

Fish Lake Township *NEWSLETTER*

Volume 4, Issue 1, October 1, 2004

OPEN HOUSE AND TOWN MEETING SCHEDULED

The Township Board of Supervisors invites our residents to stop by the Town Hall on Saturday morning, October 16th for our first ever Township Open House. Between 9 and 11 AM, the Supervisors and staff will have the office, hall and shops open, and our large equipment outside for a closer look than what you see as it passes your home. Bring the kids for a sit in the big International snowplow trucks, the CAT road grader, and the John Deere tractor. There will also be a North Branch fire truck, a Chisago Sheriff unit and an Emergency Medical Services unit. This is an opportunity to get your questions answered about public services for our Township. New residents are encouraged to come and get more familiar with your Township government. A map is provided on the back page. Voter registration and information about the upcoming general election will also be available. Coffee, juice and pastries will be provided.

Beginning at 11 AM following the open house, the Board will convene a special town meeting to talk about road improvement planning for our Township. At the March annual meeting, residents asked the Board to have a fall meeting to talk about the costs and benefits of beginning a program to pave roads in the Township. Though new, short roads that serve developments are required to be paved under Township policies, the Township has never paved an existing road. Increasing traffic volumes and costs to maintain gravel roads are suggesting that at some point there is better value in paving. We'll discuss possible criteria and mechanisms for funding. No decisions will be made at this meeting, but the Board expects to prepare a plan and recommendations for consideration at the next March annual meeting. Join us for this important discussion. Bring your opinions and experience. We'll try to be done by 12:30 PM.

SUMMER ROAD MAINTENANCE

Report of Supervisor Diane Larkin, this year's "Road Boss":

Well we've gone from frost boils in the spring to getting the plows ready for winter. In the middle has been a productive year. Fish Lake Township filled several frost boil problems with multiple truckloads of rock. Then came the monsoon season. Residents of 440th saw their road disappear. Gary Guse and his crew worked many hours and used the stockpile from the Town Hall to keep the road open and safe. Later Leaf Construction repaired the road and installed a new culvert. Bending Circle needed the road completely opened up to drain their water problems. This was also repaired when things dried up. In all, seven culverts were replaced in the Township. Then came the dry season and the dust. That dust, however, is what holds the gravel together. The Township chlorided five miles of high traffic roads to help preserve the gravel. We graveled 4.81 miles of road. North Branch Township graveled 2 miles of southern boundary roads for which we paid half. There were nine ditching projects completed this

Township Directory

Town Hall and Garage: 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, Minnesota, 55032

Phone 651-674-7709, Fax 651-674-8837, Email clerk@fishlaketownship.com

Clerk: Andrea Nekowitsch Public Hours: Friday, 9-11 AM Call ahead if possible

Supervisors: Chair, Bob Cupit, 651-674-4850 (term ends 3/07); Larry Freedlund, 651-674-4048 (term ends 3/05); Diane Larkin, 763-689-3417 (term ends 3/06)

Treasurer: Sharon McAndrew (term ends 3/05)

Meetings: Regular monthly meetings of the Board of Supervisors are at 7:00 PM every second Monday. Persons wishing to be placed on the action agenda must notify the Clerk by 10 AM on the previous Friday. An open public comment period is provided within the first hour of the meeting. No advance notice of public comment is required.

summer. Hydroseeding appears to be the way to establish ground cover on the steep backslopes. Manual broadcast works for the majority of the ditches. (NOW TO KEEP THE 4 WHEELERS, 2 WHEELERS, AND ATV'S OUT OF THE DITCHES!!!!) Gary is grading and Doug Rogers is mowing the ditches. Pat Devine is taking care of the Hall grounds and we're all getting ready for the Open House.

COUNTY LAND USE DISCUSSIONS

The Chisago County effort to update its comprehensive plan continues, with completion of the first phase of steering committee review. The township's Board chair serves on the steering committee along with representatives from across the county. This advisory group will not meet anymore. The report of the steering committee now goes to the County Planning Commission, which will integrate land use issues with other county plans for transportation, water, wastewater, parks/recreation and overlay districts (St. Croix and Sunrise Rivers). A main sticking point for the steering committee was whether to suggest an increase in the minimum lot size in the agricultural zone from the current 5 acres. A change to a 10-acre minimum was discussed but no agreement was reached. It is uncertain whether the County Planning Commission or the County Board will consider this further. The focus of the advisory group's report was to take a fresh look at the 1995 land use plan and come up with broad goals and policy recommendations that address development pressure and quality of life that residents expect. The report should be available on the County's Environmental Services webpage by mid-October. Watch for articles and notices of future meeting dates in the local papers if your interested is seeing how this plays out. It is important to know that the revised comprehensive plan is a set of guidelines that will inform a later effort to revise the county's zoning ordinances.

