

Fish Lake Township

Township Election & Annual Meeting – March 8, 2011

The Annual Meeting and Township Election is approaching quickly.

Township day is on **TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2011**. Election hours are from 10 am to 8 pm at which time residents will elect a Supervisor for a 3 year term and a Treasurer for a 2 year term. The annual meeting begins at 8:05 pm. Income and expense journals for 2010 will be available at the meeting, in addition the proposed 2012 levy will be discussed and voted on by those residents in attendance.

When asked, the people at last year’s annual meeting said they were satisfied with the level of

service being provided by the Township. If you want to see more plowing, sanding, gravel, etc. you need to bring it up at the annual meeting for discussion.

The last 2 years we knew we would be receiving less money from the State. However, we never knew how much less. Our only remedy has been to reduce our operating costs.

Three people have filed for the Supervisor position on the Town Board. One of these people will be spending your tax dollars once elected. See their brief statements later in this newsletter.

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Ballot Question at March Election

On the Township ballot this March you will see a question regarding changing the position of Treasurer from an elected to an appointed position. It is a two year position and comes up for renewal every odd numbered year. Although, no one has ever challenged the position of Treasurer that Sharon McAndrew has held for 10 years, the Board feels it would be in the best interest of the Township to make this an appointed position. This position has evolved from simply writing a few checks each month to using a fully computerized system, having knowledge of accounting software,

managing multiple bank accounts and preparing comprehensive detailed monthly reports using different computer programs that allows Township transactions to be tracked clearly and accurately. There is a knowledge base and skill set required to perform these duties accurately that not everyone possesses. If the question passes, our current treasurer has indicated that she will accept the appointment.

There are three individuals running for the supervisor position to be elected at the March 9, 2011 election. The Town Board has asked these individuals and Sharon McAndrew, our current Treasurer to write a brief description about themselves to be included in this newsletter for your information. Following are their submissions.

Corey Johnson

My name is Corey Johnson and I am running for the position of Fish Lake Township Supervisor. I have been a proud resident of Fish Lake Township for 34 years. I grew up here and still reside here with my wife Julie and our 6 year old daughter Brooke. I have worked at Boston Scientific for 18 years where I have learned good people skills and how to be a team player. I have a great love for the outdoors and enjoy fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and 4-wheeling with my family. Fish Lake Township is a great place to raise a family. Becoming a Township supervisor will allow me to be more involved in my community and put me in a position that allows me to represent the concerns and needs of our residents. I am willing to listen to people's perspectives and be a voice for them. I care about the future of the Township and the quality of life here. I am all about neighbors working together to solve issues. A few years ago I was involved in bringing High Speed Internet to a few areas within our Township. I know there are still some areas without coverage but I would be willing to help out if and when the populations of those areas grew and would then qualify. I consider myself fiscally responsible and promise to be a good steward of the budget and financial resources of the Township. An issue facing the Township right now is whether to change the Treasurer position from elected to appointed. My opinion on this is that there is an enormous amount of knowledge and responsibility required to hold this position. In order to have more consistency and to stabilize the position I think it should be appointed. The accountability is then greater because the position is managed by the supervisors and they can make changes as they see necessary. I feel I am the most qualified, and the best choice for Fish Lake Township Supervisor, due primarily to my background within the Township and the perspectives it provides. I will work to make sure that personal agendas do not cloud the views and decisions being made by the Township supervisors. I have attended Township meetings and understand the inner workings. Please vote for me, Corey Johnson, for Fish Lake Township Supervisor. Respectfully, Corey Johnson

John L. Cook Jr.

My name is John L. Cook Jr. the second of five children to John and Lodie Cook, of Atlanta, Georgia. I moved to Minnesota in 1975, attending graduate school at the University of Minnesota. Wanting to once again enjoy the surrounds of my child hood, I move to this community in April 2004. I retired after 37 years with Ford Motor Credit, where I served as a Dealer Account Manager, traveling throughout the Midwest setting up lines of credit for Ford dealers new and used inventory, plus, specializing in setting up lines of credit for dealership's major commercial fleet accounts. Even though I have never worked in public service, for the past 5 years I have served on several non-profit boards. Minnesota Masonic Foundation, where I served as treasurer for three years. This foundation provided scholarship to high school students throughout the State. I currently serve on the board of directors for Minnesota Masonic Charity, the 53rd largest charity in Minnesota. This charity, works closely with the University of Minnesota, providing funding for cancer research, plus, providing close to a million dollars in scholarships to Minnesota high schools. I feel this type of experience lends itself to serving the public and helping to understand their needs. Furthermore, these experiences will also aid me in making decisions that supports the growth of the community and the needs of families.

