



23rd Annual Duluth Township Come On Home Party, Town Hall

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

DULUTH TOWNSHIP WEB SITE: WWW.DULUTHTOWNSHIP.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2007

What's Coming Up...

Opportunities to Volunteer: See page 4.

Job Openings: See page 2.

Attend These Community Events!!

Friday, Sept 14th, 5-6:30pm
North Shore Community School
BARBEQUE
 5926 Ryan Road
Everyone welcome.

Saturday, Oct 13th, 5:00-7:00pm
Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Annual Harvest Dinner Benefit
 with live music and door prizes.
 Support our Volunteer Fire Department.
Everyone is welcome.

Friday, Oct 26th, 5:30-8:30
North Shore Community School
PTA Halloween Carnival
 Games, food, raffle, silent auction
All ages welcome.

Recycle Aluminum Cans for NSCS Library

Thanks to Bob and Barb Jackson, aluminum cans collected at the recycle center are turned in and funds are given to our school library for needed books and supplies.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Kathy Johnson, Linda Libal, Todd Lindahl, Jim Madison, Janet McTavish, Wendy Meierhoff, Shawn Padden, Mary Ann Sironen, *and our Township webmaster, Linda Hollinday.*

We are looking for contributors to the Newsletter — short articles about our history, poetry, pictures, etc. that might be of interest to Township residents. *If you would be willing to provide a masthead drawing or picture, leave a note for the editor at the Town Hall.*

THE HOMESTEADERS

Helen Hendrickson

September 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Local historian *Todd Lindahl* (will present his "Excavations of Whiskey Row" for the first time in public.

October 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. A mother/daughter team presents the program, "A Tale of Two Books". Marlene Wisuri is the author of "Scott House Souvenir" a stage coach stop on the Old Military Road. Kathryn Nordstrom is the author of "The Fishhouse Book", a book about life on the ice in the northland.

November 7th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Turkey Bingo.

Everybody is welcome.

For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

Schlangen Fundraiser

There will be a *benefit pancake breakfast and silent auction* for Mark Schlangen, Chief of Two Harbors Fire Department, on Saturday, **October 6th** at the Two Harbors Fire Hall from 7:00am—Noon.

Mark and his family were involved in an automobile accident in which his wife, Mary, was killed. Mark and the Two Harbors Fire Department are good friends and a valuable resource of our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department.

Our Clifton Fire Department encourages everyone to support Mark and the Two Harbors Fire Dept. at this time.

Brian Kinn Cancer Fundraiser

Community members are organizing a fundraiser to help the Kinn family. We are planning a *dinner, raffle, and Auction* to be held in **November**.

Anyone wishing to donate items or help with the event, please contact Suzy Lannon 525-6072 or Gina Lemke 834-9281.

There also has been an account set up at Wells Fargo Bank under "Brian A. Kinn Cancer Fund".



Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Chief

A Burning Ban is on. See article on the back of this Newsletter. It's been a very dry summer and we have a high fire danger.

Water Pump. The Department ordered a slide-in fire pump for our pickup. It can be used for grass fires and to fill larger water tankers.

Water Tankers. We are arranging for a water tank vehicle. As you know, water can be hard to find away from the lake.

Two Harbors Fire Chief, *Mark Schlangen*, and his family were in an accident in which his wife, Mary, was killed. Our Department was represented at her funeral on August 21st. A **fundraiser** for their family will be held **October 6th** at the Two Harbors Fire Hall. They are looking for auction items.

Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief

At the August 9th Town Board meeting, the Police Department reported 91 police events for July. These included: 5 hotrodder complaints, 1 explosive ordinance device in a mailbox, 1 permit to acquire a handgun, 4 fire alarms, 10 public assists, 2 burglar alarms, 3 animal disturbance, 1 permit nuisance arrest, 1 forgery complaint, 3 warrant attempts, 3 civil process, 1 personal injury accident, 1 domestic disturbance, 2 fireworks disturbing, 1 property damage accident, 2 theft complaints, 3 medical emergencies, 2 ATL DWI's, 1 Health/welfare check, 3 damage to property, 7 suspicious vehicles checked, 1 residential burglary, 5 warnings for various traffic violations, 2 citations for various traffic violations, 26 vacation home and business checks...this, in addition to routine patrolling and attendant paperwork.

Crime Alerts. Our Police Department maintains an **E-mail Crime Alert** service (it is also on our web site). To receive notices send your email address to PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org.

Be alert for school buses and children!

Illegal Garbage Tossed in Recycle Bins

Household garbage is being tossed into our school aluminum can recycle cage at the Town Hall. If you notice someone doing this, please report it to our Police Department (393-8407 or 911).

