

Vote and Attend  
Duluth Township  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
March 14<sup>th</sup>, Town Hall  
7am-8pm election  
8:15pm- Town Meeting

# Duluth Township Newsletter



Spring is coming?

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

March 2006

*Thanks to all contributors to this issue:*

**Jeanne Anderson, Jody Anderson, Ann Cox, Katie Edblom, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Todd Lindahl, Shawn Padden and Mary Ann Sironen.**

Thanks to **Linda Holliday** for her work on our Township web site. Note: If you would be willing to provide a masthead drawing or picture, please call the editor (525-0103).

## What's Coming Up?

*Some Topics and Issues Being Considered.*

**Town Election and Annual Town Meeting** March 14<sup>th</sup>.  
**Feasibility of a Community Center addition.** North Shore Community School (NSCS) is growing. There is some interest in replacing the temporary classrooms (installed a couple of years ago) with a permanent addition to our Community Center to accommodate this growth, once the Township has full title to the land and building. A discussion is underway now concerning the feasibility of such an addition. A small group of residents and NSCS parents and staff will meet on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the Town Hall, a first meeting to discuss feasibility issues. The public is welcome to attend this working meeting.

The Planning Commission is currently considering its first **Planned Unit Development (PUD) near Stoney Point** (see article). A tentative public hearing is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. Notices will be sent and posted. There are at least two other potential PUD's (not yet submitted).

## Duluth Township Community Center Events

*Jeanne Anderson, Event Coordinator*

Thank you to everyone that has registered and participated in the Duluth Township Community Education classes. It is through your continued support and participation that we will be able to offer more classes in the future. Thank you to all of the instructors that have taught classes through Duluth Township Community Ed as well. If you would like to teach a course or know of someone that would be interested, please contact Jeanne Anderson by email at [janderson@duluthtownship.org](mailto:janderson@duluthtownship.org) or 525-0663 x208.

Session IV will be starting on February 28<sup>th</sup> and will run through April 7<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyer in this Newsletter for class offerings. The Session V classes will run from April 17<sup>th</sup> through May 26<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to your participation.

The Township received a \$20,000 grant from St Louis County to complete work on the Community Center Recreation field.

## Supervisor Election

*Ann Cox, Clerk of Duluth Township*

Duluth Township will hold an **election** for one 3-year term Supervisor position. Voting takes place **March 14<sup>th</sup>** at the Town Hall on Homestead Road from 7:00am to 8:00pm. For information about candidate, **Jeff Cook**, see the article in this Newsletter. Be sure to vote.

## Annual Town Meeting

*Ann Cox, Clerk of Duluth Township*

The meeting starts at **8:15 pm** on Tuesday, **March 14<sup>th</sup>**. State regulations set this as the date for all township annual meetings. Residents are asked not to enter the Town Hall until 8:15, after voting ends at 8pm.

Citizens who attend elect a resident (not the Supervisors) to preside at the meeting. Last year's minutes are read and approved. The budget for **2007** will be discussed and adopted, perhaps with changes. [See page 7 for information on the proposed 2007 budget.](#)

Other business of the Township is raised and discussed and results of the Town election are announced. The meeting is usually suspended rather than adjourned. This permits a special meeting to be called in August in case there is other business that needs to be conducted by Township residents.

This meeting is grass-roots democracy but it depends upon the participation, respect and good ideas of all of our citizens. The Town Meeting is also a good chance to meet some of your neighbors and to discuss important Township issues.

Absentee ballots are available from the Town Hall and the Town Hall is open, by law, March 11, from 10-12 for absentee voting.

## St Patrick's Day Bingo

*Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 6 – 9pm*

North Shore Community School

Sloppy joes – Nachos – Treats

*Sponsored by area merchants and the Clifton 4-H club.*

*Bring the whole family!*

Mailed to **890** Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall.

Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer *Newsletter* editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the *NewsBox* on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**

**Township Police Department**

*Shawn Padden, Chief.*

**Speeding:** Because of increased complaints about speeding along the shore, our police will be aggressively enforcing the speed limits from Knife River to the McQuade Road. This includes the **30mph zone around the Safe Harbor** construction site. The speed limit from the **Talmadge River to the Lake County line is 50mph** and will be enforced. Our Police will be conducting more stationary *radar* along this stretch of road.

This past year there were **972 police events**, in addition to regular patrols. This is up 26% from 2002 but down 8% from 2004. The table below groups the long

<b>Call Category</b>	<b>Year 2002</b>	<b>Year 2003</b>	<b>Year 2004</b>	<b>Year 2005</b>
Medical emergency	18	38	31	36
Deaths	4	0	0	0
Fire alarm	13	25	21	17
Personal injury	7	6	9	11
Assault/disputes/threats	22	28	37	23
Arrests	1	9	18	15
Traffic violations	152	157	155	125
Other violations	6	3	0	11
Drug incidents	4	4	3	3
Property/damage/theft/burglary	71	110	106	92
Fraud (identity theft, mail)	0	0	0	4
Disturbances/harassment	64	72	77	98
Assistance provided	57	61	80	75
Requested checking/patrol	314	395	467	413
Permits (handgun, explosives)	14	29	13	14
Information requests	10	13	18	15
In-service training/classes	1	0	0	0
Other (unknown trouble)	6	19	22	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>1057</b>	<b>972</b>

list of specific types of calls into 18 categories (identity theft and mail fraud is a new category this year). These are listed from the more serious or urgent calls down to more routine requests for assistance that can be scheduled, at least to some extent. Some calls require considerable time during the event and in required documentation afterward. Besides requested patrol/checking (413 events), there were 125 traffic violations, 98 calls for disturbances, and 92 calls for property damage/theft/burglary. Animal complaints have increased this year as well.

