

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

June 2002



Eureka Township Supervisors

7:30 pm, 2nd Monday of Month

Beverly Topp, Chairperson
952-469-4859
Don Pflaum, Vice Chairperson
651-463-3577
Connie Anderson
952-469-2355
Kenny Miller
952-469-4803
Clark Smith
952-469-3352

Oliver Leine, Town Clerk
952-469-2294
Nanett Leine, Treasurer
952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission

7:30 pm, 1st Monday of Month

Greg Gudbjartsson, Chair
952-469-3963
Paul Boyum
952-469-3800
Mark Malecha
507-645-4015
Francie Madden
952-469-2958
Calvin Pflaum
651-463-3577

Township Contact

Nanett Leine
by telephone: 952-469-3736
Monday - 8:00 AM to noon
Thursday - 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
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Editor: Bob Papke
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Official notices published in:
Farmington Independent and
This Week/Life and Times
newspapers, & outside on the
Town Hall bulletin board.

Eureka Now Has a Web Page!

At the Annual Meeting in March, the Town Board was directed to develop and implement a web page for the township. Since funding is not available until 2003, the town board could only explore what software programs could be used to implement the program. Due to the effort of Mike Greco, he was able to secure a very satisfactory software package at no cost to the town. This is the same software that is used by the U. of Minnesota for their web page. Greco, Tom Gossler, Amy Nielsen & Ollie Leine are volunteering to maintain the web page. Blue Earth Internet has volunteered to host our web page through 2002. What the web page will contain will be a growing menu of items of interest to the residents of the township. This newsletter will be provided on the web page as well as past issues.

With questions, or comments/suggestions on what you would like from this information source, contact any of the town board supervisors or Oliver Leine.

Check it out at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Task Teams

Currently the three task teams approved by the town board are still actively working to complete their missions. The Envisioning Task Team is developing various scenarios of what the town might "look" like sometime in the future. The Commercial Task Team is studying the pros and cons of the possible development of commercial enterprises in the township. The Town Hall Task Team and the town board are engaged with issues involving the possibility of a new building and the siting of a new town hall.

Signs for Emergency Personnel

There is still a need for residents to take advantage of a program to obtain highly readable address signs for fire, police and emergency personnel. If your address is not shown in very large numbers on your mail box, you could be overlooked in an emergency. These signs are to be mounted on a post adjacent to a resident's driveway. Although this a voluntary program, it is sponsored by the town board as well as the county. For costs and availability, contact Nanett Leine.

Cooperative Efforts with Castle Rock Township

The Eureka Town Board will meet with the Castle Rock Town Board on June 18th to discuss the process of working out issues concerning the maintenance and upgrading of the unpaved portion of Denmark Ave. Both boards had signed an agreement in October 1923 which had assigned responsibility for "the maintenance and reconstruction of said road" based on a formula. One outcome of meetings will be to update the original agreement consistent with vast changes in vehicle designs as well as increased road traffic.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Illegal Waste Dumping - a costly problem

Paints and thinners have been found dumped in the Chub Creek Watershed in places not seen from any of the roads. Batteries, couches, refrigerators, sheet rock are among other debris dumped along Highview Ave. Over the weekend on June 1/2, someone dumped a large kitchen appliance on 225th St. across from the entry into Eureka Sand & Gravel.

These illegal acts require citizen clean up (often by township officials), immediate removal to inhibit additional dumping, and a growing expense to township taxpayers to have it hauled away. So far in 2002, the township has paid \$415 to remove this junk.

Thoughts for a Fall Tire Cleanup

The junk tire collection last year was an enormous success. Call or e mail Nanett and let her know if you are interested in another drive. With sufficient interest, we'll do it again this fall.

Junk Cars and Scrap Metal - can be a health hazard

Here are four organizations with their telephone numbers that are eager and capable of helping to remove unwanted vehicles and scrap metal:

AAA Auto Salvage of Rosemount 651.423.2432
Dakota County Eco-Site of Egan (scrap metal only) 651.891.7020
Joe's Auto Salvage of Hastings 651.437.6787
Viking Auto Salvage of Northfield 651.460.6166

VERMILLION RIVER WATERSHED

The protection of both watersheds in the township - Chub Creek and Vermillion River - remains a concern of the residents of the township and the county. Chub Creek has a watershed management board and the Vermillion River watershed management advisory board will be created. [See the December 2001 newsletter for additional background information.]

Dakota and Scott Counties are still working on the joint powers agreement that will establish a Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Board. It is expected that the final agreement will be signed this month or in July. To support the Joint Powers Board, a nine member planning commission will be appointed, one member from Scott County and eight from Dakota County. Appointment of residents from Dakota County will begin this summer.

