

See page 4 and 5 for information about candidates and issues on the ballot.



Vote and Come to the Annual Town Meeting March 13<sup>th</sup>

Duluth Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)

March 2001

The **Duluth Township Annual Meeting** is **Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>** in the **Town Hall**. *Voting takes place from noon to 8pm and the Annual Meeting is from 8pm on in the Town Hall.* Absentee ballots are available. Dan Connolly (incumbent) and Steve Dahl are running for Supervisor (a 3 year term) and Janet Johansen (unopposed incumbent) is running for Township Treasurer (a 2 year term). Two initiatives are also on the ballot. One is for a 5-person Board of Supervisors and the other is for having the Town Clerk and Treasurer as appointed positions. Points residents have made about the two initiatives plus requested background information that candidates running for office provided are presented in the pages that follow.

### Fire Department Volunteers

A big THANK YOU to volunteers who have "made a run" this past year as an active member of our *Clifton Fire Department*: Chief Jerry Simmons\*, Asst Chief Bill Cox\*, Ann Cox\*, Jason Dorgan, Jeff Dunder\*, Robert Engelson\*, Chuck Erickson\*, Dean Godding, Bill Hartman, Will Hartman, Barry Lampi\*, Ray Leppala, Dan Nieman, Tom Ocel, John Schaefer, Clarence Swensen, Hank Willemark. Those with (\*) after their name are also *First Responders*.

*You too can join as a volunteer!*

**Thanks to contributors to this issue:** Rich Sill, Mary Ann Sironen, Helen Hendrickson, and Janet Johansen. A special thanks to *North Shore Elementary School* student *Grace Nelson* for this month's masthead. Contact the editor if you wish to draw the May Newsletter illustration.

### "Coffee & Chat" Get Together

**Stop after work** on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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 **March 15<sup>th</sup>** Town residents Ed and Tasha Stielstra will talk about *mushing*, one of the traditions of the area, and the Iditarod dog sled race. For **April 19<sup>th</sup>** we will invite someone from DNSSD to update us about the proposed sewer system for our Township's shore area.

*Coffee & Chat* attendees **thank** Phil Strom for his update on saving North Shore Elementary School, and candidates *Steve Dahl* and *Janet Johansen* for introducing themselves and answering questions.

**Recycling Centers:** *Only for clean plastic, glass bottles, tin, aluminum cans, newspaper, cardboard – no garbage!*  
**North:** north end of Homestead Road by the dumpster.  
 Hours: 9-5 Mon through Sat, closed Sun and holidays.  
**South:** Scenic highway 61 at McQuade road. Hours: 7-11 Tues; 3-7 Thurs; 8-12 Sat. Phone: 525-4592.

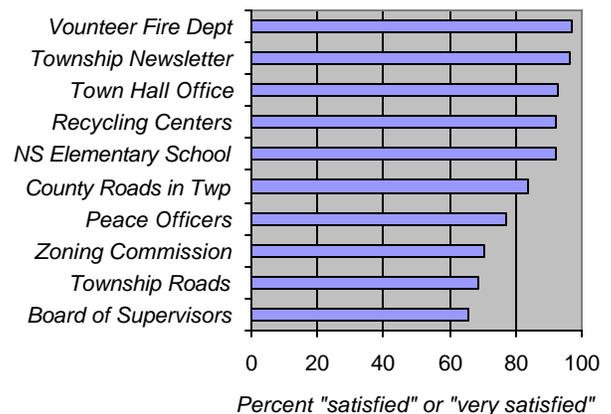
### Resident Feedback Survey Results

The January Newsletter included a survey about Township functions and services. It provided an opportunity for all Township residents to give their considered views, reactions, and suggestions. The Newsletter went to 729 addresses and 82 interested citizens responded by the deadline (11%).

*Many thanks to those who took the time to record their views, concerns and suggestions.*

Respondents rated 10 services and two-thirds or more said they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with each. Ratings, shown in the graph below, ranged from **66% satisfied with our Town Board** to **97% satisfied with our Volunteer Fire Department**.

Percent of Respondents who are "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with Ten Township Services



Households on the shore side and inland side of the highway did not differ significantly on 8 of the rated services but inland households were somewhat less

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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 or in the **NewsBox** on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

satisfied with recycling centers and county roads. Comments on their ratings are printed in the full report.

