

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

January 2004



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

952-469-1835

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

Email: eurekatn@frontiernet.net

fax: 952.469.3643

WEB site:

<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Editor: Bob Papke

651-463-8546

Official notices published in:

the *This Week Life and Times* newspaper, and posted on the bulletin board outside the Town Hall.

Citizen Task Force Completes Eureka Envisioning Project by Mike Greco, Task Force Chair

The Eureka Envisioning Task Force has finished work on a two-year project to investigate potential effects of growth and development on our community. The nine-member task force was created by the town board in July 2001 as a discussion and educational group; it has no power to make planning decisions.

The task force held a public open house in November at the Dakota Extension Office in Farmington to share its work with residents. About 90 people attended. Information was presented at six individual stations. Visitors were welcomed and signed in at Station One.

Station Two presented photos of Eureka and surrounding communities and results from a "Community Attributes" survey conducted at the 2002 Envisioning Open House.

At Station Three, residents viewed maps of the six growth scenarios the task force created, as well as graphs showing the impact of each scenario on such things as taxes, water quality, roads, farmland, and population. Residents also had a chance to comment on the scenarios. The most popular scenarios were maintaining the current 1 per 40 zoning (35% of respondents) and creating a small, mixed-use residential and commercial town center (28%). The least popular scenarios were 2.5-acre zoning throughout Eureka (8%) and suburban-style development in the northern portion of the township (5%).

At Station Four, residents learned about transfer of development rights programs and were asked whether the township should study the concept for possible use in Eureka. Nearly two-thirds of those who responded said "yes."

At Station Five, citizens learned about the "next steps" the task force recommended for carrying its work forward and had a chance to comment on them. Those rated most highly included provided training for township officials and information sessions for citizens on growth-related issues, creating incentives and guidelines to minimize the impacts of development, researching and applying for grant opportunities, building a sense of community, and staying informed about the growth plans of neighboring communities.

Finally, residents could view and purchase the task force's written report at Station Six.

The full 80-page report is available, for on-site use only, at the Lakeville and Farmington libraries and the Eureka Town Hall. A summary version of the report (22 pages, full color) can be purchased for \$17 (plus \$3 S&H).

A CD containing both the full and summary reports is available for \$3. Contact Town Clerk Nanett Leine for details.

More information about the Eureka Envisioning Project, including all materials presented at the Open House, are available at the township website at www.eurekatownship-mn.us/taskforce/envisioning.html.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

A New Deputy Clerk/Treasurer

On December 9, 2003, Jeannie Nordstrom was sworn in as Deputy Clerk Treasurer for Eureka Township. She has been a resident of the township since the early 60s. She and her husband Ken De Master have built a new home on her mother's farm on Highview Avenue. Her duties will include the duties of the Clerk/Treasurer in her absence,

Scott County & Eureka Township

"The cities of Elko and New Market and their joint sewer boards have paid a civil penalty of \$10,000 in 2003 for environmental violations associated with their wastewater treatment facility." The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency had discovered in 2002 that wastewaters discharged from the facility into the Vermillion River exceeded significantly water quality standards. The discharged water contained excessive levels of fecal coliform and other pollutants that affected oxygen levels. For further technical information contact Nancy Drach at 651.296.972.

Residents are encouraged to attend a public open house to review Scott County's Comprehensive Plan. The meeting will be on February 26, 2004 at the New Market Area Hall, 601 Main St., New Market, starting at 6:00 PM. The purpose of this meeting is obtain public input on a Draft Land Use Plan Map, Natural Resource Corridor Map and Transportation Map.

Residents are also strongly encouraged to learn more about wastewater issues 1) involving the cities of Elko and New Market and the impact on the Vermillion River Watershed, and thus Eureka and 2) the roles of the Metropolitan Council, Scott County and Dakota County in a study of the Vermillion River Watershed. For further information contact any Eureka town board supervisor.

Lakeville and Airlake Airport

Between an agreement between the City of Lakeville and Eureka, a small parcel of land (1.3 acres) in Eureka will be transferred to Lakeville to resolve an issue between the two jurisdictions. As part of the agreement, Eureka will receive 1/2 of the building fees for the construction of a large building within the city of Lakeville on the Airlake Airport site.

Financial Audit of the Town's Books

The firm of Abdol, Mike and Myers was selected to audit the town's financial records at a cost not to exceed \$4500. The combining of clerk and treasurer's position triggers this audit requirement.

