



Check our Township web site at: www.duluthtownship.org

January 2001

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR FEEDBACK. A **Resident Feedback Questionnaire** is this month's insert. It's a *confidential* way for you to express your views and provide your suggestions. Please complete the questionnaire, tear off that page, fold and **return it by January 30th**. Results will be summarized in the March Newsletter. The Steering Committee of the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District (DNSSD) is seeking views and suggestions as they develop plans for the North Shore sewer project. A survey is being sent to District residents. Our Township Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinance is being updated. A consultant firm has been hired and a citizen steering committee is being formed. Further information on these and other news items appear in articles in this issue.

March 13th is the ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING and election. One supervisor and the treasurer will be on the ballot. Those interested in filling one of these positions should apply from January 16 to the 30th deadline.

Updating township organization is a topic of current interest. In this issue the options State law provides are described on page 3 (insert). Options A and B may be on the ballot for Township residents to consider March 13th.

Our Thanks to *Ann Cox* and *Wayne Dahlberg* for their discussion of Township issues at the last two **Coffee & Chats**, and to Rich Sill, Mary Ann Sironen, Merry Mattson and Phil Strom for help with this issue. Special thanks go to North Shore Elementary student *Allison McTavish* for this month's masthead. If you know a young artist who would like to create a future Newsletter masthead contact the Editor.

Wood Heating Safety Reminder

Our Fire Department urges everyone who uses wood to **double check your stove and chimney** for dangerous creosote buildup and repair problems.

More people are using wood stoves or are using them more frequently because of higher energy prices. **Avoid a chimney fire** by *checking the chimney and cleaning it more often*. Be sure you have **fire extinguishers** nearby.

"Coffee & Chat" Get Together

Just after work on the 3rd Thursday, 5-6:30pm, Town Hall. It is an opportunity to meet Township neighbors and chat over coffee and cookies about Township concerns and issues. On **January 18th** *Phil Strom* will talk about our options for saving North Shore Elementary School. On **February 15th** candidates running for Township positions will be invited for a discussion.

School District News

Our school district is in a financial crunch due to declining enrollment and the cost of maintaining buildings. In response, the School Board proposes to build two K-12 campuses and close buildings. A new funding referendum will be up for vote on March 13th in conjunction with township elections. In December the School Board passed 2 resolutions:

- 1) If the funding referendum passes, a new grade 5 -12 school would be built in Two Harbors, *William Kelly* high school would be renovated for students from *Mary MacDonald* school, and *John A Johnson* and our **North Shore Elementary School** would be **closed**.
- 2) If the referendum fails then *Mary MacDonald* students would be moved to *William Kelly* high school and both *Mary MacDonald* and our **North Shore Elementary School** would be **closed**. Activity programs (athletic and academic) would be eliminated as of Fall 2001.

A dedicated and concerned **community group is currently working** on a presentation for the School Board that will show financial possibilities **to save our North Shore Elementary School**. The presentation is set for the Jan 23rd School Board meeting (at 6:00pm, location to be announced -- potentially at North Shore Elementary School). We are hopeful that the Board will respond favorably and *remove school closure language from the referendum statement*. Some 50 volunteers from our community will be **circulating a petition** to residents (information on the petition can be gotten from Leo Babeu 834-2247; Rod Garver 525-6357; Bill Aho 525-7415 or Merry Mattson 525-2380). It is urgent that you stay informed. Support for **North Shore Elementary School** is appreciated. Call the District office at 834-8216 for times, dates, and places of School Board meetings, or you may call Merry Mattson at home, 525-2380. *Thank you for supporting your schools.*

Mailed to 729 Duluth Township families. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to volunteer newsletter editor Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. A **News Box** is on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by UDAC.

Town Election for Supervisor and Treasurer

Our Township currently has a board of 3-supervisors elected for staggered 3-year terms, plus a clerk and treasurer each elected for 2-year terms. On March 13th before the Annual Township meeting we will elect one supervisor and a treasurer. Anyone interested in running for supervisor or treasurer should see Ann Cox at the Town Hall between January 16th and 30th to review job responsibilities, sign up as a candidate and pay \$2.00.