The questionnaire also asked for responses to three questions. Comments are summarized here.

**1. "What do you like most about Duluth Township?"**

Responses were remarkably similar: the natural setting, woods, streams, animals, clean environment, rural character, peace and quiet, privacy, good family-oriented residents, friendly people, sense of community, country living close to town, proximity to the shore, natural beauty of the area, school, low population density, acreage not small lots.

**2. "What concerns do you have?"**

Losing rural qualities by uncontrolled and inappropriate development, the Township might become a "dumping ground" for unwanted land uses in Duluth, road upkeep, speed, tax increases, losing the school, urban sprawl with the sewer system, upgrading the fire department, need for police officers, reduced sense of community and citizen involvement, zoning, unresponsive elected officials, keeping green spaces.

**3. "Suggestions for the future"**

Keep it the way it is, keep the "feel" of the country, clean environment, protect the way of life we enjoy here, upgrade roads, less zoning, 10acre minimum lot size, reduce government, increase services, more citizen involvement, freeze property taxes until property is sold, a convenience/gas store, keep school, for and against McQuade harbor, increase police patrols, eliminate police, more Township office hours, Township get-together/dance/pot lucks, clean up junk in yards or screen it from view.

Results were reported at the Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The full report is on file at the Town Hall for reference and it can be seen on our web site, [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

**Township Peace Officers**

A fund to purchase an MDT (Mobile Data Terminal) for the Township police vehicle was started by anonymous Township residents. An MDT provides rapid, on-site information about stolen cars, dangerous situations, emergencies, and criminal activity. An MDT would improve communication and bring our police vehicle in line with most other Sheriff and police departments.

Donations to purchase of the \$5000 MDT are welcome!

Our Department is part-time with 2 officers on duty a total of 160 hours per month. Chief Shawn Padden is a long-time Township resident and our new Officer Paul Johnson lives in Two Harbors. The DNR recently hired Michael Scott, our former officer.

Police calls in our area have increased during the last 5 years and it will likely continue to rise as development extends up the shore from Duluth. Last year there were about 1200 calls and responses for police assistance in our Township. Duluth Township is one of few who have their own police and this provides us with several benefits. Shawn and Paul are also officers in the Hermantown Police Department where they receive special training and acquire connections that our Township would not be able to afford. This has included training for handling drug abuse, dealing with gang activity and kidnapping, training in negotiation, handling assaults, computer crime (scams,

hacking, pornography), special skills in gathering crime information, advanced crime scene processing and connection to the resources of agencies such as the FBI, Lake Superior Drug Task Force, etc. Equipment Shawn has won in special drawings has been donated to our Department (finger print detection kit, a Polaroid camera, breath test equipment). Their "urban" jobs also keep them up on developments that are pushing into areas, like ours, surrounding Duluth. We also have someone familiar with our roads, people and Township concerns. St Louis Sheriff officers are spread over county priorities and are often at a considerable distance from our area. The Sheriff reports to the County not Townships so having a police department reporting to our Township gives us better information on events in our Township.

Officers try to drive each road in our Township at least once per week. They provide free home-checking service when residents are away (request forms are at the Town Hall or on our web site). We pay about half the going rate for police services (\$11/hr rather than \$22/hr), in part because officers are residents committed to the area. The cost of our police protection averages about \$4.32 per month per household, down from about \$4.89 five years ago.

To contact the Township police for emergencies, call 911. For less urgent messages call the Town Hall (525-5705) and leave a message. It will be picked up when they are next in the office or when they call in for messages. Soon we expect to have an e-mail connection.

**The Homesteaders**

Helen Hendrickson

A group of about 50, 50+ seniors meet at 12:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month in our Duluth Town Hall on Homestead Road. Everybody is welcome! Monthly programs include potluck dinners, bingo, musical programs, school skits, and invited speakers with information on interesting community topics.

Homesteaders' representatives attend local and statewide meetings dealing with issues affecting our older citizens.

You are invited to visit and enjoy programs of 2001.

