

In this issue:

- Fire Contracts-1
- Blue Heron Tr.-1
- Park Committee-2
- Fall Clean-Up-2
- Town Hall-2
- Signs-2
- Projects-2
- Snow Plow Policy-3
- Candidate Bio-3
- Election Notice-4
- Hall Rental-4

Fire Contracts

by: *Corey Johnson*

Fire contracts have become a large part of our annual budget and over the past year we have committed more time to understanding them. We have been meeting quarterly with most of the Fire Dept.'s so we become more involved in their budgeting and express the concerns that we may have. I feel we played a big part in the direction that North Branch Fire Dept. took when they were looking at purchasing a new ladder truck. Instead of buying a brand new one the City Council told them they should be looking for a nice used one. I also feel in the last couple of years we, as townships, have become more of a partner with the Cambridge Fire Dept. and they have had more of an open book policy with us. All of our Fire Dept.'s (Cambridge, Rush City and North Branch) work hard to keep our township safe and provide a great service. However, we still need to keep our budgets down to save our taxpayers money. We are working toward implementing a policy that is more in line with MAT 's (Minnesota Association of Townships) recommendation on the formula we should be using to calculate appropriate fire service costs in our township. CFD is starting a committee with multiple townships to look at a future substation. We feel that this would potentially serve our township better since it would be closer to our township borders. CFD is also planning a concert (Fire on the Rum) this summer (June 15th) at the Isanti County Fairgrounds where some of the profits would go towards a substation so we as tax payers wouldn't have to pay as much towards a new facility. We have told them that we don't want to have to increase our budget to help pay for it. They are also looking into different options for reallocating funds they have already set aside for future purchases to help offset the expense.

Blue Heron Trail Update

by: *Bob Carter*

The bond is approximately at the half way point of its' 10 year amortization. We cooperated with Nessel Twp. and they filled the cracks on the whole length of the road. There has been concern about seal coating the road. This involves spraying a thin layer of an asphalt oil on the road surface. Then rock chips are spread over the oil. Rubber tired rollers are then used to embed the chips into the oil. Excess chips are swept up and hauled to the next job. The road was looked at with a seal coat contractor who advised us to wait a year or two. It would be more cost effective to allow more surface wear before applying the seal coat. We plan to seal coat this year and have budgeted the funds. We have talked with Caroline Drude, who works with a bond company, about refinancing the bond but it's too early. Originally, each of the 32 lots or parcels of land abutting the road was assessed \$8,000.00. The DNR owns one of the 32 parcels and they agreed to pay the \$8,000.00 assessment. We recently received a letter from the DNR stating that they were only going to pay \$4000.00 of the \$8,000.00 they had agreed to. After several discussions they sent copies of Statutes that say that they are not obligated to pay anything regardless of what they had agreed to. We have sent copies of all of the pertinent information to Senator Amy Klobuchar's Office asking for her help. As of this time we haven't heard from her office. The DNR has more recently agreed to pay \$5,000.00. It is too early to know how much of an impact a shortfall will have when the bond matures.

Twp. Park Committee

by: Robin Dial, FLT Park Contact Person

Several residents of Fish Lake Township have volunteered to meet, discuss and plan future park development in our Township since February, 2012. In July 2012, the Committee sent a post card out to all residents, inviting them to take a quick survey desiring feedback and welcoming any ideas and suggestions from them for future park development in our neighborhood. We got more than 50 responses back, many of whom were in favor of planning parks in our township. Some offered suggestions for future planning, including bike and walking trails. Some had questions about the source of the park funding and how it was going to be used.

The Township has acquired funds from the Chisago County Parks and Trails Land Acquisition and Development Fund specifically for the purpose of park development in our Township. These funds are contributed as a required fee for housing/land development within our township, and are **not** funds from our property taxes. They are used solely for the purpose of initial park development and can not be used for township business; for example, lowering property taxes, fixing roads, and/or renovating existing boat ramps and playgrounds.

Our initial plan is to develop a park/playground area at the town hall, to include an attached shelter, with additional tables, a grill and a port-a-potty and a surrounding playground. The members agreed that this will add value to our town hall, the neighborhood, and make renting our community room more enticing. The town hall is in a centralized location, and will provide a place for residents to participate in outdoor community recreation. An increase in the rental fee will be used to fund the on-going maintenance and the liability and insurance is already included in the township's insurance policy. We presented this proposed plan to the Town Board meeting on Monday, November 12, 2012. The Town Board Members unanimously voted in support of our plan.

Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.

Meetings start at 6 p.m. with scheduled agenda appearances beginning at 8 p.m.

We're on the Web!
See us at
www.fishlaketownship.com

Fall Clean-up Day

by: Diane Larkin

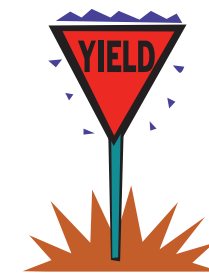
The fall clean up went great in spite of the weather. Having a clean up day every other year seems to be going well.



