

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

January 2003



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
Cory Behrendt
Paul Boyum 952-469-3800
Mike Greco 952-469-8418
Francie Madden 952-469-2958
Mark Malecha 507-645-4015
Calvin Pflaum 651-463-3577

Township Contact

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Editor: Bob Papke 651-463-8546

Official notices published in:
Farmington Independent and
This Week/Life and Times
newspapers, & outside on the
Town Hall bulletin board.

Commercial Enterprises in the Township

Eight business enterprises have submitted applications for non conforming use permits to the Planning Commission, public hearings have been held, and 7 of 8 applications have been approved by the town board.

At the regular meeting on January 13, 2003, the town board voted to amend section B.2 of Township Ordinance 32 to extend the time limit for the receipt and settlement of applications for non conforming use permits. The board also voted to hold a public hearing on February 3, 2003 at approximately 8:00 p.m. to obtain public comments on the proposed amendment. Notices of the public meeting have been published in the township's official newspapers.

The township supervisors will take final action on the amendment at their regular February 10, 2003 meeting.

There has been some misunderstanding that the town board can close down a non conforming use for any reason whatsoever even after it has been permitted. This interpretation is not correct. A permit when issued goes with the use of the land and generally will not be revoked unless the conditions of the permit or other township ordinances have been violated.

Preserving Natural Areas and Farmland

The Farmland and Natural Area Referendum presented to the Dakota County voters in November 2002, passed 57% for and 43% opposed, and 88 percent of the registered voters turned out to vote on this referendum. In Eureka, the results were 52% for and 48% opposed, with 87% of registered voters turned out.

What happens now.

The county commissioners have been receiving inquiries from landowners who have expressed an interest to be on a citizen advisory committee which is very likely to be formed. A list of these names is being kept.

The Dakota County staff will partner with 10 non profits to assist in developing ideas for implementing the program. Recommendations from this effort will go to the county commissioners for their consideration.

The county commissioners will be evaluating when to offer a public open house, how to ensure the receipt of public comment, the development of the structure of a citizen advisory committee, and the coordination of the county's program with federal funding opportunities.

The county commissioners will participate in a workshop at which time the above topics and many others will be discussed. The meeting will held on at 9:00 a.m. March 13, 2003, at the Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Ave., Apple Valley, and is open to the public.

MAINTAINING TOWNSHIP ROADS

Denmark Avenue

The meetings between the board members of Castle Rock and Eureka townships have resulted in a modification of an older agreement that continues to provide for an equitable sharing of the expense and resources for maintaining the road.

Essex Avenue

The county and the town board have been in negotiations for some time over the turn back of Essex Avenue (between 235 St. & County 86.) to Eureka. While the county has the authority to do this, the town may have some leverage in establishing the conditions in which this is accomplished. Clark Smith, with Mark Henry as his road consultant for this process, is the negotiator for the township.

The Billy Goat Bridge

The township board has signed a contract with Dakota County for the replacement of the bridge over 265th St., just east of Galaxie Avenue. It is anticipated that construction of the new bridge will begin in 2003. An up-date will be provided at the Annual Meeting.

THE TOWN'S TASK TEAMS

Envisioning Task Force Open House a Success

On November 14, 2002, members of the Eureka Envisioning Task Force held an open house for the public at the Dakota County Extension office to present preliminary results of their work during the last 18 months. The open house included a brief half-hour overview of the project, as well as six stations the public could visit to ask questions and learn more about the task force's work. More than 70 interested citizens and officials attended the two-hour event, and the response from attendees was overwhelmingly positive. The Eureka Envisioning Task Force was established by the town board in May 2001 and charged to work with Dakota County and 1000 Friends of Minnesota to formulate and discuss various growth scenarios for the township, and then learn about the potential impacts of each growth scenario on such things as agriculture, water quality, township infrastructure, and resident quality of life. The task force is a discussion and educational group, not a policy making group; it has no power to make planning decisions, and its work is unrelated to the town board's ongoing review of Eureka's ordinances or comprehensive plan. The Envisioning Task Force hopes to issue a written report in time for the township's annual meeting on March 11. All task force meetings are open to the public and take place at the Eureka Town Hall unless otherwise noted. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. A summary of the open house presentations is available online at

http://eurekatownship-mn.us/task_force/openhouse.html.

Town Hall & Commercial Task Teams

Both tasks teams continue to meet, work toward completing their missions, and to assemble materials for a report at the annual meeting. At the present time it is not feasible to provide preliminary reports.

Township WEB Page

The town board has approved the inclusion of

- the approved minutes of the meetings of the town board
- an index to all of the ordinances
- the text of approved ordinances
- the approved minutes of the town's task teams

on the township's WEB Page.