March 7<sup>th</sup> is a trip to the Great Lakes Aquarium, the bus leaves French River Lutheran Church parking lot at 1pm; March 14<sup>th</sup> is the 25<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Homesteaders, with a potluck lunch and bingo. On April 4<sup>th</sup> Bob and Ruby Barrett present "The Bridge—Duluth's Distinguished Landmark". Information: Helen Hendrickson (525-4154).

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**Clover Valley History Video.** A 1 hour video "Roots in the Past, Seeds for the Future", prepared by Patrick Eller is available for \$23 (includes shipping) from Leo Babeu, 7100 Mikkonen Rd, Two Harbors, MN 55616 (834-2247) or email to: [lepat@lakenet.com](mailto:lepat@lakenet.com). It brings the May 19<sup>th</sup> community celebration of the area history book beautifully alive featuring our elders, children and scenes of students interviewing elders and creating original songs with Larry Long. A first rate program for those interested in participants and Clover Valley at the turn of the century.

**Avoid Chimney Fires**

**Check and Clean Your Wood-Burning Stove Chimney**

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District  
Mary Ann Sironen

Regular Meetings are 7-9 a.m. on the first Tuesday each month at the French River Lutheran Church. The March 6 meeting was CANCELLED. The next regular meeting will be **April 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The public is welcome and invited to attend. Full information and copies of minutes of meetings are on the website [www.dnssd.org](http://www.dnssd.org) through the fine efforts of Duluth township resident, Bruce Berg. Lars Fladmark and Mary Ann Sironen are Duluth Township's representatives.

Two major components of the Sanitary District's plan are currently high priority for the Board.

1. Rick Certano, D/NSSD treasurer, along with assistance from the district's financial advisor, Environmental Financial Group, and accounting support from McGladrey & Pullen has **established the financial systems** needed to manage the cash flow for further work in planning and construction. It provides for the procedures and record keeping needed to accept and repay the \$450,000 Public Facilities Authority loan along with managing the \$6 million from the Wastewater Infrastructure Fund that was set aside by the Legislature for the D/NSSD project. A separate process to manage \$33,600 granted to the district from Lake Superior's Coastal Program for support of the Land Use Planning project has also been established. The District and Lake County share a 30% match as part of that agreement.

Funds for operating expenses will be available in July from the levy on the districts' residents. Up to this point, the district's engineering, advisory and legal partners as well as individual board members have provided services without regular payment, reimbursement or accumulated interest to keep the project moving forward.

2. The second major initiative under way is the **Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)** currently being formulated by the District with major assistance from the local MN Pollution Control Agency office. The District's mission is to solve its wastewater problems that threaten the health of residents and the environment without causing rampant development and changes to the character of the shore land. The EAW is being done in two parts. The first describes the *engineering plans* for mitigating any negative impact on the environment during construction or later operation of the sewer system.

The second part of the EAW is the *Land Use and Development Project*, a formal program led by Biko Associates whose purpose is to *formulate a solid plan that will guide and mitigate impacts of the development* that accompanies a sewer line or other infrastructure improvement in a community. The planning process includes a series of community meetings to provide information and education, identify issues, gain citizen input on their ideal vision of their neighborhoods in the future and formulate a reasonable means of meeting their vision. **About 120 people attended the first round of meetings.** A steering committee representing many different areas and groups meets to process information from the meetings and put them into goal statements, policy alternatives, and possible action steps. Eventually it is hoped that these recommendations can be refined into proposals or policies that can be used by local boards and responsible governmental units.

The History Corner  
Richard Sill

Wendell Berry in his book *The Unsettling of America* writes, "A culture is not a collection of relics or ornaments but a practical necessity – a communal order of memory, insight, value, work, conviviality, reverence, aspiration. A healthy culture clarifies our inescapable bonds to earth and to each other. (It) is based upon familiarity and can grow only among a people soundly established upon the land."

I believe a part of what Wendell Berry is saying is that there is great value to be gained from living the entirety of one's life in a single place. That there is an importance in being "rooted" to a land and to a community that, over decades of time, one grows to know intimately. It is rare for someone to be so connected to a place these days, to know the lay of the land as well as one may know the texture and furrows of one's own skin. Modern life does not encourage settling in as much as it seems to promote moving on. Yet, our community is unusual in that respect, for we have a great wealth of people who know this land very well and whose roots here run deep, and it has been my great fortune over the last several years to get to know many of them.

