

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP, MN.

JANUARY 2006



BOARD HAPPENINGS by Mark Malecha

Eureka Township Supervisors
Meet monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Connie Anderson, Chair
952-469-2355, term to 3/07
Dan Rogers, Vice Chair
952-469-3739, term to 3/06
Gloria Belzer, term to 3/08
952-469-8488
Mark Malecha, term to 3/06
507-645-4015
Cheryl Monson, term to 3/08
952-469-1835

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

Eureka Planning Commission
Meet monthly, 1st Monday, 7:00 p.m.
Cory Behrendt, Chair
952-985-5411, term to 4/06
Mike Greco, Vice Chair
952-469-8418, term to 4/08
Kevin Flaherty, term to 4/08
612-325-7361
Francie Madden, term to 4/06
952-469-2958
Rich Stevens, term to 4/07
651-463-4609

Township Contact
Nanett Champlain, 952-469-3736
Monday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
At other times, calls transferred to
voicemail; all calls are returned.

- for general information
- to get on meeting agenda
- for building permits, etc., info.

Emergency fire, police, ambulance
call 911
E-mail: eurekatn@frontiernet.net
Website: www.eurekatownship-mn.us

- official meeting minutes
- ordinances, calendar, etc.

Official Notices published in *Lakeville This Week Life and Times* newspaper, and posted on bulletin board outside the new Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave.

Editor: Carolyn Papke, 651-463-8546
Mailings by Wally Bohm & family

We as a township are again approaching an important era in Eureka. In March we have three positions up for election on our board of supervisors. I encourage everyone to get out and vote on Tuesday March 14. The election is from 10:00 a.m. through 8:00 p.m. at the Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Avenue.

March 14, 8:15 p.m. is also the date of our annual town meeting, where residents have the chance to offer direction for our future as a township and approve the 2007 tax levy.

Our township continues to face many issues for our future: Public Safety is a big concern and through diligent work by Eureka township as well as other townships, our Sheriffs department is trying to increase patrols in our rural communities. Roads, and the cost of maintaining them are ever increasing as we grow and are part of a growing metropolitan area.

Another item that the board spends a lot of time, energy, and money on is neighbor disagreements. As residents we need to talk to our neighbors about concerns, issues or problems we have with one another and try to resolve them amicably before we address these issues to the township.

Lastly I want to take this opportunity to say a big THANK YOU to all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you. It has been a pleasure to meet and or talk to so many of you. I thank you.

PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGE by Cory Behrendt

Curtain Call.....Enter Eureka Township, stage left:

We have rehearsed our parts and as of January 9th we are in full production of setting the vision for Eureka Township. The RFP to hire a planner for our Township has been approved and has been distributed to many consultants in the field. Over the coming months we will be receiving responses and selecting a consultant who will guide us through the development of a Strategic Vision.

Based on our current timeline, we expect the contract will be awarded by June and the process will begin shortly thereafter. The first Phase includes an innovative and extensive public participation program, which will be led by the consultant. This is the critical element to our strategic vision as it will build from the Townships collective vision. During this Phase the consultant will lead the Township through multiple public input forums to collect information about our visions for Eureka.

What is your part? It will be important to be a part of our public forums to voice your opinions, concerns and thoughts about our future. It will be from this public input that a strategic vision will be created. The strategic vision will include zoning guides for our future, input to our next comprehensive plan, land use maps and other tools to help make key decisions.

We have seen the winds of change surround us. If we do not chart our course carefully and strategically, we may not be able to set a course at all. Also remember that we must agree collectively as a Township. This means there will be compromises to be made and differences to be settled. Lets agree to build Eureka as friends and neighbors.

TOWN BOARD ISSUES REVIEW 2005

The Town Board is continually in the process of making decisions about Building Permits, Split Lots, Non-Conforming Use Permits, Conditional Use Permits, and issues that are not in compliance with our Ordinances. For specific information, refer to the minutes of Town Board Meetings on our website.

The Town Board and Planning Commission engaged in many regular and special meetings, training, inspections, and research to conduct the business of the township. They also handled an array of written complaints this year regarding junk vehicles, derelict buildings, noise, and right of way issues, some of which can result in misdemeanor actions if ignored. In 2005 there were 30 building permits approved, 10 lot splits approved with county registration essential, and registration of 21 non-conforming businesses by the Dec. 31, 2004 deadline (Zoning Ordinance 3, Section 5, page 38-40). See Clerk/Treasurer for detailed information.

Connie Anderson, the Town Board Chair, submitted her resignation for personal reasons effective March 24, 2006, so that her remaining term of 1 year will be on the March ballot. Her extensive service to the community and recent historical memory of town board functioning will be difficult to replace. A big thank you should go to all elected, appointed officials, paid staff, and volunteers of the Township for their many hours of effort on our behalf.

The North Cannon Watershed Management Organization model ordinance for erosion control and storm water management requirement for land disturbances may be adopted into our ordinances. If the Town Board makes this recommendation, established processes will be used including a future public hearing which would be noticed in the Life and Times newspapers.