Voting takes place noon to 8pm on March 13th in the Town Hall. Official announcements will be in the *Duluth News Tribune* and posted at all official posting places. The Annual Township Meeting begins at 8pm on the 13th. Vote results are announced at the end of the meeting.

Volunteer Fire Department Thanks Donors

Donations are from the wives of 2 fire department members who donated a quilt for a raffle, *Dodges Log Lodges, Scenic Café, and Lake View Castle*. Funds help update and replace old and often failing equipment so they can better provide emergency services to Township residents. **To contribute to the Fire Department**, contact Town clerk, Ann Cox, who also volunteers as a first responder and fire department member.

--0--

First Draft of Township Web Site. You can see the Duluth Township web site at www.duluthtownship.org. The site has Town information, local pictures, a calendar, map, minutes, forms to download, and a starter list of businesses and community organizations. You can e-mail the Township office through the site. Thank you to Township resident Kathy McTavish whose local computer consulting business, *LightingPharos*, has donated the site.

--0--

NRCS Soil Survey. St Louis County contracted with the *Natural Resources Conservation Service* in the USDA to take soil samples throughout St Louis County for a book on soil types. The book will help countywide land management. Soil survey data also benefits our Township. They take only 10-20 samples per square mile. A soil sample worker will be in our Township again this year. Workers carry identification and attempt to locate landowners and seek permission to sample on private land. However, due to the large number of landowners they are not always successful. They ask for your cooperation and understanding. If you have questions or concerns, contact Roger Risley at (218) 720-5307 ext 112 or e-mail to: roger.risley@mn.usda.gov.

North Shore Night at Barnes and Noble January 19, 2001

Each year *Barnes and Noble Bookstores* dedicates one evening to North Shore Elementary School with part of the proceeds of their sales benefiting programs at our school. This year the event takes place on **Friday, January 19th from 6-8pm**. The bookstore will feature our local history book "*Roots in the Past-Seeds for the Future*" that same evening. Community members and students who contributed to the book will be there to discuss it. For more information call the school at 525-6614.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen

Regular Meetings are 7am on the first Tuesday each month (EXCEPT January 9, July 10 and September 11) in the French River Lutheran Church. See the calendar at www.duluthtownship.org. Lars Fladmark 525-4471 and Mary Ann Sironen 525-2010 are Duluth Township's representatives on D/NSSD Board.

At their December meeting, the Board **adopted Ordinance #1** that describes the scope, responsibility and authority of the D/NSSD. A summary was printed in the December 9th *Duluth News Tribune*. The *ordinance* and District minutes are on file at the Duluth Town.

D/NSSD has established a financial system and opened an official bank account so the second installment of the *Public Facilities Administration* (PSA) loan can be accepted. At that point, the City of Duluth, Lakewood and Duluth Townships have no further financial obligation toward expenses incurred by D/NSSD. The citizens of the district will be responsible for the expense associated with preliminary design and establishment of the district as well
(D/NSSD continued on page 5)

(D/NSSD, from page 2)

as for final design and the construction portions of the project. Property owners' 2001 tax statements included the levy that meets the budgeted projections for the coming year's work.

Intense work is under way to complete the environmental assessment. In order for D/NSSD to accept the PFA grant of \$6 million for construction, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency must issue a permit. Before that can be done the D/NSSD must have a plan in place that will mitigate any environmental disruptions that could occur with construction and establishment of a sewer line. It includes everything from stream crossings to potential development and is being prepared in two parts. One part describes the engineering portions of the project and the second will provide assurance that the D/NSSD and the municipalities involved have effectively planned for the increased development pressures that will accompany a sewer line. A consultant, Biko Associates, has been hired and a series of **public meetings** (see the calendar) will be held in January as part of a plan to meet the requirements and assure that the quality of life on the shore will not deteriorate due to overbuilding and indiscriminate expansion. Because of the need to expand this environmental assessment effort, the timeline for beginning construction has moved into 2002.

D/NSSD Land Use Issues

Across the country, infrastructure improvements like new roads and sewer systems have caused rampant development that has compromised the environment of the area and quality of life for its residents. D/NSSD needs to have a plan in place so that doesn't happen in our community.

Early in January, residents of the Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District will be receive a survey that is the first step in a project for identifying citizen's concerns regarding land use and local development priorities.