**Melvin Johnson** was one of these people. Melvin was born in 1913, the son of Finnish immigrants who moved from West Duluth to French River when Melvin was just two weeks old. When I first met him, a little over twenty years ago, he was already in his sixties. I was new to this community then and having just purchased a piece of land, needed to find someone who could cut a road into the site. It seemed like everyone I talked to recommended Melvin. Within a day or two he showed up, inspected the work I had already done, told me I had cut the stumps too close to the ground to be able to bulldoze them easily and then proceeded to fix my mistakes and create for me the road and building site I needed. I doubt there are many gravel roads and driveways in our area that, at one time or another, have not known the handiwork of Melvin Johnson.

**Ken Hendrickson** loved to farm. I remember seeing his pastures filled with grazing sheep as I would drive north along the Ryan Road exploring the community I had now become a part of. Ken's family were Swedish immigrants who had settled in French River in 1914, only a year after the Johnson's and less than two miles from them. Ken was born in 1926, the same year his family moved from the one room log cabin that had been their home for a dozen years into their newly constructed frame farmhouse. The first time I met Ken was several years ago when I was interested in purchasing some "cover hay". When I arrived at his farm Ken told me to back my truck up to the large hay stack next to the barn. After loading some full bales Ken told me to fill the rest of the truck with whatever broken bales were laying around and since I would be doing *him* a "favor" by cleaning up the area, there would be no charge.

As years passed I got to know Melvin and Ken quite well. I would listen to their stories of the early days, of farming and logging and horse drawn snowplows that would get stuck in drifts of snow higher than a man's

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## Candidates Running for Township Offices

Each of the candidates running for Township office was invited to provide a brief background statement for *Newsletter* readers, introducing themselves, their background, and what they would strive to do if elected. One statement was received by the publishing deadline and that is printed below.



I'd like to introduce myself. My name is **Stephen (Steve) Dahl**. I am running for a position on the Duluth Township Board of Supervisors in the March election.

As Township Supervisor I would

- Stay informed about issues effecting Duluth Township
- Be accessible to township residents and listen to their concerns
- Work hard to address the needs and support the goals of township residents
- Be a good steward of township resources
- Represent the interests of Duluth Township citizens at important regional meetings

### I value:

- The rural nature and atmosphere of this township
- The balance between independence and neighbor helping neighbor
- Working together as a community to solve problems
- Taking care of our township for future generations

### My experience:

- President of the *North Shore Commercial Fisherman's Association*
- Member of the *Lake Superior Advisory Committee to the DNR*
- Commercial fisherman
- Guardian Ad Litem (advocate) for children involved in the Lake and Cook County court system
- Design and build affordable instruments for my wife, Georganne Hunter's harp students
- Designed and built my own home on the Old North Shore Road
- Worked with St. Louis County's Health Department to build a drip-irrigation waste disposal system which has become a model for others

### My qualifications:

- Leadership experience as the president of the *North Shore Commercial Fisherman's Association* for 8 years
- Knowledgeable in the stewardship of natural resources
- Skilled in finding common ground and workable solutions
- Innovative thinker, risk-taker
- Small business owner
- Duluth Township resident for 17 years

*I can be contacted at: 525-4679*

Dan Connolly, incumbent, is also running for Supervisor.

Janet Johansen, incumbent is running unopposed for Township Treasurer.

## On Township Accounting

Janet Johansen, Treasurer

With the Annual Meeting upon us I thought I would answer the question that always comes up. *What year's budget are we voting on?* This year we are voting on funds to spend in 2002. If you attend the Annual Meeting on March 13, 2001, the budget that is approved will be spent in 2002. *Why is that you ask?* First the majority of the money the Township receives for operating comes from the Township's part of your property tax. You pay the first half by May 15<sup>th</sup> and the second half by Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. After these dates the County Auditor sends the Township money they have collected. The Auditor collects what we, as a Township, approve in our budget. When we meet in March you have already been notified what your taxes will be this year (2001). What we budget in this year's meeting can not be collected until next year. The money we will get this year from the County Auditor is the budget you approved at last year's Annual Township Meeting.

