

Fish Lake Township Newsletter

September 2009

Fall Open House/Clean-Up Day

Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Take this opportunity to clean out your houses and garages before winter and meet the Town Board. See flyer included in this newsletter for more information. Members from the local fire departments, police department and ambulance will be available to answer questions and their service vehicles will be on display. Snacks, cookies, coffee and juice will be provided.

Future Growth

Although building has slowed, growth is certain to return in the future. The Board continues to have an interest in input from residents. What would you like to see the Board focus on in the future? Perhaps a voluntary planning group could be formed with residents who are willing to meet and think about the future. If we don't plan for our future someone will be planning it for us.

Qwest DSL High Speed Internet

A small group of residents circulated a petition asking Qwest to expand its high speed internet service into Fish Lake Township. Residents couldn't wait to sign the petition. Qwest was presented with the required number of signatures and the technical changes were made. A large number of people around Fish Lake signed up. Most have seen quicker internet service and it is also more stable than satellite internet. Corey Johnson, a township resident who facilitated this project had a connection with Qwest. All in all it took about a year from petition to installation. Corey is available to help if another group of residents would like to circulate a petition. The first step is to see if there is enough density in the sub-station that serves your area before they will entertain a petition. There needs to be around 100 or more lines. Contact the Town Clerk if you would like to reach Corey. No Township funds were used for this project. However, it is a good example of what can be done when folks get together to solve a problem.

Fish Lake Town Board Members

Diane Larkin – Chair

Bob Carter – Supervisor

Bob Cupit – Supervisor

Sharon McAndrew – Treasurer

Andrea Nekowitsch – Clerk

Gary Guse – Road Maintenance

Town Hall Located at 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris
651-674-7709 www.fishlaketownship.com

Town meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month beginning at 7 p.m. and are open to the public. Office hours are Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Twp. Operations

There is no need to rehash the state of the economy. As a Board we are looking for ways to operate as efficiently as possible. We have postponed some projects but are determined to maintain roads and equipment. We don't want to see the gains we have made over the years deteriorate. If you have any ideas or suggestions we invite you to bring it to our attention. We continue to chloride high traffic roads for the purpose of maintaining the gravel. Chloride is available to residents to purchase in 100' increments at approximately \$44 per 100 feet. A whole road that is chlorided will qualify for a 25% discount. Call the Clerk to be put on the list for notification in the Spring of 2010.

This season 9163 yards of gravel were spread on approximately 6 miles of township roads.

The residents of Blue Heron Trail petitioned the township to start the process of paving their road at their expense. Half of the road lies in Fish Lake and half in Nessel Township. The paving was complete in 2007 and each resident is paying approximately \$7500 over the course of 10 years. The project went well and the bond is continuously being paid down each year.

A New Mound System

The new septic mound has been installed. We have had to pump the old tank several times a year which is costly. The old system probably never met code requirements. When the sewage line was uncovered it was found to be lightweight plastic pipe and not schedule 40 as it should have been. Consequently the pipe was broken and had pulled apart.

Township Security

The Board has been concerned about security. There has never been any cash kept in the township offices but there are some very old irreplaceable historic documents. Also private employee records, simple day to day operating records and office equipment. Historic and irreplaceable documents are now stored in a fireproof unit. Doors and locks have also been replaced. It is a shame to have to spend the money but it is a responsibility that can't be ignored. It is now recommended that you NOT put your name on your mailbox. However, it is very important to have your house numbers prominently displayed with reflecting material.

Donate Old or Unwanted Cell Phones

Our Senior Citizens can put old cell phones to good use. If you have one to donate please call Dawn Cash of the Chisago County Senior Center at 651-674-8658. Or bring them to clean-up day on October 10th and we will see that they are brought to the Senior Center.

CAT Grader

The Caterpillar grader which seems still new is actually 8 years old already. As components wear out we are spending more money on repairs. The debate will be starting on whether to continue to make repairs or to buy a new one. As always, we encourage resident input as it is vital to the process.

Chisago County Association of Twps

Our treasurer, Sharon McAndrew has taken on the roll of Clerk/Treasurer for the Chisago County Association of Townships. Sharon immediately found some discrepancies and couldn't relax until she had them resolved. We are lucky to have her for our treasurer.

Diane Larkin Returns to the Board

It is good to have Diane Larkin back on the Board. Her high energy level is an asset to the Township. She is

always ready to check on a problem or learn something that will benefit Fish Lake Township.

Town Hall Upgrades

if you have been in the town hall recently you will see ceramic tile instead of the old carpet. The back hall, restrooms, kitchen and two entryways have all been tiled and repainted. This was able to be done with donated funds. Town hall rental is available to residents as well as non-residents for a fee. Call Pat Devine for more information at 651-674-8582.

Census

We are receiving information about the next census that will be done in 2010. The census is constitutionally mandated and has been done every 10 years since 1790. The results of the census determine House of Representative seats, federal funding and many other things. The form has been simplified to 10 questions and the process will start in March. The Township's most current census results as of April 1, 2008 are: Population-2070; Households-770.

Annual Town Meeting and Election

The Annual Election of Supervisors will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The annual meeting will begin at 8:05 p.m.

Rush Line Commuter Coach

The Rush Line Commuter Coach provides express, peak period service between Columbus and downtown St. Paul. The route originates in Columbus and terminates in downtown St. Paul at the Union Depot, generally via US Hwy 61 and I-35E. Hours and Days of service are Monday through Friday, between 5:45 AM and 8:20 AM to downtown St. Paul, and 4:00 PM to 6:30 PM from downtown St. Paul. Travel time is approx. 1 hour between Columbus and Union Depot. The cost is \$3.00 each way. The service will make three stops enroute to downtown St. Paul.

Running Aces Park-and-Ride
(1-35 & Co. Rd. 23 exit 129)

Forest Lake Transit Center
(U.S. Hwy 61 & 202nd St.)

White Bear Theatre Park-and-Ride
(Centerville Rd & Cty. Rd. J; I-35E exit 120)

Service provided at all bus stops along the route within downtown St. Paul. For more information contact Mike Rogers, Sr. Transit Planner at 651-226-2773 or Michael.rogers@co.ramsey.mn.us

Notice to File for Township Supervisor

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Fish Lake Township, Chisago County, State of Minnesota, that filing for Town Supervisor for a three year term will be held for a two week period beginning on December 29, 2009 and ending at 5 p.m. on January 12, 2010. Affidavits of candidacy shall be filed with the Town Clerk. Call the Town Clerk at 320-358-3924 to make an appointment to file for Supervisor for the March 9, 2010 annual town election. The filing fee is \$2.00

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election and Board of Canvass

Notice is hereby given to qualified voters of Fish Lake Township, Chisago County, State of Minnesota, that the Annual Township Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010. In case of inclement weather, the meeting and election may be postponed until the third Tuesday of March 2010. (Check WCMP 1350 AM for information)

The election poll hours will be from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. At which time voters will elect ONE SUPERVISOR FOR a 3 YEAR TERM.

The Annual Meeting will commence at 8:05 p.m. To conduct all necessary business prescribed by law. The Annual Meeting and Election of Officers will be held at the Fish Lake Town Hall located at 2170 Brunswick Road, Harris, MN 55032. Absentee ballots are available by calling the clerk at 320-358-3924.

The Board of Canvass will meet directly after the annual meeting adjourns to certify the official election results.

Fish Lake Township
2170 Brunswick Road
Harris, MN 55032
Phone: 651-674-7709
www.fishlaketownship.com

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