Newsletter Logo and Artwork

Never acknowledged until now: that the logo for the newsletters and the web site was donated by artist Carolyn Papke.

Important Notice

The moratorium on the application of Ordinance 33 to businesses in Eureka Township has been extended for 6 months - to September 10, 2004 - to allow sufficient time for the board to complete its work on a related ordinance.

Important Notice

Town Board election for a board supervisor 3 year term will be held on March 9, 2004 at the town hall on old Cedar Ave. Hours for voting are from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

Only one candidate, Butch Hansen, has applied to seek a position on the town board of supervisors.

Board Happenings

by Dan Rogers, Town Board Supervisor

It has been a busy year. Both the board of supervisors and the planning commission have been putting in long hours at many meetings taking care of township business. The good part is that a lot has been accomplished.

Work on ordinances continues with a very aggressive schedule. Board Chair Don Pflaum would like to have them ready for public hearings shortly after the annual meeting (if not sooner). The mission of the planning commission and the board in this instance has been to make them easier to find, by grouping them in the areas they address, and to make them current and easier to understand. This is a big task, but one that had a lot of great work done on it by the preceding board.

The planning commission has taken on a new task. They will be functioning as a road committee and provide input to the board about areas of concern.

Great news! We have been trying to get the county to replace the 265th Street bridge east of Galaxie Avenue. At the end of last year "turn back money" became available to the counties for special projects. Members of the planning commission, the board of supervisors, and concerned/involved township residents contacted their local and state representatives and made our desire known to see some of that funding used in Eureka Township. Work starts on the NEW bridge this spring (approximately \$700K-\$800K). Road supervisors Mark Malecha and myself have met with the county and the residents that will be most affected by the construction of the new bridge. It will be higher (to meet present standards) and will require raising the approaches to meet the new bridge deck height, but all parties are okay with the plan presented by the county. [Ed. Note: Eureka's share of the cost of the bridge is less than \$15,000.]

The Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors would like to thank you for your support this past year, and wish all township residents a happy and prosperous new year.

Task Force for a New Town Hall Building

The Eureka Town Board commissioned a task force to bring building designs to the board for consideration. Selected for the task force were interested residents Kelly Broseth, Ken De Master, Butch Hansen and Chris Neilsen. The task force will be chaired by Kenny Miller. The group expects that preliminary drawings or layout sketches will be made available at the annual meeting in March.

A lot split has been approved for the location of the new town hall at the southwest corner of old Cedar Ave. and 250th Street. As reported in the October issue of this newsletter, the Larson family through Hollis Larson, is donating the land as a gift to the township. The transfer of land is near completion.

Noxious Weed Control

Under state law Eureka Township was given the authority to control noxious weeds in the township. Essentially this means controlling thistles in ditches as well as on private property. Mark Malecha, as the thistle control officer, has developed a plan to control thistles in township ditches. Starting in August 2004, all ditches will be mowed, and then followed up in October with mowing of those patches in ditches that may require additional attention. As a very last resort, chemical spraying may be required to control thistle growth.

The thistle control officer was given the authority to inspect private land to ensure that landowners are informed of their duty to control thistles on their property. Call Mark for more details.

The Town's Newsletter

Every quarter, the newsletter is written, approved, printed, assembled, labelled, stamps adhered and delivered to the post office. For the last issue Nanett Leine and her girl scout troop applied labels and stamps to 600 plus newsletters. They will repeat it for this issue as well. Thank you!

Editor's Note: It is with some regret that this will be my last issue for writing, organizing and assembling materials for this newsletter. It has been fun. One regret: we needed to hear from residents! Write or call with your thoughts, complaints!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Eureka Annual Township meeting will be held at the Mount Olivet Retreat Center at 7984 W. 257 St., on March 9, 2004 starting at 8:00 PM.

Important topics to be covered:

- approval of the 2005 levy
- update on the status of the proposed new town hall
- central wastewater system in Elko/New Market and its possible affect on the Vermillion Watershed in Eureka
- update on the revision of ordinances
- Townboard responses to motions approved by the residents at last year's annual meeting

A plan will be implemented at the annual meeting to ensure that only qualified residents of the township will be permitted to vote on motions.

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 site:
<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Calendar of Meetings

Town Board

Feb. 9
Mar. 8
Apr. 12

Planning Commission

Feb. 2
Mar. 1
Apr. 5

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.