

# Eureka! The News

A Quarterly Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

April 2008



## Eureka Township Supervisors

Meet monthly, 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Jeff Otto, Chair

952-469-8561, term to 3/10

Corey Behrendt, Vice Chair

952-985-5411, term to 3/09

Brian Budenski, term to 3/11

952-292-6028

Carrie Jennings, term to 3/11

952-469-4976

Dan Rogers, term to 3/09

952-469-3739

## Eureka Planning Commission

Meet monthly, 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Sharon Buckley, Vice Chair

952-469-2290, term to 4/09

Vince Mako, term to 4/11

952-469-3928

Kenny Miller, term to 4/10

952-469-4803

Ken Olstad, term to 4/11

952-985-7248

Nancy Sauber, term to 4/09

952-469-5146

## Township Contact, Clerk/Treasurer

Nanett Champlain, 952-469-3736

Fax 952-469-5525

## Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Thursdays 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At other times, calls are transferred to voice mail; all calls are returned.

**Drop box** – A locked drop box is available on the door of the Town Hall to receive applications and other documents.

**E-mail:** [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net)

**Website:** <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Ken Olstad 952-985-7245

## Township Roads:

Brian Budenski 952-292-6028

Jeff Otto, 952-469-8561

## Building Inspector:

Scott Qualle 952-442-7520

[scott@mnspect.com](mailto:scott@mnspect.com)

Waldron & Associates

[www.mnspect.com](http://www.mnspect.com)

**Emergency 911:** ambulance, police, fire  
**(non-emergency 651-437-4211)**

**Official Notices** are posted on the bulletin board located on the south (parking lot) side of the Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave. and published in ThisWeek Life and Times newspaper.

**Editor:** Jody Arman-Jones, 651-463-2876

**Mailings:** Georgie Molitor

## 2008 Township Election and Board Reorganization

The 2008 Township election was held on Tuesday, March 11. 220 voters cast their ballots. Results were canvassed on March 13 and are as follows:

Supervisor position #1 serving until March 2011

**Brian Budenski** 197 votes

Supervisor position #3 serving until March 2011

Alberta Gelineau 57 votes

**Carrie Jennings** 159 votes

A very BIG thank you to all those working the elections including:

**Nanett Champlain** (primary Township election official), **Barb Bachman** (head judge), **Marlene Swantek**, **Carolyn Papke**, **Earl Schindeldecker**, **Cheryl Schindeldecker** and **Julie Plum** (associate judges).

The annual Town Meeting was held immediately after polls closed.

Approximately 60 people were in attendance. **John Strunk** was elected moderator and facilitated a lively discussion. Thanks go to John for a job well done. The 2009 Township levy was set at \$480,000. The 2009 annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 2009 at 8:15 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Thank you, also, to retiring Town Board Supervisor **Gloria Belzer** who chose not to run for another term. Mrs. Belzer has always been well prepared, putting in countless hours of research, and acting as a strong advocate for Eureka Township, serving as Town Board contact for communications, sheriff, wetlands and North Cannon River Watershed (along with Supervisor Behrendt). Your public service to the Township is very much appreciated.

Recognition and appreciation of service also go to retiring Planning Commission Chair, **Mike Greco**. Mike has made enormous contributions to the Township in many ways, including a very impressive web site, which he is turning over to fellow Planning Commission member, **Ken Olstad**. Mike has worked countless long hours for many years, and we wish him well in his master's degree program at the University of Minnesota through which he plans to become a planner.

## 2008 - 2009 Town Board Committee Assignments.

1. Fire Contracts - Dan Rogers
2. Cannon River Water Shed - Carrie Jennings/ Cory Behrendt- Alternate
3. Vermillion Water Shed - Carrie Jennings/ Jeff Otto- Alternate
4. Weed Inspector- Brian Budenski
5. ALF Ambulance - Dan Rogers
6. Roads - Brian Budenski (operations), Jeff Otto (Planning)
7. Communications -Carrie Jennings
8. Wetlands Contact - Carrie Jennings
9. Airlake Airport - Dan Rogers/ Jeff Otto- Alternate
10. Town Hall - Clerk
11. County Contact - Cory Behrendt
12. Sheriff Contact - Dan Rogers
13. DNR Contact - Carrie Jennings
14. Elko/ New Market - Brian Budenski
15. Compliance Official - Cory Behrendt
16. Technical Advisory Committee - Brian Budenski

## TOWN BOARD NEWS

**A message from retiring Town Board Supervisor Gloria Belzer** - As my term has ended as Town Board Supervisor, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the citizens of Eureka for their vote of confidence and support in allowing me the privilege and honor of serving this community. I found the responsibility of addressing issues and balancing the needs of individual citizens with the well being of the whole community both challenging and rewarding. I will continue to dedicate my time to a community I am proud to be a part of.

