

# Fish Lake Township *NEWSLETTER*

Volume 6, Issue 1, February 25, 2006

## **TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR CANDIDACY**

Supervisors are elected for staggered three year terms. Each year one Supervisor position is elected in March on the same day of the annual town meeting. This year a one year position, to fill out Robert Cupit's term, will also be on the ballot. Following is a brief statement from each of the candidates.

**Diane Larkin** - I have been on the Board for 3 years and have seen our Township grow considerably. Keeping with the philosophy that I represent all of the residents of Fish Lake, I have worked to find a middle ground that accomplishes that goal.

During my tenure I have seen our Town Board evolve from reactive to proactive; actively addressing potential problems. I would like to continue serving Fish Lake Township and request your vote on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 for the 3 year position.

**Bob Carter** - My name is Bob Carter. I have filed for the 1 year position on the Fish Lake Town Board created by Bob Cupit's resignation. I was appointed to the position, by the Board, until the election. I served on the Board from 1997 to 2003.

I'm proud to see many of the programs and procedures that were put in place then, are still in use and working well today. Though they have been tweaked and fine tuned they are still recognizable.

It has been good to come back and work with Gary, Andrea, and Sharon again, whose hard work and dedication have enabled the Board to operate as efficiently as they have.

This Board feels that if they work hard and plan better they can continue to hold, at least, the Township's portion of your taxes down. I would like to be a part of that and would appreciate your support on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

**Timothy O'Keefe** - Mr. O'Keefe has applied for the 3 year position. A statement from Mr. O'Keefe was not submitted for this newsletter.

**Mike Hill** - As a resident of Fish Lake Township and a retired business owner with 25+ years of managing 10 or more employees and, my deep interest in our community, leads to my decision to become a candidate for Township Supervisor.

With more and more new residents coming to our area, issues and needs are changing and need to be addressed to benefit our community.

I will dedicate my time, knowledge, vision, decision making and common sense skills to watch, listen, learn, address and provide ways to satisfy our changing needs, now and in the future.

Feel free to contact me at 651-237-0142 with any constructive ideas/thoughts.

## **What happens to all that \$\$\$\$?**

The 2005 budget was \$270,000.00. Highlights of what was done with that funding follows:

- A. We crushed and stockpiled for future use 11,000 cubic yards of gravel.
- B. The outdated heating system in the maintenance building was replaced. An office was built in a portion of that building. We acquired a new computer for the Town Hall in 2004 and the old one now resides in that office, keeping road data and reports.
- C. A sharp curve on Andee Ave was reshaped and banked to accommodate increasing traffic. The ditch slopes were modified for safer travel. This was done with funding from the Developer who has established multiple building sites along that roadway.
- D. The plumbing in the Town Hall was upgraded. Badly needed toilets were replaced along with a new water heater and softener.
- E. A \$25,000 packer which is pulled behind the grader was purchased. The bill was paid in full from savings in the equipment fund.
- F. We had a very successful 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Open House. The Chisago County Sheriff's office handed out free gun locks. Harris and Rush City Fire Departments came with equipment, trucks, and gave demonstrations used in fighting fires. The kids had fun with the free stickers, coloring books, and cookies.
- G. The Town Hall has new front sidewalks and picnic tables. This was done with donated funds from the Rush City Sno Bugs and the Rush City Jaycees.
- H. The Web site continues to update residents on upcoming events. It is now posting the upcoming meeting action agenda.

The 2006 budget was \$292,000.00. What we propose to do with that funding follows:

- A. Clear stumps and bring in fill to reopen the Little Horseshoe Lake Access.
- B. The No. Branch Fire Dept. has received a matching grant to put in a standpipe at the Horseshoe access. This will be installed first thing in the spring. The cost will be approximately \$5300.00. \$2500.00 of which will come from the grant.
- C. The Board applied for a grant from the DNR to blacktop Blue Heron Trail. If the grant is approved, the cost of this project would be covered 50% by the DNR and the remainder by the residents on Blue Heron Trail through a Subordinate Service District.
- D. The Board also applied for a grant with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for funds to realign Skogman Lake Road with County Road 4. This would also include blacktopping Skogman Lake Road.
- E. Crown Ave. drainage issues will be a top priority this summer. Discussions have occurred with property owners with the hope of implementing a plan in the summer of 2006.
- F. The Board has met with the DNR and will be rerouting drainage on Bending Ave this summer. This will be a preliminary step to ditching and replacing several culverts in the area.
- G. The Township will be making the final payment on the grader this year.
- H. We are purchasing a 1994 dump truck from Chisago County. It comes with a large front plow and wing plow. It also has a stainless steel box and sander. This is a much needed replacement for the old '1989 truck we are trading in.
- I. Pre buying propane and diesel fuel saves the Township money.
- J. Developing policies and procedures to protect and facilitate smooth running of the Township is necessary. To accomplish this, the Board is proposing to meet twice a month.
- K. Supervisor Widmark has negotiated long and hard with 4 different fire departments. He is proposing: North Branch Fire, 10 sections for \$8000.00; Rush City Fire, 18 sections for \$8000.00; and Harris Fire, 8 sections for \$5500.00. For a total cost of \$21,500.00.

- L. We would like to again offer chloriding cost sharing to platted developments.
- M. It is intended that an informative newsletter be sent to all Fish Lake Township tax payers before the Annual Meeting in March. In the fall, before the Annual Open House, a shorter version will be mailed to Fish Lake Township addresses only. If you live out of the area and wish to be included in the fall mailing please let the Fish Lake Township office know.

The 2007 proposed budget is \$342,000.00. What we propose to do with that funding follows:

- A. The sewer at the Hall needs to be redone. We will also be upgrading windows and the kitchen will get a new stove.
- B. Propane and diesel fuel will again be pre bought.
- C. We will be crushing and storing more gravel. This is a big ticket item as crushing costs have gone up considerably. With increased fuel costs we have higher hauling costs which were not foreseen. Therefore we are forced to play "catch up" in our gravel budget.
- D. Because of increased costs to the area fire departments we are warned that fire protection costs will be increasing.

### **Growing:**

Fish Lake Township is growing. Census figures indicate that we are increasing in population. In the year 2000 we had 1723 residents. In 2004 we had 1962. Figures for 2005 are not available at this time. In the past 4 years Fish Lake Township seen has 125 new homes built. As of March of 2006 we have 1207 registered voters. This increase puts more of a demand on the infrastructure of the Township. Fish Lake Township has adopted a proactive approach in dealing with situations that arise.

With capable, competent, top notch personnel, who are adequately compensated we will be ready for that growth..

### **Annual Meeting:**

The Annual Meeting will be held at 8:00 PM on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006. This is where the levy is set. This is where neighbors discuss and decide what is best for them. It is also your opportunity to vote for the persons you want to represent you at the Township level. Come and participate where grass roots government begins.

#### **Township Directory**

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

Phone 651-674-7709, Fax 651-674-8837, Email fltwp@ece.net

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

Supervisors: Chair, Diane Larkin, 763-689-3417 (term ends 3/06); Marv Widmark, 651-674-5121 (term ends 3/08); Bob Carter, 651-674-8790 (term ends 3/06).

Treasurer: Sharon McAndrew (term ends 3/06)

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.

**Representing Fish Lake Township**

Federal	US Congress, District 8, James Oberstar
State	Minnesota Senate, District 17, Scot 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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