**Crime Alert** reported that there have been some mailbox thefts on *West Knife River Road*. It's a crime. To protect yourself, pick up your mail as soon as possible, don't leave it over night.

Our Police Department maintains an **email Crime Alert** service (it is also on our web site). To receive notices send your email address to [PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org).

**North Shore Community School News**

Mark down Friday, **March 17<sup>th</sup> at 6-9pm for St. Patrick's Day Bingo!**

School and Community Center events are going on evenings and most weekends too.

See the regular school information insert in this Newsletter.

**Massage Therapy ... On the North Shore!**

**Lisa Richards Massage Therapy**

5722 Homestead Road  
(218) 428-2858

**Make your first Appointment in March  
And Save 10% with this Ad!**

*Paid Advertisement*

**Small ads** for items of interest to Duluth Township residents can be placed in the Newsletter at \$2 per line, when space is available. Contact the Town Clerk or the Newsletter Editor.

**Stay At Home Pet Care Services**

Robin Whaley provides safe, trustworthy care for your pets at your home anytime you need it.

**Call 834-6454 for a free initial visit.**

*Serving the North Shore and Two Harbors Area*

*Paid Advertisement*

**Township Roads**

There are **11.47 miles of Township roads** including: **Nordling (.12mi), Alseth (1.1), East Lismore (.4), Shilhon (.45), Gamble (.2), Greenwood (1.20), Pine Tree (.1), Spruce Court (.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).** Other roads in the Township are County or State roads.

A handout at the Annual Meeting lists road work that was done in 2005. Hagglund Construction provided \$46,531 in grading, gravel and plowing services. The largest amount, 39%, was for Greenwood Road.

If you have questions about **Township Roads**, contact one of the Supervisors who deals with roads (this will change when the Board reorganizes after the March 14<sup>th</sup> election), or leave a message at the Town Hall 525-5205.

*If you have questions about **County Roads**, call the County Tool House at 525-7000.*

**Clifton Volunteer Fire Department**

*Barry Lampi, Fire Chief*

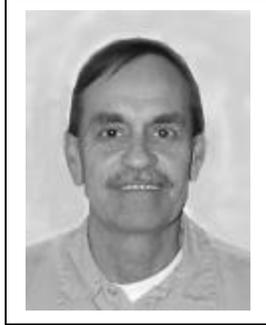
Annual elections were held. Bill Cox was elected President, Sherry Rolvig as Secretary, Ann Cox as Treasurer, Barry Lampi continues as Chief, Bob Engleson as Assistant Chief, Bill Hartman, Pat Farley and Keith Darsow are Captains.

Our Fire Department held its annual appreciation dinner February 4<sup>th</sup> at Lakeview Castle. Two retiring volunteer firemen were honored. **Ray Leppala** has served our community for **33** years. **Jack Skully** served us for **9** years. *Many thanks to both for their devotion to the Department and our safety.*

## Duluth Township Election

On March 14<sup>th</sup> the Town Hall will be open from 7am to 8pm for the annual Town election. Supervisor Jeff Cook's term is up for election and he is running uncontested for a fourth 3-year term.

**Jeff Cook** has lived in the Township for 27 years and his wife, Rita's family has lived here for 4 generations. They have two children and live in the shore area. Jeff has worked 27 years as a water quality specialist for the City of Duluth. He was honored as Employee of the Year. Jeff is a Vietnam veteran, a member of the French River Lutheran Church, he coached the girl's grade school basketball and is a member of our North Shore Community School Foundation Board.



Jeff Cook has been an active and accessible supervisor, regularly attending Board meetings and its many related committees and events. Jeff served as a member of our Township planning committee and the steering committee for the shore sewer project. He represents our Township on the *North Shore Management Board*, *McQuade Harbor Joint Powers Board*. He serves on the *St Louis River Remedial Action Committee*, and the *MN Waste Operators Association on Clean Rivers*. Because of his expertise in stormwater regulations and issues, Jeff prepared the federally mandated *Stormwater Management Plan* for our Township.

Main issues Jeff sees facing our Township are minimizing the impact of development along the shore, dealing with stormwater requirements, maintaining Township roads, developing cultural and educational events at our Community Center, elder housing, keeping young citizens in the area, and development in line with our Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Jeff sees a need for more community support and participation in Township governance and more volunteerism. During his term as Supervisor, Jeff has seen development of community planning and completion of the Zoning Ordinance, completion of the sewer line to address problems of failing septic systems along the shore, and development of our school and events at our Community Center.

