

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

July 2003



Ordinance 32 Task Force - An Up-date

The task force met five times during May and June. During the first meetings, it discussed the scope of its work. One important issue: should it make recommendations that will affect other ordinances? While the issue is still open for discussion, until now it has not wanted to recommend changes that would require amendments to the Township's current zoning ordinance, or any potential commercial ordinance. The Township Board and other task forces are already reviewing those ordinances, and the Ordinance 32 Task Force, at this time, does not intend to become involved directly in their work or meetings.

In late May, the Task Force met with Board Chair Don Pflaum, and Ken DeMaster and Bob Papke of the Commercial Zoning Task Force. Don discussed the background of the ordinance, and some of the Board's goals. For example, it would like an ordinance which encourages all existing businesses to register.

The Task Force then toured the Township to look at several dozen businesses.

The Task Force appreciates the entrepreneurial spirit in the Township. However, it does not want the current practice of non-registration to continue. Less than ten people which operate their own businesses have a permit issued under this ordinance. Based on the visits, this represents 20% or fewer of the nonagricultural businesses currently operating in the Township.

This practice of non-registration might be viewed as a weakness if the Township decides to enforce its ordinances against an incoming business. And it might be viewed as a precedent by future businesses. This could lead to objectionable businesses moving into the township, unregulated development and possible environmental problems.

The Task Force will be continuing to discuss these issues and possible amendments to the ordinance. The public is welcome to attend its discussions which are held at the Town Hall. The next meeting will be held on July 29, starting at 7:00 pm and concluding by 8:30 pm. Additional meetings will be held in August and September.

The members of the Task Force are Kelly Brosseth, Mark Emond, Mark Geier, Carrie Jennings, Ed O'Brien, Ken Olstad and Don Storlie.

The above information was provided by Mark Geier, Chair of the Task Force.

Residents of the township can also review the mission and scope of the task force by visiting the town's web site, and in the town's newsletters of April 2003, January 2003 and September 2002, which are also on the town's web site.

Eureka Township Supervisors 7:00 pm, 2nd Monday of Month

Don Pflaum, Chair
651-463-3577
Kenny Miller, Vice Chair
952-469-4803
Connie Anderson
952-469-2355
Mark Malecha
507-645-4015
Dan Rogers
952-469-3739

Nanett Leine, Town Clerk/
Treasurer
952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission 7:00 pm, 1st Monday of Month

Francie Madden, Chair
952-469-2958
Butch Hansen, Vice Chair
952-469-6669
Corey Behrendt
952-985-5411
Cheryl Monson
952-469-5380
Calvin Pflaum
651-463-3577

Township Contact

Nanett Leine
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Official notices published in:
the *This Week Life and Times*
newspaper, and posted on the
bulletin board outside the Town
Hall.

Township Roads

Road Grading and Snow Removal

Braun Turf Farms of Hampton has been awarded the contract to grade all township roads, and plow the roads in winter to remove snow.

Dale Kuchinka of Faribault has been awarded a contract to cut and remove brush in the ditches of the town's roads.

Clearcuts (Dan Storlie) was awarded a contract to mow the ditches.

Malecha Trucking of Montgomery was selected to deliver and spread aggregate on township roads.

265th Street Railroad Bridge

The absence of county funding will put off the beginning of reconstruction of the bridge in 2003 and may further delay it in 2004.

For additional information on township roads, residents should call either Dan Rogers at 952-469-3739 or Mark Malecha at 507-645-4015

Vermillion River Watershed

The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization has drafted a Goal Statement covering 12 categories. This is a major step in developing plans for the protection and enhancement of water quality and floodplain management. An "open house" for a review of the planning effort will be held on September 17 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Western Service Center, 14955 Galaxie Avenue, Apple Valley. A more formal review of the new plan will begin at 6:00 PM. Interested residents, who would like more information, should contact Lisa Ring at 952-891-7018 or by e mail at < lisa.ring@co.dakota.mn.us >

North Cannon River WMO Watershed Management Plan

Technical and citizen Advisory Committees have been established. A small planning grant was received from BWSR and the plan has gone through a 60 day review process. Persons interested in obtaining more information should contact Laura Jester at 651-480-7784 or Connie Anderson at 952-469-2355.

Farmland and Natural Area Program

Since the reports in the January 2003 and April 2003 issues of the Eureka newsletters, program guidelines have been developed, and a 14 member Advisory Committee appointed (including Bev Topp, former township supervisor). July 31st is the application deadline for farmland protection, and in August the Advisory Committee will make their recommendations to the County Board.

In September, the County Board will identify priority farmland applications for landowner negotiations, using criteria previously developed by the County Commissioners. The Eureka Town Board supports this Program through a board resolution adopted on July 14. Additional points will thus be awarded for applicants from the township, thus giving township farmers who wish to participate in this program a leg up over applicants in other townships where such support by their town board was not forthcoming.

Individuals who might want more information, should contact Kurt Chatfield at 651-891-7022.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Greco has resigned as webmaster. He volunteered to set up the town's website, obtained resources for a first year no cost operation for the town, and maintained the site since its inception. Without his effort, the town would not have had a most professional and effective website. We all thank him for his splendid work!