SNOWPLOWING POLICY

The Township's snowplowing policy is posted on our website at www.fishlaketownship.com.

TOWNSHIP LAKE ACCESSES

The Township has owned and minimally maintained two boat launches for many years, on Little Horseshoe Lake and Robour Lake. Conflicts have arisen that have required the Board to look at whether and how these will be maintained in the future. We are reviewing a number of options, but currently are making no changes.

NEW SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENT

Two new developments are underway in the Township. Prairie Ponds will have 17 lots (minimum five acres) and four parcels (minimum 20 acres) along North Pine and Amery. Goose Lake Meadows is 9 lots and 6 parcels along County Rd. 8 and 457th/460th. No new roads are required.

FIRE PROTECTION

The Board continues to work with the North Branch Fire Department to get a standpipe installed at the Big Horseshoe Lake public landing. This would provide a local year-round source of water for pumper units. Currently multiple water hauls have to be made from points outside the Township. We're told that this may help improve the fire service rating for our area and reduce insurance premiums.

As we approach the heating season, residents are reminded of the safety benefits of proper maintenance of furnaces and chimneys. Costs for fire service are based on the number of fire calls to our Township, so we can individually help by taking reasonable precautions. We have a higher incidence of calls in the fall and spring when brush and grass fires get out of control. Please follow the burning rules and use extra care.

NOVEMBER GENERAL ELECTION

Fish Lake, along with Nessel and Rusheba Townships, make up Chisago County District 5 and will vote for a County Commissioner seat in the November 2 general election. The two candidates have been invited to provide a statement here. Both plan to attend our Open House on October 16 at the Hall.

Mike Robinson

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you for the last four years as County Commissioner. I made one promise to you then as I do now and that is that I will try to do the best I can. One of my goals has been to pave all the county roads. Over the last four years we have paved Co. Rd. 65, Co. Rd. 60, Co. Rd. 63, and also half of Co. Rd. 10 from downtown Harris around the lake to Stark. We have made progress, but, as all of you know, Co. Rd. 62 and a section of Co. Rd. 61 is in need of great repair. As of now all of the roads in Fish Lake Township are paved except those two (61 and 62). My goal is to get both of those paved as soon as possible. When that happens it will be a happy day.

I voted against two of the major resolutions over the last two years. One was the \$6.5 million library bond. All three of the new libraries will be built in the southern half of the County. Also at a time with major cuts in our state aid. The taxpayers deserved better. The other motion I voted against was the late night resolution to put a building moratorium on thousands of acres. The moratorium vote was taken without being on the agenda and no prior public knowledge of it. It was bad government at its finest. Also it showed no respect to the landowners and farmers who built this county.

I'm on twenty different committees covering a wide range of topics. I have tried to do the best I can. If re-elected I will represent you well. If I don't get to see you as I go door to door, give me a call at 320-358-3223. Thanks again to all of you. Mike Robinson, PO Box 23, Rush City, MN 55069.

Bob Carter

Hello Residents of Fish Lake Township

One of the reasons I started the Fish Lake Newsletter was that it was a way to get information out to our residents. I'm running against Mike Robinson for the County Commissioner. I asked Board Chairperson Cupit if Mike and I could write something for the Newsletter.

I'm asking for a lot of support from the people in Fish Lake Twp. I feel that we accomplished a lot of good during the 6 years I was on the Town Board. We made a lot of changes in methods and policies and I'm proud that the current Board chooses to use and improve on the changes that were made.

Roads continue to be a concern, but the issue that has come up most often while talking with people is their frustration with the County's Zoning Policies. Equally important are the concerns of our senior citizens, public safety, and quality of life issues. The rapidly growing problem of Meth, which seems to be more of a rural thing, continues to demand a lot of attention.

It is my opinion the County has neglected to stay current in many areas. Now the challenge will be to get our infrastructure and service capabilities up to the level they should be at without simply raising taxes. I'm certain this can be done if we have positive, proactive leadership. I'm also certain there are solutions, we just need to do the research and see the bigger picture.

I would appreciate your support and would like an opportunity to discuss these and any other issues that you may have a question or concern about.

Please call me at 651 - 674 - 8790 or E-Mail me at bcarter817@aol.com

Please remember to vote on Nov.2, it is not only a responsibility, it is a privilege !!!!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUEST

We want to keep our mailing list for newsletters as current as possible. If residents would like to make a change in your address or know of someone who should be receiving the newsletter but is not, please inform Andrea with a phone message or email to clerk@fishlaketownship.com.

Representing Fish Lake Township	
Federal	US Congress, District 8, James Oberstar
State	Minnesota Senate, District 17, Sean Nienow (Cambridge) Minnesota House, District 17A, Rob Eastlund (Cambridge)
County	Board of Commissioners, District 5, Mike Robinson (Rush City) Planning Commission, District 5, Craig Mold (Rush City)



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Email clerk@fishlaketownship.com

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