## Township Roads

There are 11.47 miles of Township roads including: Nordling (.12mi), Alseth (1.1), E Lismore (.4), Shilhon (.45), Gamble (.2), Greenwood (1.20), Pine Tree (.1), Spruce Ct (.1), Mace (.3), Walter Johnson (.5), Englund (.25), Swanson (.25), Culas (.2), Schoenberg (.3), Henry Hill (.25), N Bergquist (.3), E. & W. Wildwood (1.25), Clover Valley (1.3), Aho (.5), Torgeson (.8), Dammon (.3), Olson (.5), Riemer (.15), Jackson/N Ryan (.4), and Beck (.25). According to one county official the average cost of year-round road maintenance, plowing, chloride treatment and sanding for rural county roads is about \$6,500-\$7,000 per mile.

## Fire Department Equipment

Our Fire Department has the following major pieces of equipment. As you can see, they are aging and their maintenance is now more costly. Most of the equipment is leased or used equipment. Currently we average about \$5.40 per month per household for fire protection. Alden Township shares our Fire Dept.

Hall 1, Old Northshore Road

1985 Rescue Pickup (for grass fires, etc.);

1985 Tanker, 5000gal; 1998 Engine holding 1000gal  
Hall 2, Homestead Road

1978 Engine holding 1000gal; 1978 Tanker, 2400gal;

1968 Small Tanker, 1300gal

Alden Fire Hall: 1960 Engine holding 1000gal

## Chimney Fires

Using green wood and burning slow, smoking fires causes creosote build-up. Check the chimney monthly and clean creosote deposits. Burn a hot fire at least once per month. Have a certified chimney repair person check the chimney every year or so. Keep a fire-extinguishing flare on hand to put out a chimney fire. The **Fire Department** has a fireplace extinguishing powder that they will provide for you. Contact Chief Jerry Simmons through the Town Hall (525-5705).

Since December 1999 there has been an interest in updating our Township organization to better handle the issues and load of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The State allows townships to choose among four options to address their needs, two of which are on the March 13<sup>th</sup> ballot at the request of resident petitions. These options can be found in the *Minnesota Townships Manual*, an annually updated book of rules and regulations on township management. The options on the ballot and some points about their advantages or disadvantages for our Township are listed below. Some of these come from a document prepared for the Board's consideration a year ago by Mary Ann Sironen (see the January Newsletter).

**Vote YES or NO on Option A:**

**To have a 5-member Board of Supervisors** (rather than the current 3-member 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), to oversee a Township Budget of over \$200,000.

If option A is approved, the two new Supervisor positions can be filled temporarily by a special election held between April 12<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> (30 and 60 days after the March vote). Then candidates for the two positions would be voted on at the following *Annual Township Meeting*, March 2002. Initially one of the new positions would be for a 2-year term but the other would be for the regular 3-year term.

**Vote YES or NO on Option B:**

**To have the Town Clerk and Town Treasurer appointed by the Town Board** (rather than being elected every 2 years).

- 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.
- 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.
- Having Board-appointed officers focuses the oversight and responsibility in the Town Board. They could hire and fire.

If option B is approved, it would be effective immediately.

**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.
- 3. Masthead art.** If you or someone you know would like to illustrate the May masthead, please call the Editor.
- 4. 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.
- 5. Contribute to the Fire or Police Department funds** for special emergency support equipment that is not included in our regular Township budget

head. I would ask Ken to identify for me pieces of old farm equipment in photographs nearly a hundred years old. From Melvin, I would listen in fascination to stories of the copper mine on West Knife River where he was employed as cook's helper at the age 13.

On February 9<sup>th</sup>, Ken died, less than a week later Melvin was gone as well. Together, their lives encompassed over 160 years of intimacy with this land and its people. Few of us will ever know this piece of earth as well as they did but we can all feel fortunate that our community was the place they both called "home".

**North Shore Elementary School**

No school event information was submitted for this issue.

**ALERT:** The District School District Board meets February 26<sup>th</sup>. There may be information from that meeting about our school. Call Merry Mattson (525-2380), our area's representative, for updates and information.