### PROJECT UPDATES

**Elko-New Market Interceptor** – <http://metro council.org/environment/CapitalProjects/cip-8016.htm> Construction on this project is currently underway on Dodd Boulevard. Drivers along Dodd are cautioned to SLOW DOWN dramatically, as lane closures are common, and shoulder space is limited. The project will continue throughout the summer.

**Northern Natural Gas Pipeline** – Work on this pipeline has been substantially completed with the exception of an area on 245<sup>th</sup> St. where work will continue in 2008.

**MinnCan Project** – <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=18339> MinnCan reports that actual pipeline construction in McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Scott and Dakota counties is scheduled to begin in April and run through late 2008. No actual construction has begun in Eureka at this date. Assuming the project remains on schedule, Larry Van Horn, vice president for Operations of the Minnesota Pipeline Company, states a late 2008 completion date is anticipated, at which time 165,000 barrels of Canadian crude oil are expected to be transported daily. The first hearing by the Minnesota Court of Appeals regarding the *Petition for Reconsideration* and *Petition for Rehearing* was held at the Minnesota State Court of Appeals on March 13, 2008. A decision is expected within 120 days. Landowners with property being taken under eminent domain will begin hearings with court appointed commissioners in May.

**CAP X 2020 Project** – <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=19120> . This project is in the “need” phase and will enter the “planning phase” throughout 2008. The **Citizens Energy Task Force** met on April 15<sup>th</sup> and decided to hire an attorney to help increase CETF’s effectiveness in the contested case hearing for the CapX permitting process. Paula Maccabee, independent lawyer and public interest advocate is highly experienced with the PUC and landowners rights. But money must be raised for this purpose and time is of the essence. CETF learned that in 2006, Statute 117.189 created eminent domain exceptions that significantly favor CapX negotiations with property owners and which even the state and counties do not have in these kinds of proceedings. A bill was introduced to remove these exceptions but, according to one of the sponsors, will probably not make it to the floor for this session. CETF will mobilize to work on this issue and to try to revive the bill, if possible. We urge citizens to contact us and to get involved and consider donating money to help us work to get back the property owner rights we need to negotiate for all public service projects, and other issues such as need justification, affecting the type of generation, and the carbon footprint of the lines. Please contact Bev Topp at 952-469-4859 or [eurekatopp@gmail.com](mailto:eurekatopp@gmail.com) or Atina Diffley at 952-469-1855 or [atinagoe@frontiernet.net](mailto:atinagoe@frontiernet.net) to discuss how your involvement can enhance the effectiveness of the task force’s work.

### TOWNSHIP ROADS

Eureka Township is responsible for 38 ½ miles of gravel roads within the Township borders, and is in the process of creating a five year plan for ongoing road maintenance. The proposed 2008 gravel & limestone projects include:

\*225<sup>th</sup> St. – Cedar Ave. to Flagstaff Ave.

\*Hamburg Ave. – 225<sup>th</sup> St. to 240<sup>th</sup> St. and South of 267<sup>th</sup> St. (ditch reconstruction with \$5,000 from NCWSD)

\*245<sup>th</sup> St. – Fordham Ave. to Essex Ave.

\*Iberia Ave. south

In addition, a motion was made, seconded and carried at the 2008 Annual Meeting asking the Town Board to look into paving “aprons” of approximately 150 feet at selected intersections throughout the Township.

Supervisors Brian Budenski and Jeff Otto will again handle roads, but have organized their responsibilities differently for more efficient communication and coordination of contractor work and work load balance. Brian Budenski will handle Operations, dealing with day to day needs, coordinating resident issues and contractor priorities. He will be the primary public contact. Jeff Otto will focus on Planning, which includes budget issues and organizing detailed work information in a computer database to build toward the ability to forecast realistic 5-year plans. He will also serve as backup public contact when Brian may not be available on day to day issues.

A recommendation passed at the 2008 Annual Meeting was for the Board to expand the 2008 road program using all unspent 2007 road funds in addition to the 2008 road budget. The above list of road projects will be expanded once the Spring Road Inspection is made late on April 19<sup>th</sup> and projects are prioritized. This should allow expansion of the typical 5 miles of graveling to 7-8 miles this year, depending on what the supplier and contractor bids come in at this year. This will recover most of last year’s shortfall to restore the steady diet of replacement gravel our roads need to be as economical as possible to maintain stability. Last year’s shortfall in gravel and limestone was due to planned diversion of funds for a one-time project, plus a reimbursement payment from Northern Natural Gas for excess road wear arriving too

late in the year to acquire and install additional gravel. The one-time project had to be cancelled late, thus the funds were not spent. Rather than risk two years in a row of deferred gravel maintenance, the project will be reconsidered for 2009.

Contact has already been made with Dakota County about the desire to be able to apply dust control prior to the Memorial Day weekend if we have another dry spring like last year. Eureka and other townships participate in a bulk order of dust control chemicals coordinated by Dakota County so that all may benefit from better volume pricing. This also means we do not directly control delivery, which comes from out of state by rail to Hastings. The County indicated they expect to be able to have chemicals available in May, but cannot guarantee delivery.