Town Hall

by: Diane Larkin

We have spruced up the town hall and replaced the lighting and ceiling tiles. The facility is for rent and comes equipped with a full kitchen, men and women's bathrooms, tables, chairs and heat/air conditioning. Call Andrea Nekowitsch at 320-358-3924 for more information and availability.



Signs

by: Diane Larkin

Many of the street signs in the southern half of the Township have been replaced. As you can tell they are much bigger than the old ones. The signs were a Federally mandated issue in which the cost was passed down to us. We are replacing the signs as needed. Eventually the whole Township will have the new bigger signs.

Projects

by: Diane Larkin

Centerline culverts were replaced on Andee Ave., Amery Ave., Deer Dr., Goose Lake Narrows, Cambridge Drive and 429th St. Ditching on Deer Drive and brushing was performed throughout the township. There were rocks placed along the shoreline near the bridge on Goose Lake Narrows.



Snow Plowing Policy

Fish Lake Township's goal is to have all roads passable within a reasonable amount of time after the snowfall has stopped. The Township does not assure a completely bare road surface and drivers are urged to use caution and drive with care. The legal speed limit may not be possible at all times.

SNOW REMOVAL PROCEDURES DISPATCHING OF SNOWPLOWS

Snowplow equipment will usually not be dispatched until after the snowfall has stopped and 4 inches of snow have accumulated except for when it has been determined that conditions would be detrimental to road surface. During extended periods of snowfall, exceptions may be made. The snowplow will not be sent out in situations that may be hazardous due to restricted visibility.

OPERATIONS

Clearing of roads will generally happen in three phases: 1) making the road passable; 2) widening; 3) cleaning up. Depending on the situation, more than one phase may be accomplished at one time.

PERSONAL PROPERTIES

A) Mailboxes and fences damaged during snow removal will be evaluated case by case. *Only those mailboxes properly located and installed* and damaged by actual contact with township equipment will be repaired at township expense.

B) Township residents are reminded that **it is unlawful to plow snow from driveways onto or across public roads**. Piles of snow left on or near the road can freeze into a solid mass creating a hazardous situation for vehicles and snowplows. Accidents and damages caused by snow piles left in or on the side of the roadway may result in liability to the property owner. Snow piles left on the side of a roadway increase the chances of drifting snow onto the road.

C) *Vehicles left or parked on the side of the road will be towed at the owner's expense after 48 hours.* Residents are reminded to remove all obstructions from the Township road right-of-ways.

Snow Plowing Policy Cont.

D) Township vehicles will not attempt to remove stuck vehicles from ditches, snow banks or any other impediment.

E) When requested by the county sheriff's department the Township will provide emergency snowplowing.

Amended by the Town Board

April 13, 2009

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk

2013 Candidate Bio

One person, Elvin Norling, has filed for Supervisor in the upcoming March 12th Township Election. Following is his submission.

Elvin J. Norling-Candidate for Township Supervisor

I have been a resident of Fish Lake Township since 1949. My wife, Wendy, and I have been married for 34 years and I have 6 children. I have farmed in this township all of my life. On March 1, 2011, I retired from the MN Department of Agriculture where I spent 25 years working as a Dairy Inspector. Now that I am retired, I feel that I have time to dedicate to serving the township. I have knowledge of roads, ditches and drainage and understand the importance of maintaining our roads and ditches to keep them in good condition and the ditches and right of way free of brush. I am running for Fish Lake Township Supervisor because I have a desire to serve the township by paying close attention to the budget and controlling costs while delivering the needed services. I feel that I relate well with people and have adequate knowledge of the workings of our local government.

Town Board

Bob Carter
bobcarter@fishlaketownship.com

Diane Larkin
dianelakin@fishlaketownship.com

Corey Johnson
coreyjohnson@fishlaketownship.com

Treasurer

Sharon McAndrew

Clerk

Andrea Nekowitsch
clerk@fishlaketownship.com

Employees

Gary Guse-Grader Operator
Doug Rogers-Part Time

Fish Lake Township
2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032

Phone
651-674-7709

Election Notice

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Fish Lake Township, County of Chisago, State of Minnesota, that the **Annual Election of Town Officers** and **Annual Township Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2013. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday in March. The Election poll hours will be open from 10am to 8 pm, at which time the voters will elect: One Supervisor – 3 year term. The annual meeting will commence at 8:05 pm to conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The annual meeting and election will be held at the Fish Lake Town Hall, 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032. The Board of Canvass will meet directly after the annual meeting on March 12, 2013 to certify the official election results.

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk, Fish Lake Township



Township Hall Rental

Did you know that you can rent the Hall at the Township for a nominal fee? Tables and chairs are available for use during the rental day. There is also a full kitchen with appliances and basic dishware, utensils, men and women's rest-rooms and air conditioning/heat. The next time you are having a special occasion or family get together consider the town hall. Pictures are available at www.fishlaketownship.com Call Andrea Nekowitsch at 320-358-3924 for pricing and availability

FISH LAKE TOWNSHIP
2170 BRUNSWICK ROAD
HARRIS MN 55032

STANDARD
US POSTAGE
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