He would like to work on further road improvement, taking advantage of our new Community Center for community activities, and keeping an eye on new projects to see that they are in line with citizen views.

Jeff indicated that, if elected, this would be his last term on the Board.

To contact Jeff Cook, you could use his email [JeffCook@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JeffCook@duluthtownship.org), or call him at home in the evening or on weekends at 525-4010.

## Township Calendar

See updates on [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

Official calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

### March 2006

- 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 1, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 7, Tue. 7:00pm Community Center Building Committee meeting, Town Hall (feasibility of a future addition)
- 8, Wed, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran
- 9, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 11, Sat, 10-12 Absentee voting at the Town Hall
- 13, Mon, 7:00pm Senior Housing group meeting
- 
- 14, Tue, **Township Election**, 7:00am-8:00pm
- 14, Tue, **Annual Town Meeting**, 8:15pm-, Town Hall
- 
- 15, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: training
- 16, Thu, 6:30pm, Town Board of Canvass, Town Hall (to certify election voting).
- 17, Fri, 6-9 St. Patrick's Day Bingo, NSCS
- 20, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
- 21, Tue, 7:00pm, Tentatively scheduled Stoney Point PUD Public Hearing, Town Hall
- 23, Thu, 7:00pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 28, Tue, 7:00pm **Community Center Recreation** meeting, Town Hall (recreation field planning).

### April 2006

- 5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet Town Hall
- 5, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 10, Mon, 7pm Senior Housing group meeting
- 12, Wed, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 13, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 17, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- 19, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: Training Hall #1
- 23, Sun. **Deadline** for news for the May *Newsletter*
- 26, Wed. 7:00pm **Board of Review & Appeal**, Town Hall (property tax appeals).
- 27, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

### May 2006

- 3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 3, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 8, Mon, 7pm Senior Housing group meeting
- 10, Wed, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 10, Wed, 7:00pm *First Responder* meeting, Hall #2
- 11, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 15, Mon, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
- 17, Wed, 7:00pm *Volunteer Fire Dept*: training, Hall #1

### Rural North Shore Senior Housing Initiative

For information, contact Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

The next regular meeting is **March 13<sup>th</sup>** (2nd Mon.) at 7pm. Call Helen Hendrickson for the location of the meeting if you are interested in attending.

### The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

**March 1<sup>st</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall.

Homesteader's birthday lunch and bingo.

**April 5<sup>th</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon,

Program: Paul Sundberg Photography.

**May 3<sup>d</sup>**, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Luncheon and program to be announced.

**Everyone is welcome.** For information, call 525-4154

### Stoney Point PUD Update

Duluth Township's first PUD application.

*Odyssey Development* together with current owners, applied for a conditional use permit for a Planned Unit Development (PUD) of single family homes in the Stoney Point area along Lake Superior, south of the Scenic Highway and across from *Tom's Logging Camp*. *Odyssey Development's* other properties include the *Grand Superior Lodge*, *Crow Creek*, *Caribou Highlands* and *Larsmont Cottages*.

As part of the PUD conditional use process, our Zoning Ordinance requests developers to have an open house to inform and solicit comments and concerns from residents so that these can be considered prior to the formal Public Hearing. An informational meeting was held on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> at our Town Hall. Notices for this gathering had been posted and mailed. Letters of comment were invited (about 5-6 have been submitted).

*Odyssey Development* organized a second informational meeting Jan 31<sup>st</sup> at their *Larsmont Cottages* development. They sent notices by mail and phone neighbors and others in the area, including those who attended the first informational meeting. At this second informational meeting Bob Ryan and Greg Schendel explained changes they had made in the original plan and how they took into account the comments they received. About 20 people attended.

Homes would be in the \$6-800,000 bracket with 1 to 4 owners. A single garage per home would be grouped away from the lake. This development is not a resort, but is similar to their *Crow Creek* development. The developers said they would not advertise it as rental property.

Plans still include changing the slope of the clay bluffs along Lake Superior to a 1/3 slope to prevent slumping. The slope would start at about 50 feet into the tree line. The land would be shaped irregularly to preserve some of the feel of natural landforms. *Odyssey* will attempt to keep "islands" of vegetation along the slope. The entire clay bank would be revegetated to eliminate the open clay backs that now exist. Rocks will be put along the shore (above the high water line). Home setbacks from the high water mark would be varied from 100 to 160

feet which would require a variance from our Ordinance's requirement of 125 foot setback from the lake's eroding bluff. Homes would be within the ordinance's 35 foot maximum height. Natural vegetation would be used and lawns limited to 15 feet around buildings. Nine single family homes (rather than the original 11) are planned for the 18 acres along the Lake. The Scenic Highway right of way is 250 feet wider at this property (amounting to an additional 4 acres). If *Odyssey* acquires this land, two more homes would be added, one along the lake and one inland. An area around the Little Sucker River would be left undeveloped and a perpetual easement created for public use. A 3-car roadside parking space would be provided for those using this area. At the second meeting, questions were raised about the use of the waterfront for fishing. It was noted that the area from the high water mark to the lake is legally public and always accessible to the public. *Odyssey Development* would reserve an area along the Little Sucker River for public fishing use. Other questions included erosion handling (engineers are developing the plans), and general design issues (natural plantings, trees, north shore appearance, etc.).