Survey questions will provide information on the level of

(D/NSSD continues on Page 3, insert)

(D/NSSD continued from page 2)

knowledge area residents have about the sewer project and local land use plans. It will also ask for input on the best way to contact citizens about public meetings, identify their interest in the planning process and ask them what they think is the primary land use issue. *If individuals outside the D/NSSD area wish to complete a survey, please contact Mary Ann Sironen at 525-2010.*

A series of **open meetings** is planned with the first being at 4 pm and 7 pm on January 22 at the Lakeview Castle and at 7 pm on January 23 at the Knife River Recreation Center. The purpose of the meetings is to gather citizen input that will create a vision of the district in the future. All property owners, as well as interested parties and other stakeholders, are encouraged to attend these meetings and participate in the planning process.

The D/NSSD planning process is working in conjunction with **two other initiatives in Duluth Township**: a *Non-point Education for Municipal Officers (NEMO)* project and the revision of the Town of Duluth *Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Desotelle Consulting of Duluth is providing coordination and assistance. When completed it will be the first time a municipality has cooperated to bring these three projects together, thereby assuring a congruent outcome and saving money by sharing information.

Shore Elementary we will clearly lose much more than "just a school" we will loose our identity as a community and we will lose it forever.

David Smith, Professor of Anthropology at UMD, stated the following in his preface to Roots in the Past-Seeds for the Future, *"In spite of all the many forces in modern life that cause community to whither away, the North Shore Elementary School still serves to unify the Clover Valley community. If the school were to close, I think it would be a social disaster of incalculable proportions. Closing the school could be the end of community and the end of something humanly very important"*.

We have faced hard times and difficult decisions in the past and, as a community, have gotten through them. We rebuilt our homes and farms after the Great Fire of 1918, we survived the depression by trading bushels of potatoes for sacks of herring, and we successfully fought off attempts to make our community a landfill site. Now we face a new challenge -- the closing of our school. For the sake of our children and the sake of our community we must do everything we can to make sure we do not allow that to happen.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

The History Corner
Richard Sill

It has been over a century now since the first schoolhouse was built in our community. From those early beginnings until the present day **at least 18 schools** have provided educational opportunities to the children of Alden, Duluth, and Normanna Townships. Over that period, the schools of our community have not just served as centers for learning but have also been **the focus of community activity** and a force for community identity. Schools and churches, along with such events as dances, barn raisings, community baseball games, seasonal celebrations, and in more recent times, Scouts, 4-H and soccer are the type of things that have held us all together and have created for us a sense of community, a sense of place.

Sadly, we are now at a point in time when that may all change. Our last school, **North Shore Elementary**, is threatened with closure. To some people in our school district the closing of North Shore seems to be no big deal, after all its "just a school". Even if that were true, and it is not, the closing of our school, any school, should only be considered after careful reflection. We should not close schools that provide excellent learning environments simply because the decision to do so may be the most convenient one.

In 1974 when **Clover Valley High School** closed much more than just an educational institution was lost to our community. Yet as profound an impact as that closing had on us we soon realized that if we turned our focus towards North Shore Elementary we could still maintain a strong sense of community through the one school that continued to bind us together. Now, over a quarter century later we no longer have another school to turn to, there is no other place to redirect our energies. If we lose North

Nov 9th meeting: Attending: Supervisors Connolly, Cook and Aho; Zoning Administrator Dahlberg, Treasurer Johansen, Clerk Cox, Zoning Secretary Marino plus 9 residents. The Treasurer reported deposits of \$274.74, expenses of \$23,577.30 and an ending balance of \$69,366.94. The Board approved seeking Community Block Grant funds up to \$17,500 for first phase funds for a consultant to help update our Land Use Plan. Town resident, Ellen O'Neill helped identify CBG funding and write the proposal with Wayne Dahlberg.

Other reports were given on requested clean up of materials on an Old North Shore Road property, the status of roadwork on Olson, Torgeson, Greenwood, Culas, East Lismore and Pine Tree roads, D/NSSD and Coastal Council grants. It was reported that appeals of a Planning Commission action on conditional use permits go to the district court. There is no appeal process within the Township as it is now set up.