### **PLANNING COMMISSION MESSAGES**

*By retiring Planning Commission Chair Mike Greco*

As always, this spring has been a busy one for the planning commission – even though spring weather has been late in coming. With the beginning of the construction season, building permit applications have increased. Remember that applications for **building permits (as well as other permit applications) are due to the Town Clerk by noon ten days in advance of the Planning Commission meeting** in order to be placed on the agenda.

Work continues on the Township’s comprehensive plan update. The 2030 Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee has been holding monthly meetings since January. The committee will hold an **OPEN HOUSE ON APRIL 28** from 6 pm to 8 pm (**presentation at 7 pm**) at the Eureka Town Hall to update residents on progress to date. More information about the comprehensive plan update can be found on the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/CompPlan/CompPlanUpdate.html>.

The Planning Commission is also wrapping up a review and update of Township ordinances. A public hearing on the proposed updates will be held soon. Watch the Township calendar or look for a public notice in the local *This Week News/Life and Times* newspaper for the date and time of the hearing.

Finally, I would like to thank the citizens of Eureka Township for the opportunity to serve you on the Planning Commission the last three years, and my fellow Commissioners for making my time on the Commission a rewarding and enjoyable experience.

#### **March 2007 – March 2008 Permit Activity**

**Building Permits** – 9 residential, 8 accessory buildings, 1 agricultural building

**Conditional Use Permits** – 2 granted - Westwind Academy on 240<sup>th</sup> St. and Glory to Glory Christian Center on Dodd & 250<sup>th</sup> St.

**Interim Use Permits** – 1 granted (Windmill Mining 235<sup>th</sup> St.)

### **NOTES FROM THE CLERK**

**Election Judges Needed** – Two elections remain in 2008 - September 9 is the Primary Election, and November 4 is the General Election. Persons interested in becoming an election judge are encouraged to apply to the Town Clerk. General requirements include: 18 years of age or older (trainee election judges must be 16 or older), registered voter in the State of Minnesota, able to read, write and speak English, not be related to any other working election judge or candidate in that precinct. It is not necessary to be a resident of the polling place. Appointment of judges must be made at least 25 days prior to the election and training is required prior to working an election. Judges are compensated. Please see the Minnesota Secretary of State’s website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or call 651-215-1440 for more information, or see the Township website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us> or call the Township Clerk, Nanett Champlain, at 952-469-3736.

#### ***Township Representative Needed***

##### ***CEEF Enhancement Group***

***(Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka, Farmington)***

After 15 years as Eureka’s representative, Bernadette Wood is resigning her *CEEF* position, thereby creating an opening for another Eureka resident. This advisory group brings together approximately 10 representatives of Castle Rock, Empire, Eureka and Farmington, providing a neutral environment for interaction of the Townships and City, as well as supports the efforts of local civic projects and events. The group meets quarterly, usually in the early evening for about 1 ½ hours, often at Dunn Brothers in Farmington. Interested individuals should contact Clerk Nanett Champlain at 952-469-3736 or [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net)

#### ***Keep on top of Township happenings!***

Sign up for e-mailings with the Township Clerk by emailing [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net) .

#### ***Plant Sale***

To benefit Prairie Creek Community School  
Saturday, May 3, 2008  
Bridge Square, Northfield, MN  
8:00 am – 2:00 pm

#### ***Carpooler(s) Wanted!***

Share commuting and parking costs to downtown St. Paul Monday through Friday. Please contact Pat Mahowald at 6429 – 265<sup>th</sup> St. West, Farmington, home phone 651-463-4458.



**Eureka Township**  
**P.O. Box 576**  
**Lakeville, MN 55044**

**US POSTAGE**  
**PAID**  
**STD MAIL**  
 Permit 5090  
 Lakeville, MN

25043 Cedar Ave.  
 Phone 952-469-3736  
 Fax 952-469-5525  
 E-mail: [eurekatn@frontiernet.net](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net)  
 Website - <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Your e-mail 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](mailto:eurekatn@frontiernet.net))

**2008 Eureka Calendar...all events at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated**

April 28, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee <b>Open House</b>
May 5, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
May 12, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
May 13, 2008	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee Meeting
May 22, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for June '08 P.C. meeting
June 2, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
June 9, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
June 10, 2008	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Comprehensive Plan Planning Committee Meeting
June 26, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for July '08 P.C. meeting
July 7, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting
July 14, 2008	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting
July 24, 2008	Thursday	12 noon	Deadline for receipt of applications for August '08 P.C. meeting

**Note:** All new structures, most types of remodeling (both interior and exterior), and some types of repairs require a building permit under the Minnesota State Uniform Building Code and Eureka Township Ordinances. If you are in doubt about whether a project requires a permit, please contact the Town Clerk at 952-469-3736.

Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$25 for a hard copy, \$2 for a CD disk or can be accessed on the website, <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>, or at the Dakota County libraries in Lakeville and Farmington, or Eureka Town Hall or the Dakota County Law Library.