Three entryways are proposed to the Scenic Highway. Two would use the existing (unused) roadway, making it loop back to the Scenic Highway. Another roadway would connect some homes to the Scenic Highway. Homes would generally not be visible from the Scenic Highway and there would not be a "development" sign at the road entrances. Plans are to connect to the new sewer system. *Odyssey* would manage the development. The developers propose to buy wetland credits (elsewhere) to offset the approximately 8,000 sq ft of wetland affected by the proposal. Engineers are developing a stormwater management plan which would collect runoff water inland and channel overflow into existing waterways. They propose to have a 15,000 gallon water supply tank which can be used by our Volunteer Fire Department.

The developers noted advantages of a PUD, rather than a series of individually developed lots, include more general handling of stormwater, shared common facilities (well, roadways, etc.), integrated overall design, and an association to handle maintenance and create environmental usage restrictions and standards.

*Duluth City* has raised concerns about Congdon Trust property in the area, so *Odyssey Development* asked for a delay in the required **Public Hearing**. It is tentatively planned for **March 21<sup>st</sup>** pending the outcome of any legal issues. Notices will be re-sent to residents to announce the Public Hearing. *Odyssey* had hoped to start work as early as this spring.

Bob Ryan and Greg Schendel can be contacted at 728-8060 or [www.odysseydev.com](http://www.odysseydev.com). The original plan can be seen on our web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).



**9-1-1 Etiquette**

The 9-1-1 system is for your protection. Be sure that your reflective 9-1-1 sign is properly posted so that it is visible to emergency vehicle headlights at night. Your 9-1-1 call is one part. The second part is helping emergency personnel, who may not be familiar with your road, find your home quickly. **Check to see that your sign is properly posted and visible** (*generally within 10 feet of the edge of the roadway, 10 feet from the edge of your driveway, no less than 4 feet above the road surface, and perpendicular to the roadway for 2-sided signs*). Detailed instructions are provided with new or replacement signs. Note that for new or a replacement sign, St Louis County Ordinance #41 lists a \$100 fine and withholding permits for homeowners not in compliance with the Ordinance.

**New 9-1-1 numbers** are reflective, 2-sided signs. If you want to update your old sign, call the 9-1-1 non-emergency number 727-2920. The cost is about \$25 for a replacement. It may be a great bargain!

About 30%-40% of wireless 9-1-1 calls are false alarms! To help out, be sure you either disable your emergency dial number or lock the phone keyboard.

**If you accidentally call 9-1-1, STAY ON THE LINE** so the operator can verify that it isn't an emergency.

**Please Pick up your 9-1-1 Signs**

*Town Clerk, Ann Cox*

The following 9-1-1 address signs need to be picked up at the Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 during regular business hours.

- Leslie Bruckelmyer, 6271 Bergquist Road
- Roslyn Andrews, 5149 North Shore Drive
- Dean Townley, 2255 North Star Road
- Randy Edblom, 6239 Bergquist Road
- David Smith, 1713 Hegberg Road
- Roger Rose, 5252 McQuade Road
- Daniel Ring, 5736 North Shore Drive
- Ed Morris, 2012 East Pioneer Road
- Mary Brown, 5385 North Shore Drive
- Jon and Elizabeth Luikart, 5710 North Shore Drive
- Pat Torgersen, 1111 Old North Shore Road

**Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District**

*Mary Ann Sironen*

It's quiet time for activity along the D/NSSD pipeline but the Board is working on financial and operational details. *Frontier Pipeline* has essentially completed their part of the work, the lateral lines from the main line to the properties, and has moved its equipment to their next job. *Frontier* will bid out the remaining restoration work that will be done in the spring.

A question that arises this time of year is: *How do I determine the portion of the 2006 \$269,758 D/NSSD levy amount that shows up on my taxes?* Eric Applewick, Operations Superintendent, has researched it with St. Louis County and has included the information in a coming newsletter to customers.

The following computations apply to all homestead, non-homestead and seasonal residential properties.

Under \$500,000 market value: (market value x 1%) x 0.34953 = your levied amount.

Over \$500,000 market value: 500,000 x 1% = **A**

Market value over \$500,000 x 1.25% = **B**

(**A + B**) x 0.34953 = your levied amount.

If people have questions about calculating their levy they should call the County Auditor's office for a full explanation.

D/NSSD Board of Managers meets monthly on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday at 0700am at the French River Lutheran Meeting. The public is always welcome. Minutes and additional information are available on the DNSSD web site: [www.dnssd.org](http://www.dnssd.org).