The Board approved a year leave of absence requested by Officer Erlander. Officer Shawn Padden was approved as Chief during Erlander's absence. The Board approved having 6 issues of the Newsletter annually and to registering www.duluthtownship.org for the Township's web site. An anonymous donation of a veteran's memorial at the cemetery was accepted. The idea of having "Coffee & Chat" sessions at the Town Hall was approved. Denise Connolly was approved to set up and manage the Township cemetery records. Residents requested that township organization options discussed last year be put on the December Board agenda. See page 4 (on insert) for a description of the options.

Dec 14th meeting: Attending: Supervisor Cook, Cox, Marino, Dahlberg, Strom and about 8 residents. The meeting was **cancelled** due to lack of a quorum.

Next Town Board meeting: (2nd Thu) Jan. 11th, 7:30pm

Since December 1999 there has been an interest in updating our Township organization to better handle the issues and load of the 21st century. The State allows townships to choose among 4 options to address their needs. These options can be found in the *Minnesota Townships Manual*, an annually updated book of rules and regulations on township management. The options offered are given below. Also listed are some points about their advantages or disadvantages for our Township. Some of these come from a document prepared for the Board's consideration a year ago by Mary Ann Sironen.

Option A: Have a 5-supervisor board rather than a 3-supervisor board.

Option B: Have the clerk and/or treasurer appointed rather than elected.

Option C: Create the position of Town Administrator.

Option D: Combine the clerk and treasurer into one position.

If any of these options are to be adopted, they need to be on the March 13th ballot for the vote of township residents. They can be put on the ballot by vote of the current Supervisors or by petition of 26 residents (15% of the 167 who voted in the last township election). Petitions must be received at the Town Hall by January 25th (45 days before March 13th).

There has been some interest in Options A and B. The following lists some of the pros and cons for these two options.

Option A: Have a 5-supervisor board rather than a 3-supervisor board.

- There are many specialty areas supervisors are expected to know—township law, roads, zoning, sewer developments, insurance, liability, fire and emergencies, etc. Five supervisors would help spread the areas of specialty they are expected to know in depth.
- It is illegal for a quorum of supervisors to meet, talk or receive information about the Township unless legal public notice has been given. With 3 supervisors, two constitute a quorum. With 5 members, 2 could meet or be at the same event and discuss Township business without being a quorum. A 5-member board would help create some opportunity for supervisors to discuss Township issues and plans or become involved in various township events without calling a meeting.
- Currently 3 members divide up the increasing load of paperwork and oversight of township business. Five supervisors would help with this load and would permit things such as applying for funding that would help with township expenses or planning for the future.
- It has been difficult at times to get in contact with supervisors who are also busy with their own jobs and families. Having two more supervisors would help with accessibility.

- It would be easier to achieve a quorum when one or two cannot make a given meeting.
- Having 5 supervisors rather than 3 would slightly increase township costs for meetings where all attend. Over the last 2 years the average annual cost of a supervisor was \$1,501 (including salary, mileage, social security and benefits).

Option B: Have the clerk and treasurer appointed rather than elected.

- Having Board-appointed officers focuses the oversight and responsibility in the Town Board. They could hire and fire.
- Now, people in these two positions have to focus on election every two years. This is a distraction at best. Both functions do not involve broad policy where a representative vote is particularly helpful.
- Increasingly we need experienced officers. If the Board controls the appointment, training and conditions of work, it can attract and keep experienced people and provide for orderly transitions if necessary.

If option A is adopted, the two new positions can be filled temporarily by a special election held between April 12th and May 12th (30 and 60 days after the March vote). Then candidates for the two positions would be voted on at the following Annual Township meeting the following March. Initially one of the new positions would be for 2 years but the other would be for the regular 3-year term. Options B would be effective immediately.

Resident Feedback Survey ®

The survey on the next page can be cut or torn off to use for your household's feedback.

The **purpose** of the questionnaire is to give every household an opportunity to give your *thoughtful feedback* to the Township Board for consideration in 2001.

It is confidential. Results will be pooled and summarized for the March *Newsletter* and a typed summary report will be given to Township officials.

Please take the time to give your opinions and suggestions for the Township. It's a way to have your views taken into account in all the planning that will be going on this year.

Instructions: Fill in your answers, tear off the questionnaire page, fold it in thirds with the pre-printed address on the outside, tape or staple it shut, then, either stamp and mail it, or put it in the News Box on the Town Hall porch by January 30th.