**Summary of Town Board Meetings**

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Attending: Supervisors Aho, Cook and Connolly with Clerk Cox, Treasurer Johansen, Chief Padden, Attorney Strom, and Zoning Administrator Dahlberg, plus about 35 in the audience.

Department reports were read. The Treasurer reported expenses of \$36,765.03, income of \$1,566.16 and an ending balance of \$119,550.76. There have been fire or medical emergency calls almost every day this year. The Planning Commission reported it would interview four candidates for the vacant position. The land use plan steering committee is being formed. Car batteries and trash were dumped at the north recycling center. The Board discussed moving the center to the Town Hall area unless Alden wanted it. Carolyn will complete the recycle center grant request for 2001. Road maintenance bids will be prepared, separating grading from maintenance and gravel. A mediation meeting on Culas Road was scheduled for Feb 14<sup>th</sup>. We were notified that D/NSSD has taken over the sanitary district loan and has relieved our Township of its original obligation. The cost of winter burials was set at \$1000 plus any additional cost that may be incurred. An update of D/NSSD was presented.

A complaint was heard about two incidents, one in which a pet dog was killed and another in which a resident and her dogs were attacked 45 feet off the road by Nick Turman's sled dogs. The Board recommended that Mr. Turman keep his sled and dogs within the public right-of-way. He indicated he had contacted each neighbor and has added lights and markings to his dog sled equipment.

Petitions for a 5-member Board and appointed Clerk and Treasurer were presented so the two items can be put on the March 13<sup>th</sup> ballot. The election judge list was approved. Feb 13<sup>th</sup> at 6pm was the budget work meeting.

Maintenance work on the Town Hall was suggested (replacing the sliding wood curtain with a wall around the office and repairing rolling tables). Funds are available for Town Hall maintenance and repair. Wayne Dahlberg volunteered to do the drawings. Up-to-date Minnesota Association of Township Handbooks, a key reference, will be purchased for Board members and for the Town Office.

**Feb 8<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Attending: Supervisors Aho, Cook and Connolly with Ann Cox, Janet Johansen, Tim Strom. Department reports were read. The Planning Commission reported and the Board approved Sue Lawson to fill the existing vacancy. The potential move of the northern site recycling center will be taken up in the Spring. A motion regarding when fees for winter burial are to be paid was tabled pending further investigation of an unpaid bill. A turnaround is needed for plows on Mace road. The Fire Department will have access to Bluebird Landing with Duluth legal approval and a Coastal Council grant to improve it. Access to water is a key problem. A new firefighter has volunteered. A meeting was scheduled for March 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to certify the Township election results.

**Feb 13<sup>th</sup> meeting:** Budget preparation work meeting.

Attending: Supervisors Aho, Cook and Connolly with Ann Cox plus a small audience, primarily department heads.

The Board holds a meeting for the purpose of assembling a proposed budget for the following fiscal year (in this case, 2002). Departments submit budget needs and their rationale. The public can attend but the preferred time for public input is at the *Annual Meeting* when the assembled budget is presented for approval.

At this meeting Supervisors focused on holding the line on costs, made adjustments where needed, and expressed concern that budgets took account of the unusual rise in the cost of fuel. No new programs were presented or discussed. A detailed budget handout will be available at the *Annual Meeting* and a summary and comparison with prior years is given on page 7.

**Next Town Board meeting: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thu) Mar. 8<sup>th</sup>, 7:30pm**

**Summary of Planning Commission Meetings**

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

**Nov 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Attending members: Chair Bourgeois Bowen, Cox, Edblom, Fladmark with Secretary Marino and Zoning Administrator Dahlberg. The sewer project was discussed. The Coastal Zone Management grant and the RLK/Kuusisto contract are pending. Wayne reported on his review of the *American Tower* environmental report, request for further information, checking with Town and county officials, and permit approval with modifications. Another antenna was approved for the water tower. A hearing was held on a side lot variance. The space is tight. Parking and septic concerns were discussed for a 4' setback (code is 10') on the Schmidt's (dba Eagle Ministries) lot near Lakeview Castle. The variance was unanimously approved. The old Clover Valley store is a rental and code concerns were referred to the Health Department. A future meeting will discuss the zoning distinction of "home business" and "home occupation".