**Land Use Permits**

<b>Land Use Permits</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>
<i>Single Family</i>	17	20	19	22	<b>25</b>
<i>Seasonal Cabins</i>	6	0	2	2	<b>0</b>
<i>Commercial</i>	0	0	1	0	<b>0</b>
<i>Alteration/Accessory</i>	42	37	45	44	<b>41</b>
<i>Church/School/Utility</i>	0	0	2	2	<b>1</b>
<i>Totals</i>	65	57	69	70	<b>67</b>

The value declared on the single family home permit applications totals \$4 million and \$386,000 for alterations to single family homes.

Thanks to our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, all permits have been entered in a computer data bank so trends and comparisons can be made. She reports that most permits, last year, were for the North Shore Drive (12) with the McQuade and Shilhon Roads tying for second (7 each). In 2004, the Old North Shore Road had the highest number of permits (11). This information will also be entered in the new GIS computer system so maps of this and other geographic information can be produced.

**2006 Resident Feedback Questionnaire Report**

The January Newsletter included the annual *Resident Feedback Questionnaire*, sent to 890 addresses. Questions asked for feedback on a range of topics from past surveys and comments by the Town Board and residents. Ninety responses were received by 8 days after the preferred deadline, for an overall response rate of **10%** (about the same as in recent surveys).

While every household had the opportunity to provide feedback, one might presume that responses were from those who were more interested in Township affairs and/or these issues, and wanted to provide their suggestions and views.

The full report was distributed to the Town Board and other groups included in questions. It is also available at the Town Hall, on our Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org).

**Summary of Results.** In general there were no significant differences in response between those living on the lakeside of the freeway or inland.

*98% are satisfied, overall, with Duluth Township as a place to live. This is slightly up from 2003 (95%) and 2001 (97%). Of the 40 comments, about 70% of the comments referred to its rural, quiet, scenic beauty*  
(continued on page 6)

and felt that it should be protected. Residents were asked how satisfied they were with a list of 12 services. Results are shown in the table, below.

99% are satisfied or very satisfied with NSCS, the Fire Department and the Newsletter. Results over 90% satisfied include the Town Hall, the Web site, Recycling Center, and Board of Supervisors. Some 64% are satisfied or very satisfied with roads and 76% with D/NSSD.

The largest change over time is with roads (Township and/or County roads).

Most frequent among the 73 comments on satisfaction ratings were about roads (19%), speed and ordinance enforcement (18%), and D/NSSD (10%). Eight percent of the comments were about appreciation for Township staff and volunteers.

<b>Percent satisfied or very satisfied with:</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>2003</b>	<b>2006</b>
NSCS school	92%	98%	<b>99%</b>
Volunteer Fire Department	97%	97%	<b>99%</b>
Newsletter	96%	98%	<b>99%</b>
Town Hall	93%	94%	<b>96%</b>
Township web site	--	--	<b>93%</b>
Recycling Center	92%	89%	<b>93%</b>
Board of Supervisors	66%	98%	<b>91%</b>
Community Center Classes	--	--	<b>89%</b>
Police Officers	77%	86%	<b>86%</b>
Planning Commission	70%	86%	<b>85%</b>
D/NSSD Sewer District	--	--	<b>76%</b>
Roads	76%	81%	<b>64%</b>

**Familiarity.** Respondents were most familiar with roads, recycling centers and police officers, and the Board of Supervisors but least familiar with the sewer district (48% don't know), the Township web site (51%) and our Community Center Classes (61%).

**Concerns about the Township.** 76% of respondents listed one or more concerns. 126 concerns were mentioned by 68 people (some mentioned more than one concern). The most frequently mentioned concerns (27%) were about the need for stricter enforcement of zoning and other ordinances.

19% were concerned about commercial and residential development. 17% were concerned about water pollution and environmental degradation.

**Selected Topics.** Residents were asked about several other topics.

**The percent answering "yes" is:**

Should the Town Hall be open more hours? **16%** yes

Should speed limits be more strongly enforced? **51%** yes  
(68% for shore side and 43% for those living inland)

Should zoning regulations be more strongly enforced? **55%**

Is someone in your family looking for senior housing? **6%**  
(IF YES) Would you prefer to rent (vs own)? **83%** rent

Are you interested in purchasing a "fire box" for your property (for a key only the Fire Dept can use)? **33%**

Do you manage/own a business in Duluth Twp? **18%** yes

Area the respondent lives in: Shore side of Hwy 27%  
Inland side of Hwy 71%  
Outside Township 2%

### Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org)).

**December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.** All Supervisors attended.

The required annual Public Hearing on our Stormwater plan was held. There were no public comments.

Town Board meeting highlights: Officer Wick resigned. There is a continuous problem with loose dogs getting into garbage, chasing cars and joggers and people with children, etc. Solutions might include a contract with a pound or issuing licenses for dogs to identify them. Owners must keep dogs on their property or under their control. A NSCS feasibility committee is studying whether more space is needed. A 35 foot wind generator was approved for the Community Center. There was a discussion of the current reversionary clause in the Community Center property. A conditional use permit was granted Coop Light and Power for a substation on Homestead Road across from Homestead Drive. Tim Strom will provide suggestions on the draft "Adult Uses" ordinance. The Planning Commission will use the storage room by the kitchen for staff and the new GIS computer which was provided under a grant. Meetings with the DNR and WLSSD on a south recycle center are being held.