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT EUREKA ORDINANCE.....

This is a quick ordinance synopsis; for complete information, refer to Eureka Township Ordinances. They are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for hard copy, \$2 for CD disk, or can be accessed on our website, or at Farmington or Lakeville Libraries, or Eureka Town Hall, or the County Law Library.

Eureka Township is zoned as an **agricultural district**. **Permitted uses** (as specifically defined by the Ordinance) include such things as commercial agriculture and horticulture, farm buildings, forestry, grazing and gardening, one single dwelling unit per each quarter-quarter section, historic sites, home occupations and private stable.

Conditional Uses and Structures may be approved if certain provisions and requirements are met. They could include government facilities, churches, cemeteries, airports, schools, mining and extraction operations (following Mining Ordinance requirements), public utility/service structures. "All other uses and structures which are not specifically permitted as a right or by Conditional Use Permit, including public stables and boarding of dogs, shall be prohibited in the Agricultural District." {Eureka Township Ordinances, 2005; Ordinance 3, Chapter 2; Section 1, page 40}

A **Conditional Use** may be appropriate or desirable but may create special problems (i.e. height, bulk, traffic congestion) so that not all locations might be suitable or in the best interest of the community. (definition, page 8)

A **Conditional Use Permit (CUP)** may be granted depending on the effect of the proposed use on health, safety, morals, and general welfare of occupants of surrounding lands and water bodies. It must not be in conflict with the Comprehensive Plan and be consistent with the Zoning Ordinance. Numerous findings are required by the Planning Commission and the Town Board. A public hearing is required. Standards and requirements may be imposed to protect public health, safety and welfare. A permit specifies the specific conditions of use and is reviewed periodically. (Ordinance 3, Chapter 4, Section 13, pages 61-64) **Recording of a Conditional Use Permit:** "A certified copy of any conditional use permit shall be recorded with the county recorder or registrar of titles of the county or counties in which the municipality is located for record. The conditional use permit shall include the legal description of the property included." (Minnesota Statutes 2005, Chapter 462, 462.3595, Subd. 4)

The public is invited to comment favorably or unfavorably during this review to extend or revoke the CUP. In 2006 the following Conditional Use Permits will come up for review at regular Town Board meetings as follows:

February

Hansen Airstrip: 26120 Highview Ave, Farmington

Gravel Mines:

Madden Pit: 225th St W., Lakeville
Operator: Eureka Sand and Gravel

Sauber Pit: 225th St W., Lakeville
Operator: Eureka Sand and Gravel

Barton Sand and Gravel:
Tiller Corporation, 10005 235th St W., Lakeville

Storlie Gravel Pit: 23449 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville

April:

Spirit Ranch I: 24005 Dodd Blvd, Lakeville - Terri Petter
Spirit Ranch II: 10132 W 235th St, Lakeville - Terri Petter

May:

Mark Nelson: 5255 265th St., Farmington - Airstrip

Igor Fjeda and Diane Piper: 24545 Highview Ave, Lakeville
- housing animals

July:

Charles "Butch" Hansen: 26120 Highview Ave, Lakeville
- 2nd Farm Dwelling

December:

Wat Lao of Minnesota- 22605 Cedar Ave, Farmington

CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

"If Town Board Supervisors are responsible and follow the legal process, all citizens will be treated fairly."

All candidates were asked: "name, address, education/occupation, what background experience do you bring to township supervisor position, and why have you chosen to run for town board." Their responses follow.

The Town Board is not endorsing candidates, nor bears responsibility for the veracity of any of these statements.

Supervisor Position #3 - a 3 year term (currently Mark Malecha) - vote for 1

Cory Behrendt, 7861 272nd Str. West, Farmington

- Degrees in Electrical Engineering and Management Information Systems. Infrastructure Operations Mgr., LarsonAllen accounting firm.
- Washington Township Development Advisory Committee (on development patterns and environmental concerns): Member 1998-1999
- Eureka Township Planning Commission: Member 2002-2006 - Recorder 2003-2005 - Chair 2006
- I enjoy working with Township issues and being able to help citizens build there lives in Eureka. As a professional, it is my responsibility to create business and technology plans that support the daily needs of a thriving business. This is an area I have found success and would like to apply that ability to help the Township achieve its goals. In the course of my work I must also listen closely to ideas and concepts of many people to develop plans and road maps for the future. I believe this skill will allow me to carefully listen to the business at hand and apply decisions that are fair and impartial. During my time on the Planning Commission I believe I have brought clarity to many issues and consistently applied our ordinances. I am also interested in preserving the history and heritage of the township while creating one that our children will be proud of.

