

Fish Lake Township

Clean up & Recycling Day

**October 9, 2010
8 to Noon**

Mark your calendars as no other official notice will be sent. Signs will be up at the Town Hall

We will be unable to take "household hazardous waste (paint, oil, etc)" this year; these items should be brought to the Hazardous Waste Center in North Branch. You **pay** for this service on your taxes.

Brochures for the North Branch HHW center will be available on the 9th.

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2010 CAT 140M

by Bob Carter

Our new Caterpillar 140M road grader has been delivered and put to work.

This American icon is now manufactured in South America. The decision to buy a new grader was endorsed by those Township Residents attending the Annual Meeting.

Due to the economic climate the Town Board was very reluctant to think about replacing the old grader. However, possibly because of the slow economy we were able to negotiate several concessions from Caterpillar: The warranty and the buy-back guarantee period were extended from 5 to 7 years. When we bought our current grader the guaranteed buy back price was \$80,000. We actually received \$115,600.00.

As we were also considering a John Deere grader the final CAT price was again reduced approximately \$15,000.00 more at the last moment.

The Board also sought advice from several people who deal with heavy

equipment. Apparently, next year all heavy trucks and equipment must have another piece of pollution equipment installed. When a dashboard light comes on, the driver must find a place to pull over, park and let the truck idle. The engine automatically goes to a fast idle for 20 minutes. This causes the engine temperature to become hot enough for this incinerator device to do its' job. During this time the driver just sits there.

Now it appears that this unit will add \$12,000.00 to next year's price for a road grader, plus CAT is expecting to add an additional \$10,000.00 for good measure.

Gary reports that the new grader is using about 6.25 gallons of fuel per hour. This should improve slightly once it is broken in. The old grader was burning about 7 gallons per hour.

The new grader payment replaces the payments we had been making on other equipment, so we did not have to raise the budget.

Signs

by Diane Larkin

A Federal mandate states that all warning, caution, and directional signs have to be of a high degree of reflectivity. We have until 2018 to accomplish this huge task. Several local Townships have chosen to pay \$2000 - \$4000 to hire someone to document where, and how many signs will need to be replaced. Fish Lake is planning on doing this task in house. So if you see Gary or anyone else looking at a seemingly insignificant sign on a town road you know why.

Fish Lake will also be placing new signage stating you are entering our Township. There is one up on Zodiac/

North Pine Lake Road. Take a look its cool. Speaking of Zodiac, did you know it is not in Fish Lake Township? It's not even in Chisago County! Zodiac extends North Pine Lake Road to Hwy 95. Wherein lays the problem. Because it services Fish Lake Township residents to the extent that it does, we would like to chloride it every year. However, North Branch Township will not pay for this expenditure. With the budget crunch we decided to forgo chloriding Zodiac this year.

Winter Plowing

by Bob Carter

I received e-mails from a husband and wife this past winter. The notes were polite, well written and left no doubt in my mind that they were angry. Last December, at the time we received all of the snow and then rain, their road became impassable for a while and they got stuck. Getting stuck anywhere is maddening.

The Board's obligation is to provide a level of service that is acceptable to the majority of residents as economically as possible. That level is flexible and is a composition of industry standards and Resident input. It is expensive to plow snow but our first concern is always for safety.

Rock Chips & Chloride vs. Sand & Salt

For sanding mix we use Dresser Trap Rock chips instead of sand, with about 12% chloride.

- Chloride will continue to melt ice to 29 degrees below zero.
- Salt will melt ice at 28 degrees and above and if it gets windy salt mixture can blow off the road.
- Sand/salt mix covered with new snow becomes ineffective.
- Rock chips often become embedded and provide added traction.
- Rock chips will usually reappear and continue to provide traction.

A truckload of chips costs about \$300.00 plus trucking and Gary's time. It takes 2 loads and about 8 hours to spread both loads around the Township. Not too many years ago, it was almost unheard of to put sanding mix on a gravel road. While it is not economically feasible to do a

Dalstorp Cemetery

by Bob Carter

The Dalstorp Cemetery has been getting a lot of attention. By statute, this Cemetery is now the responsibility of the Township. None of the local churches were interested in it.