Steve Thorp

My name is Steve Thorp and I would like to be the next Fish Lake Township supervisor. I live at 3170 Stark Road with my wife Beth and 2 children; Gus and Elise. We have lived here since 2001 but my family has owned cabins on Fish Lake my entire life. I have worked as the building inspector for the City of Harris since 1999 and currently work fulltime for the City of Scandia as the Public Works Supervisor/City Code Official. With my past work experience and my current job, I feel that I can offer the residents of Fish Lake Township a well informed and knowledgeable supervisor. Many areas of my current job parallel what the Township does such as road repair, gravel placement, repair and purchasing of equipment as well as interacting with other levels of government. Much of my work has dealt with preparation for a catastrophic event or the avoidance of a collapse. I have approached the Fish Lake Town board on several occasions with a proposal for a storm siren and still feel strongly, as a resident, that this is needed. As a resident I tried to be involved and now I would like to step up to the next level. As Fish Lake Township moves forward I believe I can offer assistance with such things as road improvements, community planning issues and help map out the future direction of the Township. At my current job I am in the process of establishing a policy to incorporate the federally mandated standards of reflectivity of all roadway signs. This will be quite a task for the Township as a vast majority of signs will need to be inventoried and replaced by 2018. I am also involved with planning issues such as building setbacks, size, height, lot coverage as well as many drainage issues that impact our lakes and wetlands. With the input from the residents of Fish Lake Township via email, phone calls, annual meetings or in person, I would relish the opportunity to be involved with the growth of our Township. Please feel free to stop by my house or call me at 651-647-4744 if you would like to introduce yourself or ask any questions of me. It would be my honor to be a part of the Fish Lake Town board and I would greatly appreciate your vote. Thank you, Steve Thorp

Sharon McAndrew

My husband, John and I have lived in Fish Lake Township for 30 years. I have a daughter, Sandy and her husband Joey and 2 grandsons, Derek and Jared. I was an owner, operator of a beauty salon for 25 years and then went to work for Federated Propane and retired after 16 years. I have been your Township treasurer for 10 years and in 2009 I was appointed the secretary - treasurer for the Chisago County Association of Townships. I would be honored to continue to serve Fish Lake Township as your treasurer.

Salt/Sanding Mix & Driveway Plowing

The cost of salt/sanding mix can add up quickly when there is a lot of icy roads. While it is cost prohibitive to salt the whole length of a road, we concentrate on intersection and curves. Fish Lake Township does not have a bare road policy. Some neighboring Townships have started to make their own sanding mix. We are currently looking to see if there would be a substantial savings by doing it ourselves.

Please remember that it is *illegal* to push/plow snow across a public road. You could be ticketed for doing so.

Chloride

Fish Lake Township chlorides certain high traffic roads in conjunction with a graveling schedule. We believe this has saved tax dollars and generally provides a better driving surface. This was expanded to allow residents who were willing to pay for it, to have chloride applied to their road frontage. If it was an isolated strip of road there was no contribution. If the road was in a platted area and resulted in a considerable portion of the road receiving chloride then the Township would contribute 25% of the cost. The other requirement was that those people would collect the fee and send one check to the Township. Like many programs this worked well at first, people were happy to have the chloride. It has degraded over time. We have had people move stakes to get more than they pay for, people have stepped up and written checks to cover shortfalls because a neighbor wouldn't cooperate. People complain when Gary blades over the chloride and some complain when he doesn't. The bottom line is that this requires more of Andrea and Gary's time which translates to tax dollars. There are about 50-75 people who use the chloride program, which means there are a lot of taxpayers supporting this that receive no benefit. The Township will be looking at ways to minimize its' involvement in this part of the chloride program. As always we would appreciate hearing your suggestions and comments. Please call any Supervisor or the Town Hall, attend the annual meeting or send an e-mail.

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

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, 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
HARRIS MN 55032
651-674-7709**

Notice of Annual Meeting, Election and Board of Canvass

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 8, 2011. 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 and One Treasurer - 2 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 8, 2011 to certify the official election results.

Andrea Nekowitsch, Clerk, Fish Lake Township

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