**Dec 24<sup>th</sup> no meeting.**

**Jan 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Attending: Bourgeois, Bowen, Cox, and Edblom with Dahlberg, Marino, Attorney Strom. Four candidates for the vacant position on the Planning Commission were interviewed and Sue Lawson was selected. She has extensive experience in construction, building codes, materials, practices and design. She is a trained land use planner and forester as well.

**Next Planning Commission meeting March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 7:30pm, (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday) at the Town Hall.**

## Our Township Budget

The following table was pulled together by the Newsletter Editor (*who believes it is fairly accurate*). It summarizes the budgeted income and expenditures for Duluth Township for 1999 through 2002. The proposed 2002 budget is about 4.5% above 1999 expenditures and 10.3% above the lower 2001 budget. The 2002 budget increase is primarily because it adjusts for inflation, the rapid rise in fuel costs and our share of the cost of a consultant to help with updating our 1976 *Land Use Plan* and related zoning ordinances (a grant pays for the other half of the consultant). Overall, the average monthly cost per household for Township services (fire, police, road, governance, etc) would be \$29.08, \$1.24 higher than three years ago.

### Duluth Township Income and Expenditures by Budget Area, 1999 - 2002

<b>Income</b>				
<b>Source of Income</b>	<b>1999 (actual)</b>	<b>2000 (actual)</b>	<b>2001 (expected)</b>	<b>2002 (budgeted)</b>
From Property Tax <sup>1</sup>	\$228,125.00	\$234,515.51	\$201,556.76	?
Other Income <sup>2</sup>	\$34,851.27	\$17,518.17	?	?
Grants Received <sup>3</sup>	\$8,056.12	\$7,966.18	\$86,279.74	?
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$271,032.39</b>	<b>\$259,999.86</b>	<b>\$201,556.76</b>	<b>?</b>

Escrow (vehicles) <sup>4</sup>	\$43,000.00	\$47,000.00	\$51,000.00	\$56,000.00
Carry over operating funds	\$28,856.17	\$38,453.27	?	

<b>Expense</b>				
<b>Expenditure Area</b>	<b>1999 (actual)</b>	<b>2000 (actual)</b>	<b>2001 (approved)</b>	<b>2002 (budgeted)</b>
Roads & Bridges	\$85,389.31	\$59,792.88	\$71,000.00	\$65,000.00
General Township	\$63,018.55	\$56,151.19	\$65,030.00	\$70,350.00
Fire Department	\$44,878.11	\$51,739.51	\$46,200.00	\$52,262.85
Police Department	\$31,415.08	\$38,469.69	\$37,637.60	\$37,341.32
Township Cemetery	\$4,180.30	\$6,453.50	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Planning & Zoning	\$5,238.75	\$6,345.73	\$4,500.00	\$22,000.00
Recycling Centers	\$8,056.12	\$7,966.18	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$242,176.22</b>	<b>\$226,918.68</b>	<b>\$229,367.60</b>	<b>\$252,954.17</b>
<i>Approximate average monthly cost per household for all Township services</i>	<u>\$27.84</u>	<u>\$26.08</u>	<u>\$26.36</u>	<u>\$29.08</u>

The total market value of property in the Township (residential, commercial, and other) is estimated at \$76.5 million, up from \$44.1 million in 1995. This increase includes the general rise in property values (around 7% per year but higher on lakeshores) plus upgraded or new construction. The Township accounts for about 15.7% of our property tax bill; the school district, 29.7%; the county, 53.4%; and other taxing districts, 0.7%.

Pay and mileage rates included in the 2002 budget show some change. The mileage rate has been 30 cents per mile for some time but will change to the federal rate that is now 34 cents per mile. The Supervisor per-meeting rate was \$35. in 2000 but will go to \$50 in 2001 and 2002. The per-meeting rate for our Zoning Administrator was not changed for 2001 but the 2002 budget raises it from \$35 to \$50. Our police officers received a 1-cent per hour increase for 2001 and a 7-cent increase for 2002. They are still limited to 80 hours per month each. There has been no change from before 2000 in the pay rate for Town Clerk, Treasurer, Planning Commission secretary, Town Hall maintenance, recycling centers or election judges. The Township hourly rate has been \$8.00 for a number of years. The Town Clerk is limited to 6 hours per week.