Important Notice

The dumping of trash in Eureka continues to generate unnecessary costs for residents. \$3400 was spent in 2002 to pick up and take the trash to a dump site. If any resident sees a person dumping trash in the township, get the automobile license, & call the sheriff at 651.438.4700 or any township supervisor. We can stop this illegal dumping!

> **CHAIR'S CORNER** <

The new year of 2003 will present many opportunities and challenges at all levels of government. For the Eureka Board of Supervisors, our energies must be focused on the many challenging issues our township will be confronted with as a part of the seven county metropolitan area.

We can be proud of our community's showing in the fall elections where 87% of our eligible voters cast ballots. We can also be proud of the continued citizen participation in the committees and task forces that meet to consider commercial issues, town hall building possibilities, and envisioning how the township could look in the future. Final results are not yet available for most of these efforts, but much has been accomplished.

This will be the last issue of *Eureka! the News* before our township annual meeting on TUESDAY, MARCH 11th so I would like to catch you up a little and give a brief preview of some of the topics that will be discussed at the meeting:

Town Hall Task Force: The Town Board was asked at our 2002 annual meeting to present the citizens with a proposal for a new Town Hall including financing and total costs for the facility. The Town Hall committee was asked by the board to study and make this information available.

Envisioning Task Force: The task force will report on its study of scenarios and their possible impacts. It will also talk about if and how the task force will continue its existence.

Commercial Task Force: This group is in the middle of research but will have information to share about its process. It was asked to study questions that would help the Town Board to make decisions on if, when, and where any new commercial establishments would be permitted in the township.

Roads: This perpetual annual topic always consumes the largest part of our budget and is one of the most important discussions of the evening.

Watersheds: Lots has been happening this year in both the Vermillion Watershed and the Cannon River Watershed districts. Feel free to bring this up during the meeting.

What is happening at our borders: Topics which will only intensify as time goes by.....FARMINGTON is proposing a new 5 year plan which affects properties that border on Eureka Township.....AIRLAKE AIRPORT – How does the MAC's large budget cuts impact development of the new hangar area—and the need for water/sewer service from Lakeville.....

ELKO/NEW MARKET- How does Eureka fit into a study by the Met Council to explore challenges and opportunities of various growth levels, patterns and waste water needs (including an interceptor that looks at Eureka as a possible route).

Town Budget: The budget for 2004 will be approved by the residents at this meeting.

With all the issues around us which can impact our township for the future, is it important to stay informed on not only what is happening – but also, to know how you would view various impacts for Eureka Township. The annual meeting gives you an opportunity to catch up on township business when you don't have time to attend monthly meetings. We hope you can make it!

A Salute to Clark Smith

Clark began serving on the Planning Commission in the early 1980s, and then went on to serve on the Board of Supervisors. He now feels that it is time for new faces and new ideas to confront the issues facing the township.

He said that the "challenging questions" raised by the Envisioning Task Force needed to be addressed. He hopes that the town board will study the upcoming report, and then make the right decisions that will serve the township well into the future. The growth pressures to Eureka from the north and east are very real for him. Improving roads in the township has been one of Clark's goals and he feels that "good progress has been made." Getting hard surface roads in Eureka Estates and Rice Lake Heights resurfaced and seal coated was a major point of satisfaction.

What we will miss is Clark's ability to remain unflustered in the face of heated disputes, his attention to getting the information he needed to make decisions, and his patience in listening to all side of an issue. So while Clark is leaving his post, we expect to have him around the township until he retires from his day job and sets sail for Grand Rapids. There he will build a house and with a very supportive wife, Carol, be available for grandchildren.

However, for Clark the call of the wild and the waters will beckon and will not be resisted.

We wish them both well and our thanks.

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(EDITOR'S NOTE):

Dakota County is one of possibly two counties in Minnesota which give zoning authority to its townships – most counties retain this authority for themselves. That means your township supervisors ultimately decide on how the township grows. That makes the township supervisory election an important one. We hope to see you at the annual meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Elections

On March 11, 2003 residents will have the opportunity to elect two township supervisors for three year terms, and to vote on whether the present town clerk and deputy town clerk/treasurer offices should be merged into one position and then appointed by the town board. The polls will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the town hall.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of Eureka Township will be held at the Prairie Creek School, located at 27695 Denmark Ave., on March 11, 2003 at 8:00 p.m.

Residents are encouraged to come and participate in a truly democratic activity.

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
- dates of all meetings are posted on the outside bulletin board at the town hall

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
E mail: 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
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Calendar of Meetings

Town Board

Feb. 10
Mar. 10
Apr. 14

Planning Commission

Feb. 3
Mar. 3
Apr. 7

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