**January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.** All Supervisors attended.

The Board will interview for an opening on the Planning Commission since Janet McTavish resigned. George Sundstrom proposed a resolution supporting limited lake trout fishing for local commercial fishermen in zone 1. Currently no commercial fishing of lake trout is provided but charter fishing for lake trout has no limit. Resolution passed and will be sent to the DNR. The safety of Township deposits was discussed and the Board will consider spreading funds in more than one bank to assure FDIC deposit insurance. Security is now in the Community Center portable classroom space. Solar panels are up and running and the Township received a \$20,000 grant from the County to complete the Community Center recreation fields.

Vandals have damaged the skating warming shack. The County Garage has been called to sand icy roads. It was proposed that Supervisor Anderson or Dahl should call a meeting to define the feasibility of need for expansion of the Community Center. The internal Board of Audit meeting was scheduled for Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>.

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday)**

**Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> and Apr. 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.**

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

### Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

**October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Members attending Dave Chura, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, and Dave Miller. A meeting will be scheduled with the County Land Dept on tax forfeit land in the Township. A Coastal grant application to purchase a laptop computer for planning map work has been submitted. Planning Director Dahlberg discussed the proposed Odyssey Development PUD. A \$1500 fee

was set for this first PUD application and the expenses related to it will be reviewed. A public open house will be held on Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>. Dave Chura reported on research on sexually oriented business for our proposed Adult Use ordinance. A resolution on the need for such an ordinance was proposed and passed.

**December 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.** Members attending Dave Chura, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl, Sue Lawson, Seth Levanen, and Janet McTavish. A public open house was held Nov 29<sup>th</sup> on the *Odyssey* Planned Unit Development (PUD) proposal for the Stoney Point area. Relevant public agencies were also asked for their comments on this PUD. A public hearing on a conditional use permit to construct an electric substation for Coop Light and Power on Homestead Road. This is needed to handle the developing electricity load in our area. It would be screened and back about 260 feet from the road. After public testimony a motion to grant the use passed with conditions concerning buffering, impervious surface, mitigation plans and meeting State regulations. Meetings on the south recycling shed possibilities are continuing. The Board discussed the draft Adult Use ordinance.

**January 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.** Members attending: Dave Chura, Michael Kahl, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish and Dave Miller. The Nisswandt/Odyssey Planned Use Development (PUD) in the Stoney Point area was discussed. A letter was sent for soil boring information. The Town Attorney, Tim Strom, advised Planning Commission members to avoid expressing their opinions but, instead, just absorb information prior to a public hearing. The Public Hearing was set for Feb 2<sup>nd</sup> and notices will be sent. The Board discussed the clear cutting being proposed for the Lipe property (lakeside of the freeway near Bergquist Road. A management plan is required. The Berggrens expressed concern about the LIU-3A zone review process. A request by some owners to reduce the density on their property was discussed as was the sewer district connection allocation process. Kessler and Dahlberg will update zoning forms to reflect the new ordinance.

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> special meeting.** All Commission members were present. The meeting was called for two hearings. Some 50 residents were in attendance.

- Owner petition to upzone their property. Nine owners of 354.9 acres along the Sucker River requested that their land be upzoned from the current MUNS4 4.5 acre minimum lot size to 9 acres as in the FAM-3 district (the Town Board requested that existing zone district designations be used). Our Zoning Ordinance allows land owners of 160 or more contiguous acres to petition for upzoning their own land to a less dense designation. Two landowners decided to exclude themselves and one decided to join the petition. This land joins the 166.7 acre tax forfeit land north of the Old North Shore Road which is often used for fishing and hiking along the Sucker River. It was felt that this petition would help protect the future quality of the Sucker River from over-development. Motion to approve passed.

- Stoney Point Planned Unit Development (PUD) application to build a series of potentially multiple-owner, single family homes along Lake Superior in the area just

west of the Stoney Point Road, generally across from *Dodges Log Lodges*. *Odyssey Development* asked that the hearing be postponed to resolve potential legal matters relating to Congdon Trust property. See the article in this Newsletter for an update on *Odyssey Development plans*. A postponement was granted.

**Next Planning Commission meetings: (4<sup>th</sup> Thursday)  
Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup> and Apr. 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm, Town Hall.**  
*Residents are invited to attend these meetings.*