Thank you for your interest in your Township.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

July 27th meeting. Attending, members: Bourgeois (chair), Bowen, Cox, Edblom, Fladmark, Gustofson, Hauge; Zoning Administrator Dahlberg, and Secretary Marino. There was a discussion of the request for a consultant to help update the Township's 1976 Land Use Plan. Interviews for a consultant will be September 7th and Mary Ann Sironen, John Kessler and Dan Connally will be invited to be part of the process.

Aug 24th meeting. Attending: Bourgeois, Bowen, Cox, Edblom, Fladmark, Gustofson, Hauge; Dahlberg, Marino, and a group of community residents.

The Commission discussed and approved setback variance requests for *Dodges Log Lodges* and Wm Cooke. Since construction started before approval, *Dodges Log Lodges* was charged a double fee.

A public hearing was held on a conditional use request by American Tower Corp to construct an unlighted, 199' steel tower on property owned by Corinne Duncan at the east end of Shilhon Road near an old town dump site. The tower company plans to sell positions on the tower to cell phone companies. Jason Hall, tower company representative, changed the location and specifications of the tower and they did not match those given in the public hearing notice, thus corrected notice was needed. There was concern that the company had not come to the community with an informational meeting. Tower representatives felt it was a low population area and they had a hole in their coverage of the north shore. The location on the property could be changed.

A motion to table was withdrawn and no action was taken at this meeting. Dahlberg suggested a letter be sent regarding discrepancies in the application and suggested that American Tower work with neighbors.

Sept 28th meeting. Attending: Bourgeois, Bowen, Cox, Edblom, Fladmark, Gustofson, Dahlberg, Marino,, Attorney Strom, Supervisor Aho, and a large group of residents.

Consultants have been interviewed and chosen to help update the Land Use Plan. At the time of this meeting, no funding was available. Alternatives were discussed including phasing the work, grant funds, and Board-approved indebtedness. Further action was put on hold pending funding arrangements.

A public hearing was opened on American Tower Company's request to build a 199' tower on Shilhon road. Speakers were asked to sign up and limited to 3 minutes. Points in favor of the tower were an interest in better cell phone reception. Concerns expressed were for the precedent set by approving conditional uses without prior planning, lowered property values, migration flyway interference, FAA regulations, the need, meeting ordinance criteria for granting a conditional use permit and if non-conforming with current land use, conditions that would be required for the tower, contamination from the nearby dumpsite, proximity to a creek, ice buildup, impact on aesthetics of the area, what will happen when cell phone technology is outdated, should the Township also benefit from lease fees paid, and lack of broad public notice. It was noted that the current water tower could be used. The Commission was asked if the many letters sent by citizens would be put on the record. Petitions were

signed by about 90 residents (53% of the number voting in the last town election) against approval of the conditional use permit for the tower and requesting a moratorium until the Land Use Plan could be updated.

Jason Hall noted towers are essential for emergency communication, footings go 25' down but borings have not been done, and the company will remove the tower within 120 days after the tower is no longer in use. Edblom moved to close the public hearing.

Fladmark moved to deny the tower conditional use permit and proposed that cell companies use the current missile base water tower. After discussion, Gustofson and Fladmark voted for the motion. Edblom, Bowen, Bourgeois and Cox opposed. Motion failed.

Edblom moved and Cox seconded a motion to approve the tower application, later amended with conditions: 1) to post a bond for its removal upon of lack of use, 2) absolutely no blasting, 3) required an environmental analysis by an independent firm with a positive outcome, 4) no lights, 5) conditional use to be reviewed. Edblom, Bowen, Bourgeois and Cox voted for the motion. Gustofson and Fladmark opposed. Motion passed.

Oct 26th meeting. Attending: Bourgeois, Bowen, Cox, Edblom, Fladmark, and Gustofson. Hauge submitted her resignation due to work conflicts.

The Commission approved Rowray's setback variance request. Schmidt's side yard setback variance was discussed but tabled since the Schmidts could not attend.

The Planning Commission thanks volunteer, Ellen O'Neill for her expertise and work in writing a grant with zoning administrator Dahlberg to seek funds for a consultant to help update our Land Use Plan.