A public meeting was held by Dakota County on June 4th, to receive comments on a ordinance to establish a special tax district. An ordinance was enacted and it will be a way to provide funding for watershed management. This special tax district would include only tax parcels in the Dakota County sub watershed of the Vermillion Watershed.

Scott County will be responsible for its share of watershed costs.

Residents should call Bev Topp or Connie Anderson if they have any questions concerning this project.

Nile Virus Alert!

This is a very serious debilitating disease spread by a type of mosquito that carries the virus and is expected to enter Minnesota. When dead birds such as crows or blue jays are found, and the cause of death is not known, people are advised to not touch the birds.

But call the Metro Mosquito Control District at 651.645.9149.

Township Entry Signs

The town board has approved the design and words that will appear on the new signs. It will read

Welcome to Eureka Township.
Permits Required

Signs have been ordered and will be mounted on posts at appropriate locations on roads leading into the township.

> CHAIR'S CORNER <

If you hear a sigh of relief emanating from the Town Hall vicinity these days, it is because we have just completed a major hurdle in our ongoing ordinance projects.

The Mining Ordinance 31, replacing Mining Ordinance 13 has been adopted!

I would like to recap some of the changes and additions which now exist:

The standards for granting a permit to new mines (which will include existing mining operations which expand beyond their present mining legal descriptions) have been more clearly defined. Mining permits will be placed into three levels determined by size and duration of time and relationship to the water table. Application requirements will be more specific and informative about traffic impacts and will require that a registered Minnesota engineer provide all information necessary to complete an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

Performance standards will now exclude Sunday and Holiday operations and new mines will need Town Board permission to operate on Saturdays or past specified hours.

Roadway access requirements will require direct access to 9 ton roads and noise level measurements have been tied to MPCA standards.

The protection of our surface and ground waters was given close attention in the new ordinance and resulted in the exclusion of dewatering from Eureka's mining operations. (Dewatering is defined as the pumping, extraction or removal of subsurface water.)

Further protections include the necessary review of the Soil and Water Conservation District and watershed review for grading plans, reclamation plans and water control plans.

Setbacks requirements received a great deal of attention as the Task Force, Planning Commission, and Town Board heard testimony from both mining operators and other

landowners. These deliberations resulted in a setback requirement which is both mindful to the quality of life of surrounding property owners and allows mining applicants the flexibility to adjust setback requirements when the protections afforded surrounding lands are not significantly lessened.

Reclamation plans and end use plans for new mines must now be submitted along with mining permit applications.

There are specific procedures listed in the new mining ordinance allowing the township to work with mining operations to remedy any violations which could occur and to cease operations if a violation continues.

Existing mines in the township will need to apply for permits only when they expand beyond the legally described areas listed in the new Mining Ordinance #31. They will be operating under some provisions of old Mining Ordinance #13 but will be submitting reclamation plans for existing operations which shall conform to the guidelines of the July 1992 edition of "A Handbook for Reclaiming Sand and Gravel Pits in Minnesota", published by the Minnesota DNR. They will also be asked to comply with the excavation standards that protect township waters.

Our new Mining Ordinance #31 has been in process for 30 months and represents the invaluable hard work of our Mining Task Force, input from our present mining operators in the township, and the final review of the Planning Commission and the Town Board.

And finally, thanks to all of our citizens who participated in this process. Because of the combined efforts of all these groups, we feel we have an effective ordinance for Eureka Township. This ordinance allows us to provide a valuable resource to the State of Minnesota, while protecting the right of our citizens to a reasonable quality of life in our community.

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Editor's Note: All new applications for mining permits will require notices of public hearings to be published in the official township newspaper.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Billy Goat Bridge

The Billy Goat Bridge over the railroad tracks at 265th St., just east of Galaxie, has been closed by the railroad. When the bridge was constructed it was rated to handle 10 ton loads. The railroad had reduced that to 4 tons and then finally closed it as being totally unsafe for vehicular traffic.

Dakota County engineers have examined the bridge and found serious structural problems. The town supervisors have also examined the bridge and found that some of the pylons and stringers are seriously rotted.

The township supervisors are working with Dakota County and the railroad to resolve the problem, and to get the road opened as soon as possible.

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

- for general information
- to get on the Town Board meeting agenda
- to get information on the requirement for a township building or mining permit
- tentative agendas of meetings are available at the town hall

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
Email: eurekatn@frontiernet.net
OR
at 952-469-3736

for immediate response on:
Monday 8:00 AM to noon
Thursday 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Other days & evenings, calls are transferred to Voice Mail. All calls will be returned.

Eureka Township
24797 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, MN. 55044
Tel: 952.469.3736
WEB Page:
<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Calendar of Meetings

Town Board

July 8
Aug. 12
Sep. 9

Planning

July 1
Aug. 5
Sep. 3

All meetings start at 7:30 PM
in the Town Hall on old
Cedar Avenue, a block south
of 250 St. W.