### The Hard Luck of the Steamer Tampa

Todd Lindahl

The Steamer *Tampa* was one of six wooden sister ships launched in 1890 for the grain and coal trade. On November 21, 1898 the 291-foot, 1,972-ton ship found itself overwhelmed by a Lake Superior storm with winds that gusted to over 100 miles per hour. Even with 2,700 tons of coal in the cargo hold, and heading into the wind at full speed, the *Tampa* found itself being pushed backward toward the rocky coast of the north shore. In a desperate attempt to save his ship, Captain Leonard turned towards shore and tried to get behind the small island where the present day Silver Bay is located. Unfortunately they ran hard aground on a rocky reef there first. Fearing the ship would slide off into deeper water, the Captain ordered the crew to take to the lifeboats. They rowed in behind the island and waited there adequately protected until the ferocious winds abated. Eventually, when it was safe, they rowed the short distance to Beaver Bay and from there summoned the salvage company. It took a great effort to free her from the reef. When the final bill came in it exceeded a whopping \$50,000. Unfortunately for the owners this was more than the ship was worth at the time. During the following year in 1899 the vessel was rebuilt adding even more expense. Three years later on April 29, 1902, the *Tampa* was making its way through a heavy fog with the schooner *Aurora* being towed behind. Both ships were loaded with coal and headed to Duluth. Eyes strained to see anything in the featureless white ahead. The men in the pilothouse watched the compass carefully and plotted their position accordingly. This was all to no avail since there are areas along the north shore where underwater magnetic attraction causes the compass needle to deviate. Suddenly without warning the *Tampa* ran hard aground on the rocks. The alert crew onboard the schooner *Aurora* spun the ships wheel hard and avoided ramming into the stern of the stranded steamer. Both ships were now grounded on the east side of Stony Point. The wreck had occurred on Tuesday and the *Aurora* was released by the Salvage Company the following day. The *Tampa's* cargo of coal needed to be removed first before she could be recovered. After three days of difficult work, the *Tampa* was finally free of the rocky grasp of Stony Point. This time the recovery bill came to \$10,000 excluding repairs to the two ships. The rugged coastline at Silver Bay and Stony Point had cost the shipping company over \$60,000 in just three years. On the brighter side however, the *Tampa* had narrowly escaped destruction twice and no lives were lost. Maybe she was in fact a "lucky ship" after all.

## Proposed Township Budget for 2007

The proposed 2007 Duluth Township budget is shown in the table below along with the actual expenditures for 2000-2005 and the budget for 2006 which was approved at our Annual Township Meeting last year.

The 2007 budget proposal is based on requests developed by our Township departments and reviewed by our Township Board. The total is up 8.4% from the 2006 budget approved last year (see Table below) and down 3% from this past year, 2005. Recycling expenses are covered by a grant from WLSSD. Some costs are covered by fees and grants.

According to the State Auditor's Office, in 2001 our Township was below the average per capita expenditures for all townships. In 2001 our per capita

expenditure was \$185 compared to \$330 for other St Louis County townships and \$222 for all townships in the State. The proposed budget is down 5% from 2001.

Overall, the 2007 proposed average yearly cost per household for Township services (fire, police, road, governance, etc.) is about \$409 or **\$34 per month**, down about \$1 per month from last year's actual expenses. Note that actual taxes are more for expensive homes and businesses, lower for less expensive homes and businesses, and lowered by State homestead credits, etc. Details of the budget will be available at the Annual Township meeting, 8:15pm on March 14<sup>th</sup>, when we will vote on the proposed 2007 budget.

<b>Comparison of Actual and Proposed Duluth Township Budgets<sup>(1)</sup></b>								
<b>Expenditure Area</b>	<b>2000 (actual)</b>	<b>2001 (actual)</b>	<b>2002 (actual)</b>	<b>2003 (actual)</b>	<b>2004 (actual)</b>	<b>2005 (actual)</b>	<b>2006 (budgeted)</b>	<b>2007 (proposed)</b>
Roads & Bridges <sup>(2)</sup>	\$59,793	\$110,751	\$85,720	\$63,818	\$40,555	\$60,043	\$40,000	\$60,000
General Township	\$56,151	\$87,883	\$108,877	\$89,439	\$107,262	\$126,969	\$111,410	\$109,564
Fire Department <sup>(2)</sup>	\$51,740	\$50,520	\$47,875	\$73,907	\$60,872	\$60,456	\$67,804	\$72,104
Police Department <sup>(2)</sup>	\$38,470	\$26,903	\$33,248	\$58,399	\$32,746	\$32,538	\$42,118	\$39,286
Township Cemetery	\$6,454	\$4,590	\$7,075	\$4,425	\$5,762	\$10,575	\$3,000	\$3,000
Planning & Zoning	\$6,346	\$29,426	\$17,849	\$18,657	\$17,341	\$21,403	\$15,000	\$16,000
Community Education								\$2831
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$226,920</b>	<b>\$318,953</b>	<b>\$309,913</b>	<b>\$308,645</b>	<b>\$265,812</b>	<b>\$311,984</b>	<b>\$279,332</b>	<b>\$302,785</b>
<i>Approximate average YEARLY cost per household for all Township services (3)</i>	<u>\$307</u>	<u>\$431</u>	<u>\$419</u>	<u>\$417</u>	<u>\$359</u>	<u>\$422</u>	<u>\$377</u>	<u>\$409</u>
<b>Expenses Covered by WLSSD or NSCS Lease Funds</b>								
Recycling Centers <sup>(4)</sup>	\$7,966	\$8,880	\$9,269	\$13,902	\$10,058	\$8,062		
Community Center <sup>(5)</sup>			\$33,090	\$184,976	\$62,883	\$73,136		