The Township has benefited from two events. First, Lois Eaves, a remarkable lady with deep ancestral roots in this area and a commitment to see the Cemetery preserved, has given the Township \$10,000.00 to be used to preserve and maintain the cemetery. Secondly, Joseph Call, a young Township Resident, approached the Town Board with the idea of cleaning up the cemetery. He was looking for a community project that would help him qualify for his Eagle Scout Badge. The Township had wanted to get this done but didn't want to use town employees or spend levy dollars so we were very interested to hear his proposal.

On July 30th, Joseph brought together about 75 teenage boys and girls and several adults. Using hand tools, physical strength and determination, they cut and piled all of the brush on the 1.5 acre site. We saw a remarkable demonstration of organization and young people in action willing to donate their time and muscle. Our present goal is to keep the property looking presentable while looking at some long term possibilities.

whole road, we do concentrate on sharp curves, intersections, some hills and problem spots. Over the years, Gary has developed the knowledge of areas on the roads that benefit from rock chips.

It only makes sense for us to plow our roads AFTER the County has plowed. They leave a windrow of snow across our roads, which we then have to clean up. Due to the variety of vehicles on the road today there are many different needs. Vehicles range from rear wheel drive Crown Victoria's to all wheel drive cars, many 4 wheel drive pick-ups to the occasional Hum-Vee. If I spent \$80,000.00 on a Hummer I would probably be ecstatic to see 2 feet of snow on the road. We have drivers of all skill levels, from young and inexperienced, to elderly drivers. Many residents drive to the Cities, which usually means getting on the freeway and suddenly doing 70mph. whether it is slippery, or not.

Gary and a Board Member decide if a snowfall meets the criteria to be plowed. Gary and Doug are always ready to go out when it is necessary. This means there are restrictions on what they can do in their personal lives and on their own time 12 hours BEFORE they **might** have to go out and plow.

We don't know the number, but many people who support the Township through their taxes don't use Township roads. Many people don't even live in the Township but support the levy because they own property here.

REMINDER:

IT IS ILLEGAL TO PUSH SNOW ACROSS ANY TOWNSHIP ROAD.

News from your Treasurer

by Sharon McAndrew

A year ago, I was asked to be the Secretary-Treasurer for the Chisago County Association of Townships. This has also been very helpful to me as your Treasurer.

Chisago County Clerks and Treasurers have met together a few times to share ideas and problem solving.

We continue to attend the short courses offered by the Minnesota Association of Townships for education and to be updated on changes made by the legislature.

According to the FDIC rules of banking we have diversified our banking and opened a new account with Peoples Bank of Commerce in Cambridge, thus protecting Township funds.

Chloride

by Bob Carter

It has been at least 10 years since the Township first put chloride on a road. We did it to preserve our gravel and to reduce maintenance costs. We apply chloride after a road has been re-graveled according to a schedule. This has proven very cost effective. This program was expanded to the application of chloride when residents were willing to pay for it. Their goal was dust suppression.

This practice has started to get out of hand with people making all kinds of demands and occasionally trying to beat the system out of a few extra feet of chloride. These special requests and last minute changes create problems that become additional costs that all residents have to share in. The Township Board will be making changes in this program. Some facts to consider are:

The Township has no control over when the chloride is available.

We usually get the same price per gallon as the County, which buys a large quantity and County roads are always sprayed first. Weight restrictions and the kind of spring we have determine when they start applying chloride. Gary tries to have the road bladed before the chloride is applied. This isn't always possible when people call in at the last

minute or make changes. Chloride works better and longer if the road gravel has some moisture at the time of application. But, there is always a risk, that a hard heavy rain soon after the application, as we had this year, can cause the chloride to leach out reducing its' effectiveness. Since the Township is responsible for its roads, it will continue to grade the road as required whether or not there has been chloride applied. We are learning that some chloride will carry over into the next season, especially with the better quality, higher binder gravel we are buying.