A steering committee on updating the Township Land Use Plan is being formed and suggestions on a representative membership were sought.

Planning Commission meets next Jan. 25th 7:30pm.

Opportunities to Volunteer in the Township

- 1. Volunteer Fire Department & First Responders.** Many skills are needed. Anyone with medical training would be especially helpful. Many other skills are needed as well. See Ann Cox for details.
- 2. Zoning Commission opening.** Dedicated residents who would like to serve a term on the Planning Commission should apply by January 24th. Interviews to fill one vacancy will be conducted on January 25th. See Carolyn Marino or Ann Cox at the Town Hall.
- 3. Several small outdoor wooden signs** are needed. If you could paint a sign, let the Editor know.
- 4. Masthead art.** If you or someone you know would like to draw the masthead for an issue, please contact the Editor. We need artwork for the March issue.
- 5. Township Election Judges** are needed for March 13th's Annual Town election. See Ann Cox to if you can volunteer to help during the noon to 8pm vote.
- 6. Donate your old PC to the Township.** The Town Hall needs a second computer to connect to the internet so we can keep the one we have separate from potential viruses (it contains vital Township records). The PC computer needs to have a reasonably fast modem.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2001

Please **provide your feedback** on the enclosed **Resident Questionnaire** and **return it by January 30th**. *It's confidential.*
Watch for the petition regarding the North Shore Elementary School closure.

Inside this Issue:

- **Annual Town Meeting** March 13th
 - Election deadlines
 - Updating Town organization
- Resident **Feedback Questionnaire**
- Town Board meetings
- School District Action
- Planning Commission meetings
- Opening for a Planning Commission & Steering Committee members
- Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District information, land use planning
- Volunteer opportunities
- "The History Corner"
- Township **Calendar**
- Upcoming events and issues

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

PRSRSTSD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 721
DULUTH, MINN.

If your name and address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

Upcoming Township Events and Issues

Participation and comments are needed from Township residents for the *steering committees* of the **D/NSSD** (Duluth/North Shore Sewer District) and for our **Planning Commission** as it updates our Land Use Plan and Zoning Ordinances.

Results of the **Resident Feedback Questionnaire** will be in the March issue of the Duluth Township Newsletter.

Annual Township meeting March 13th. If you want to be considered for office you need to apply in January.

Honor Community Volunteers. The March issue of the Newsletter will honor *volunteers who have contributed significantly to our Duluth Township community over the past year*. If you know of **volunteers who should be listed**, please send in their name and the nature of their volunteer contribution in our Township to the Newsletter editor. Be sure to include your name and phone so I can get further information if I need it.

List of Township Businesses A future insert in the Newsletter will list businesses (firms, home businesses, artists, etc) in the Township. If you have a business in the Township, let the Newsletter editor know its name, contact person, address, phone, type of service or product, etc. See the web site.

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

Deadline for the March Newsletter is February 23rd. If you have an announcement of broad interest to Township residents, send it to the editor.

Calendar

- Jan 9, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Jan 11**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
- Jan 16 **Start** of application period for elected Township positions (Supervisor and Treasurer up for vote).
- Jan 18, Thu, 5-6:30pm **Coffee & Chat**, Town Hall
- Jan 19, Fri, 6-8pm, North Shore Night at Barnes & Noble
- Jan 22, Mon, 4pm & 7pm **D/NSSD public meeting**, Lakeview Castle
- Jan 23, Tue, 7pm **D/NSSD public meeting**, Knife River Recreation Center
- Jan 24, **Deadline** for application to be appointed to the vacant Planning Commission position.
- Jan 25**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- Jan 30, **Deadline** to apply for Township position
- Jan 30, **Deadline to return completed feedback survey**
- Feb 6, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Feb 7, Wed, noon, **Homesteaders**, Town Hall
- Feb 8**, Thu, 7:30pm **Town Board**, Town Hall
- Feb 15, Thu, 5-6:30pm **Coffee & Chat**, Town Hall
- Feb 22**, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- Feb 23, **Deadline** for news for the March newsletter
- Mar 6, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- Mar 7, Wed, noon, **Homesteaders**, Town Hall
- Mar 13**, Tue, Noon-8pm **Township Elections**, Town Hall
- Mar 13**, Tue, 8pm **Annual Township meeting**, Town Hall