- 1 Note that the **actual** expenditures include expenses that may be partially covered by fees (e.g. permits, etc.), grants (e.g. zoning consultants), escrowed funds (e.g. for replacement of the police and fire vehicles). Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.
- 2 Some Departments designate funds for special projects: Road and Bridge emergencies (\$35,000), Fire and Police to replace aging fire and police vehicles. These funds are included in the year end balances shown in the Clerk's report at the Annual Meeting.
- 3 The average annual cost per household uses 740 as the number of households for comparisons here. The Newsletter is currently mailed to about 890 addresses (the U.S. Census counted 704 homes in Duluth Township in 2000).
- 4 All Recycling Center costs are covered each year by a grant from WLSSD.
- 5 Community Center expenses include insurance and maintenance items, adding the temporary classroom space, and various capital improvement items plus some Township clerical expense. These items are paid for out of the lease funds received from NSCS.

### Estimated Total Market Value Of Property in Duluth Township

**2005 \$155,302,100 up 17% from 2004**  
**2004 \$132,499,100 up 24% from 2003**  
**2003 \$107,141,700 up 16% from 2002**  
**2002 \$ 92,237,300**

The Auditor's Office provided these figures. Note that this includes both increased assessed value on existing property as well as the value of new construction.

**Need Trees?** St Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District offers trees and shrubs at nominal cost. There is also a new Handbook on tree planting. Order deadline is April 14. Call 723-4867 or web: [www.southstlouisswcd.org](http://www.southstlouisswcd.org).

# DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2006

## Inside this Issue:

- Township **Calendar**
- Town Election, Annual Meeting**
- Proposed Budget for 2007
- Town Board & Planning meetings
- *Annual Survey Report*
- Police & Fire information
- *Community Center Class info.*
- *Hard Luck of Str. Tampa*



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.

Duluth Township Newsletter  
6092 Homestead Road  
Duluth, MN 55804

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## Duluth Township Information

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804

Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),

fax (218) 525-3845, web site: [www.duluthtownship.org](http://www.duluthtownship.org). or

Email: [TownHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Town Office Hours:** Tues. and Wed. 12:30-3:30

Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:00-7:00

### Supervisors:

**Wendy Anderson** (2005-2008) 525-0263

or Email: [WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org](mailto:WendyAnderson@duluthtownship.org)

(responsibilities: Community Center, Board of Adjustment, NSCS endowment)

**Jeff Cook**, (2003-2006) **Board Vice Chair** 525-4010

or Email: [JeffCook@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JeffCook@duluthtownship.org)

(responsibilities: Personnel, Police Dept, DNSSD, Zoning, N Shore Mgmt Board, RSPT stormwater team, McQuade Harbor)

**Stephen Dahl**, (2004-2007) **Board Chair** 525-4679 or

Email: [SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org](mailto:SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org)

(responsibilities: Community Center, Town Hall)

**Dan Tanner** (2005-2008) 525-4087

or Email: [DanTanner@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DanTanner@duluthtownship.org)

(responsibilities: Roads, Cemetery, outside mtgs.)

**Corlis West**, (2004-2007) 525-7719

or Email: [CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org](mailto:CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org)

(responsibilities: Roads, Fire Dept, Zoning)

**Town Clerk:** **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

or Email: [TownClerk@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownClerk@duluthtownship.org)

**Treasurer:** **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)

or Email: [TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org)

**Attorney:** **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)

or Email: [TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org](mailto:TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org)

**Cemetery:** **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 525-1902

or Email: [Cemetery@duluthtownship.org](mailto:Cemetery@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Administrator:** **Wayne Dahlberg**

Assistant to the Administrator: **John Kessler**

**393-8500** or Town Hall hours: 3:30-6:30 Wed.

Starting April 4<sup>th</sup> hours: 3:30-6:30 Tues and Wed.

or Email: [JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org](mailto:JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Secretary:** **Carolyn Marino**

Email: [CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org](mailto:CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org)

**Planning and Zoning Committee:** **Sue Lawson** (Chair), and

**Dave Miller** (Vice Chair), **Dave Chura**, **Jan Green**, **Adam Hendrickson**, **Michael Kahl**, and **Seth Levanen**.

Email: [PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org](mailto:PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org)

**Peace Officers:** **Chief Shawn Padden**, **Officers: Mike**

**Peterson, Steve Peterson**

Emergencies 9-1-1, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407

Email: [DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org](mailto:DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org)

**Fire Department:** **Chief Barry Lampi**, **Assistant Chief Bob**

**Engleson** Email: [FireHall@duluthtownship.org](mailto:FireHall@duluthtownship.org)

**Community Center Event Coordinator:** **Jeanne Anderson**

525-0663 x208 or

Email: [EventCoordinator@duluthtownship.org](mailto:EventCoordinator@duluthtownship.org)

**Note:** Where possible, email is forwarded to the person, otherwise it is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.

## Township Recycling Centers

**North site** – at the Town Hall, on Homestead Road

**Bob Abrahamson and Caroline Marino** now share

staffing the center **Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm,**

**Thursday 3-7pm, and Saturday 8-12 noon.**

**South site** – Closed due to McQuade Harbor construction

(Drop off only during recycling hours)