There is basically one supplier in our area and the idea of handling and applying chloride ourselves was looked at some years ago and deemed to be cost prohibited. To do this, it would be necessary to buy certain pieces of equipment and have access to large quantities of water. Although the DNR has not considered chloride to be an environmental hazard, they are monitoring its' impact on lakes and streams. It is considered a hazardous material which means there are licensing and several other issues the Township would have to deal with.

Town Board

Bob Carter, Chairman
bobcarter@fishlaketownship.com

Bob Cupit, Supervisor
bobcupit@fishlaketownship.com

Diane Larkin, Supervisor
dianelarkin@fishlaketownship.com

Treasurer

Sharon McAndrew

Clerk

Andrea Nekowitsch
clerk@fishlaketownship.com

Employees

Gary Guse – Grader Operator

Doug Rogers – Part time

Pat Devine – Hall/Grounds

Monthly meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month.

Meetings start at 7:00 p.m. with scheduled agenda appearances at 8:00 p.m.

Fish Lake Township
2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032

Phone
651-674-7709

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

CLEAN-UP & RECYCLING DAY

Fish Lake Township
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
8 AM TO NOON

The Fish Lake Township Board and Evergreen Recycling of Rush City would like to offer this opportunity to residents to clean Homes, Garages, Sheds and Yards. They have arranged this special clean-up day in the hopes that it will help keep our ditches free of debris saving us all tax dollars. Yard waste, household trash and paint will **NOT** be accepted.

APPLIANCES \$2

- Refrigerator
- Freezer
- Air conditioner
- Dehumidifier
- Washers/Dryers
- Water Heater
- Microwave
- Ammonia Gas (\$25)

NON-RECYCLABLES \$10-\$25

- Car Load
- Small Trailer
- Pick-Up
- Large Trailer

HOUSEHOLD \$10-\$15

- Mattress
- Box Spring
- Sofa
- Stuffed Chair

FLUORESCENT LIGHTS \$1-\$2

- 4' or Less
- Over 4'
- Ballasts
- U-Tubes/Round/Compact

YARD \$3-\$5

- Lawn Mowers/Tractors
- Propane Tanks

ELECTRONICS \$0

- Monitor/Laptop/CPU
- Scanner/Printer/Fax
- Copier (\$10)
- Elec. Typewriter
- Stereo/Boom Box
- VCR/DVD
- TV-Small
- TV-Large (\$5)
- Cell Phones

TIRES \$1-\$6

- Automobile
- Light Truck w/rim
- Semi-Truck w/rim
- Tractor (\$27)

Invitation for Senior Residents

by Bob Carter

Former Twp. Supervisor, Bruce Burda, stopped at the Town Hall the other day and reminded us of a significant piece of Township history. We became concerned about area history that is being lost or forgotten. We would like to invite our Township Senior Citizens to the Hall for coffee, rolls and good conversation on Saturday morning October 16th

at 9 a.m. We would like to hear and record the old stories and memories. We have some funds left from our charitable gambling to pay for this and may have prizes for the oldest Township resident present or maybe the best story. We want to honor and recognize some of our early residents.

Isanti Fire District

by Bob Carter

The Isanti Fire District has become very pro-active. They have established and equipped two remote fire stations and have bought land for a third station. The backlash is that as they draw townships away from The Cambridge Fire Dept.

The remaining townships pay a larger portion of the operating budget. It would be very beneficial to have a few residents work with our Town Board to look at Isanti's operation, as well our whole fire protection plan

Elections

by Andrea Nekowitsch

As the General Election approaches on Tuesday Nov. 2, 2010, I would like to remind you that voting hours are from 7a.m. to 8p.m. If you are not registered, you can do so at the election. If you are interested in becoming an election judge for future elections, please attend your

party's caucus or call me at the town office and I will send you an application. If you can't vote in person, you can always vote by way of an absentee ballot. Call the County Auditor at 651-213-8500 for more information on voting absentee.

Township Hall Rental Available

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 and utensils and air conditioning. 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 Pat Devine at 651-248-4005 for pricing and availability.

**FISH LAKE TOWNSHIP
2170 BRUNSWICK ROAD
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HARRIS, MN