023

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
4	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
10	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

MAY, 2023

1	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
2	ELECTION	7:00 A.M. - 8:00PM
2	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
2	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
4	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HALL
15	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
16	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
22	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
29	CITY HALL CLOSED - MEMORIAL DAY	

JUNE, 2023

1	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
2	CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
5	CITY COMMISSION -	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
6	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
12	DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY	7:30 A.M. CITY HAL
19	CITY COMMISSION -	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
20	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
26	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

JULY, 2023

3	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CURBSIDE BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
5	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY - DUE TO HOLIDAY	
6	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
17	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
18	BOARD OF REVIEW	10:00 A.M.
18	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
24	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

AUGUST, 2023

1	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
1	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
3	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
7	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
15	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
21	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
28	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

SEPTEMBER, 2023

4	CITY HALL CLOSED	
5	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
5	CITY BRUSH PICK-UP DAY	
6	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY ** DAY LATER DUE TO HOLIDAY	
7	CITY TRASH PICK-UP DAY	
8	CITY HALL HOLIDAY HOURS -	7:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
18	CITY COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL
19	CURBSIDE RECYCLING DAY	
25	PLANNING COMMISSION	7:00 P.M. CITY HALL

CITY CONTACTS

Police & Fire Emergency.....	911
Fire Non-Emergency.....	694-4390
Police Non-Emergency.....	692-6111
Chief of Police.....	692-6111
City Manager	694-6146
City Clerk	692-3391
Finance Director	692-2741
Dept. Public Works	694-6636

Website: www.cityofotsego.org



The Agenda is a quarterly publication of the
CITY OF OTSEGO

Stacey Withee.....	Mayor
Lauri Krueger.....	Mayor Pro-Tem
Wayne Rayburn.....	Commissioner
Chuck Moore Jr.....	Commissioner
Jason Smith.....	Commissioner
Aaron Mitchell.....	City Manager
Angela Cronen.....	City Clerk
Mike Bosch.....	DPW Supervisor
Luke Keyzer.....	WWTP Superintendent
Brad Misner.....	Chief of Police
Matthew Storbeck.....	Treasurer
Brandon Weber.....	Fire Chief
Lydia Paille.....	Assessor

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