<sup>1</sup> These property tax figures include property taxes returned to the Township plus various adjustments such as HACA (Homestead and Agricultural Credit Aid, about 17% of our annual budget) that are based on the Town budget we adopt

<sup>2</sup> This includes various fees, fines and donations.

<sup>3</sup> This includes a grant for part of the consultant to help update our 1976 *Land Use Plan*. Residents Ellen O'Neill and Wayne Dahlberg (our Zoning Administrator) wrote the grant for about \$17,500. Each year Caroline Marino writes a grant for WLSSD funding of our Recycling Centers (about \$7,700 per year). Ann Cox and our Supervisors prepared the request to FEMA for funds to repair earlier flood damage. The Township recently received \$61,079.74 from this request.

<sup>4</sup> Escrowed funds are used to replace or lower the lease cost of fire and police vehicles. Figures for 2001 and 2002 are estimates based on proposed budgets.

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2001

*Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Township Election and Meeting at the Town Hall*

## Inside this Issue:

- **Annual Town Meeting** March 13<sup>th</sup>
  1. Who's running
  2. Items on the ballot
  3. Proposed budget
- Report on responses to the Resident Feedback Survey
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District (DNSSD) report
- "The History Corner"
- Volunteer opportunities
- Township **Calendar**
- Upcoming events and issues

Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

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*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

**MN Legislature** is considering a bill that would *exempt target ranges from city, county or Township laws and ordinances* (HF209/SF434). If passed, this could set precedence for the Legislature to exempt other uses from local control. Bill coauthors are: Rukavina, Bakk, Johnson and Laurey. Our contacts: Sen. Sam Solon 651-296-4188 and Rep. Tom Huntley 651-296-2228 or email: [sen.sam.solon@senate.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:sen.sam.solon@senate.leg.state.mn.us), [rep.Thomas.Huntley@house.leg.state.mn.us](mailto:rep.Thomas.Huntley@house.leg.state.mn.us).

**Annual Township meeting March 13<sup>th</sup>**. Absentee ballots are available from the Town Hall through March 12<sup>th</sup>. The Town Hall office will be open Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> from 8-10am.

**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. If you are interested, call Ann Cox at the Town Hall: 525-5705

**For a list of Township businesses** See the web site.

**Town Hall Hours:** Thursdays 9-12am and 4:30-7:30pm. Ann Cox, Town Clerk. Town Hall phone: 525-5705 with voice messaging. Fax number: 525-3845.

**Duluth Township web site:** [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)  
**D/NSSD (Sanitary District) web site:** [www.dnssd.org](http://www.dnssd.org)

**Deadline for the May Newsletter is April 23<sup>rd</sup>**. If you have an announcement of broad interest to Township residents, send it to the editor or put it in the *NewsBox*.

## Calendar

*No school calendar items were submitted this time.*

Mar 6, **Cancelled, Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting. See the web site: [www.dnssd.org](http://www.dnssd.org)

Mar 7, Wed, 1:00pm, **Homesteader's** trip to the **Aquarium**. Bus leaves French River Church lot.

**Mar 8, Thu, 7:30pm Town Board**, Town Hall

Mar 10, Town Hall will be open 8-10am. Absentee ballots are available.

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**Mar 13, Township Election noon-8pm, Town Hall**  
**Annual Township Meeting, 8pm-on, Town Hall**  
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Mar 14, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** Anniversary Pot Luck, Town Hall

Mar 15, Thu, 5-6:30pm **Coffee & Chat**, Town Hall

**Mar 22, Thu, 7:30pm Planning Commission**, Town Hall

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Apr 3, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

Apr 4, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meeting, Town Hall

**Apr 12, Thu, 7:30pm Town Board**, Town Hall

Apr 19, Thu, 5-6:30pm **Coffee & Chat**, Town Hall

Apr 23, **Deadline** for news for the *May Newsletter*

**Apr 26, Thu, 7:30pm Planning Commission**, Town Hall

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May 1, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church

May 2, Wed, 12:30, **Homesteaders** meet, Town Hall