Building Permits

Persons who want to add to a house, build a new house, garage or barn must apply for a building permit. Here is the procedure: 1. Contact the Town Clerk and get an application. Complete it. 2. Take to the Planning Commission 3. The Planning Commission will refer it to the Building Inspector who will forward it to the Town Board. 4. The Board may approve the application. Note: The applicant must attend all meetings.

Important Notice

Land Split approvals are needed by the Town Board any time a new Property ID is created. This may apply when refinancing a home or selling a portion of a property. Any person who faces this situation should contact the Town Clerk to obtain a "split" approval form. Attendance at a Planning Commission meeting and Town Board is required to obtain the Split approval.

Planning Commission Members - A Brief Introduction

Francie Madden, Chair - She was born and raised in the township and attended Lakeville schools. Does farming mostly as a hobby. She was originally appointed to the Planning Commission in 1998 and reappointed on May 1, 2003 for a 3 year term, ending on April 30, 2006

Butch Hansen, Vice Chair - lived all of his life in the township, is married, has five adult kids and 9 grandchildren. Is self employed. His family has been in the township for over a 100 years. Appointed to a two year term on May 1, 2003, ending on April 30, 2005.

Corey Behrendt, Secretary - grew up in Pulaski, WI and in his very early adult years produced village board meetings for a local cable station. Became active in local community affairs after moving to Eau Claire, WI, resulting "in providing input into growth plans for a growing township." Is married to a lifetime resident of Eureka and moved here two years ago. He lives in a century old homestead on the south end of Chub Lake. He was appointed to the commission on May 1, 2003 for a 3 year term, ending on April 30, 2006.

Cheryl Monson - left sunny Orange County, CA 16 years ago and settled in Eureka as a better place to raise 3 kids. Been married 19 years. She has been self employed for 4 1/2 years. Her husband is also self employed. Appointed to the commission on May 1, 2003 for a two year term, ending on April 30, 2005.

Calvin Pflaum - has lived in the township all of his life and attended schools in Farmington. Pflaums have been in southern Dakota County since the 1880s. This is the third generation family on the same working farm. He and his wife have two sons and one daughter. This is Cal's second appointment to the commission. He will serve a 1 year term that started on May 1, 2003 and will end on April 30, 2004.

Board Happenings

Hello and greetings to all. Kenny Miller here, and it is my turn to talk with everyone about things that are happening in the township.

We have a new legal firm, Murnane, Colin, White and Brandt, representing Eureka Township and they come highly recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships. Louise Toscano Seeba, our contact with this firm, is very knowledgeable and charming woman and should be able to help us with a variety of issues.

Among these is the matter of the very generous gift of land from the Henry and Ruth Larsen family for the new town hall. I have been asked by the other board members to form a committee to create and present to all of you a plan for a new town hall when the the gift of the land is finalized. So, I am asking for volunteers. Please call Nanett or myself if you are interested in helping with this project.

I am excited by a project being planned by Alan Bachman on his property near 245th Street, east of Cedar Ave. This is a very ambitious undertaking that will result in the reestablishment of a wetland and wild prairie grass area with a wide variety of plants native to our area. He is committed to recreating something that was lost after our ancestors settled in this township many years ago.

The Town Board hired a new building inspector, Bob Hegner, as a consequence of the resignation of Ron Wassman. The new inspector comes with excellent credentials, and his experience bodes well for individuals who may want to build new homes and for the town board by providing a more systematic approach in his business practice. A special thanks to Connie Anderson for her hard work in recruiting the new building inspector.

Envisioning Task Team

The Envisioning Task Team will submit a written report of their work to the Town Board on August 11, 2003. The tasks of the team were to:

- formulate and discuss a variety of growth scenarios for the township;
- learn about the potential impact of each scenario on such things as water quality, agriculture, wildlife, Township infrastructure and resident quality of life;
- inform the citizens of Eureka about their findings at the conclusion of the work.

At the regular town board meeting on September 8th, the town board will decide when to allow the task team to conduct an open house for the residents of the township in November, as required to complete the third task.

Readers who want additional information should consult the minutes of the extended town board meeting on June 17, 2003, and all of the minutes of the task team posted on the town's web page.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

WANTED: Deputy Clerk and Treasurer

The Town Board has approved the appointment of a deputy clerk and treasurer to perform the duties of the Town Clerk/Treasurer in her absence.

Applicants must be 21 years and have a working knowledge of computers using Quicken and Word programs. They need not be a resident of the township; however, some knowledge of the workings of a township would be helpful in contacts with the Town Board, Planning Commission, task forces sponsored by the Town Board and other residents.

Interested persons should contact the Town Clerk or send a resume by e mail to the Town Clerk.

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

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
by E mail at
eurekatn@frontiernet.net

by telephone 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
August 11
Sept. 8
Oct. 14 (Tuesday)

Planning Commission
August 4
Sept. 2 (Tuesday)
Oct. 6

All meetings start at 7:00 PM and are held in the Town Hall on old Cedar Avenue, a block south of 250 St. W.