Supervisor Position #4 - a 3 year term (currently Dan Rogers) - vote for 1

Charles "Butch" Hansen, 26120 Highview Ave, Farmington (by Cindy)

Butch is a lifetime resident of Lakeville and Farmington. Butch has been a self employed business owner and entrepreneur for over 25 years. Butch is a visionary and a self starter and an asset to the community. Instrumental in starting the Eureka Business Owners Assoc. Butch became a liaison for the business owners helping to keep their rights to continue serving our community. Butch listens to the needs of the people, the homeowner and business owner alike. Butch sees what needs to get accomplished and does it. Serving on the Eureka Planning Commission for 2 years he helped in accomplishing the re-writing of our public ordinances and helped to develop new ordinances when needed. Working well with committee members Butch has served on the Town Hall Task Force, working from concept to completion of our new town hall building. Butch was concerned about the pollution of the Vermillion River and attended and testified at the MPCA public hearings regarding raw waste being dumped in the Vermillion River. Public relations is important to Butch; he will commit the time to represent and serve the people of our Township.

Daniel M. Rogers, 24403 Iceland Path, Lakeville, MN 55044

- Education: 13+ years. Occupation: Manager, Training and Technical Documentation, Lockheed Martin Tactical Systems
- I have a long history of community service by volunteering my time to my community and to my country. I believe in making informed decisions and have the analytical skills required to deal with complex issues. I bring a cool-headed approach to difficult situations, working with people constructively and without losing my objectivity.
- I am running for re-election because I feel I bring to the township board and the people of the township a balanced, even handed approach. I believe I have proven my ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds, to take in and act on information of varied detail and complexity, and a willingness to be open-minded about issues and to take the time to research those issues. I'm not afraid to make decisions based on the facts, or to admit when I've made a mistake. I continue to believe in fairness for all Eureka Township citizens, and respect the opinions of all township citizens.

Supervisor Position #5 - 1 year remaining (currently Connie Anderson) - vote for 1

Amy Nielsen, Cedar Ave.

- Bachelor of Science, Electronic Engineering Technology. Certified Group Fitness Instructor and Personal Trainer. County Farm Service Agency Committee Member, and we are a crop farming family.
- Eureka Envisioning Committee member.
- Given the opportunity I would like to help any way I can. I will be a responsible and dependable Board Supervisor, committed to attend Supervisor training, attend all Town Board meetings and be prepared in advance. I am also committed to representing the people of this great community.

Gary Smith, 4628 235th Street W, Farmington

- Farmer, retired oil refinery worker, courses in computer programming, industrial instrumentation maintenance, township road maintenance, and agribusiness. I have skills in complex process control systems, developed business sense & common sense from my farming background.
- Eureka Township Road Steward 2 yrs., Mining Ordinance Task Force Chair, Township Supervisor and Chair 1980-84.
- I want to do my part to leave the township in good condition for my grandchildren and adult children who are engaged in farming activities with me. Since it is unusual to have 3 positions up for election., my regular attendance at board meetings and extensive township experience enables me to make a quick and effective transition to town board supervisor for the next year.

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERK

Election Judge Training Tuesday, January 31, 2006 at 12:30 p.m. at the Eureka Town Hall. This is the only election training offered by Dakota County for the March Elections. Anyone interested in becoming an election judge should contact the Town Clerk, Nanett Champlain at 952-469-3736.

Welcome to **Mary Michaels**, who has been recently appointed as the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer.

An amendment was approved to the Building Inspector's contract so that he will do the **site inspections** on any new buildings.

There will be **two openings on the Planning Commission**. Each of the positions is a three-year term beginning May 1, 2006. The Town Board will appoint two individuals at the April 10 Board meeting. Anyone who is interested in these positions should submit a letter to the Town Clerk. See Ordinance No. 2, Chapter 3 (page 27) for more information.



Eureka Township
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25043 Cedar Avenue
Phone 952-469-3736
Fax 952-469-5525
Email:
eurekatn@frontiernet.net
Website:
<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Your email address may be added to the list for current updates of monthly calendar, agendas, minutes, etc.
Blind copies are sent, so e-mail addresses are kept private.
Send the e-mail address to the clerk (eurekatn@frontiernet.net)

EUREKA CALENDAR - events at Eureka Town Hall unless otherwise indicated.

Jan. 31, 2006	Tues.	12:30 p.m.	Election Judge Training
Feb. 6, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
Feb. 9, 2006	Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Bluebird Workshop for public by Marlys Shirley, Cy. Coord. Bluebird Recovery Program
Feb. 13, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
March 6, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
March 13, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
March 14, 2006	Tues.	10:00 am-8:00 pm	Public Election of 3 Eureka Township Supv.
March 14, 2006	Tues.	8:15 p.m.	Eureka Township Annual Meeting
March 16, 2006	Thurs.	7:00 p.m.	Board of Canvas
<i>March 21, 2006 alternate date for election/annual meeting in event of severe weather 3/14</i>			
April 3, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Planning Commission Meeting
April 10, 2006	Mon.	7:00 p.m.	Monthly Township Supervisors Meeting
April 25, 2006	Tues.	10:30-11:30 a.m.	Board of Appeals & Equalization