Two Job Openings in our Township

Community Center Event Coordinator

We need a person who would like to coordinate and facilitate events and activities for the Duluth Township. The job description:

- Create a curriculum of classes/events.
- Prepare a program budget
- Advertise classes/events to the community
- Work with NSCS to schedule classes & events
- Register participants in classes
- Work with instructors
- Present progress reports to the Town Board

The rate of pay is \$10.00 an hour. We estimate 8 to 12 hours per month.

Please send your resume to the Duluth Township, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy at 525-0263 or email wendy@bendtec.com.

Planning & Zoning Secretary

The Duluth Township Planning and Zoning Commission is seeking to fill a secretary position.

Duty station: Duluth Town Hall (may work at home periodically).

Hours of work: 16-20 hrs/month from April—October (days and time to be determined); and approximately 8 hrs/month from November-March. In addition, flexible, call-when-needed hours throughout the year.

Salary: \$10/hr

Skills Required:

- Basic computer skills such as word processing, filing, and email.
- Willingness to learn computer applications and web page procedures as they apply to P&Z.
- Ability to take minutes and handle routine correspondence.
- Interpersonal skills to effectively interact and communicate with the public, Township staff and P&Z Commission members.
- Basic knowledge of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and/or willingness to learn.

For a complete list of work responsibilities, please contact Dave Miller at 525-1555, email damiler1988@msn.com.

Interested candidates must submit a resume and brief narrative addressing the above required skills **by Sept 15th**. Send your resume to: Planning & Zoning Commission Chair, Dave Miller, Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804.



Robin Whaley
834-3310

Stay at Home
PET CARE SERVICES

Dependable pet care in your home.

Paid Advertisement

Licensed
DAYCARE OPENINGS

Call Mindy at 727-2528 -- Torgeson Road

Paid Advertisement

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.
or Email: TownHall@duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 9am-12am
Thursday 9:00-12:00 & 4:00-7:00

Supervisors:

Wendy Meierhoff (2005-2008) 525-0263
or Email: Wendy@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Police, Senior Housing, Newsletter,
Web site, Community Education, Personnel,
Community Center)

Jeff Cook, (2006-2009) 525-4010
or Email: JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Road & Bridge, McQuade Harbor,
D/NSSD, North Shore Mgmt Board, RSPT Stormwater,
MPCA, Annual SSSP)

Stephen Dahl, (2007-2010) **Vice Chair** 525-4679 or
Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Recreation Facilities, Duluth Assn
of Townships, BAT, Community Center, North
Shore Community Assn)

Dan Tanner (2005-2008) **Board Chair** 525-4087
or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Town Board Chair, Cemetery, Fire
Dept, St Louis County Assn of Townships, Board of
Adjustment)

Dave Mount (2007-2010) 525-7961
or Email: DaveMount@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Town Hall, Personnel, Planning &
Zoning, BAT)

Town Clerk: **Ann Cox** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or Email: TownClerk@duluthtownship.org

Treasurer: **Janet Johansen** 525-5705 (Town Hall)
or Email: TownTreasurer@duluthtownship.org

Attorney: **Tim Strom** 722-4766 (office)
or Email: TownAttorney@duluthtownship.org

Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161 or 525-1902
or Email: Cemetery@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Administrator: **Wayne Dahlberg**
Assistant to the Administrator: **John Kessler**
393-8500, Email: JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org
Town Hall hours: 3:30-6:30 Wed. or by appointment.

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Trisha O'Keefe** — **525-4166**
Office hours at the Town Hall: 3-6pm Mondays
Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org
Fax: 525-3374

Planning and Zoning Committee: **Dave Miller** (Chair), **Dave Chura** (Vice Chair), **Yvonne Rutford**, **Jan Green**,
Adam Hendrickson, **Michael Kahl**, and **Seth Levanen**.
Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden**, **Officers: Mike Peterson**, **Steve Peterson** and **Rick Swanson**.
Emergencies 9-1-1, Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407
Email: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org

Fire Department: **Chief Bob Engelson**, **Assistant Chief Will Hartman** Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Community Education Coordinator: **Anne Miller** 525-0663
x208 or Email: EducCoordinator@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 Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.
Official calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

September 2007

- 4, Tue, 7:00 **BAT** (Community Center building assessment) committee meets, Town Hall
5, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall (note article)
5, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
10, Mon, **Senior Housing** (no meeting this month)
12, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran
13, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
14, Fri, 5-6:30 **NSCS FALL BARBEQUE**, Community Center/North Shore Community School.
17, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
19, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall#1
27, Thu, 7:00pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

October 2007

- 2, Tue, 7:00 **BAT** committee
3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**
3, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8, Mon, 7:00pm **Senior Housing** group, Town Hall
10, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
11, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
13, Sat, 5-7pm **Clifton Volunteer Fire Department Benefit HARVEST DINNER**, Town Hall
15, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
17, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Training Hall #1
23, Thu, **Deadline** for November Newsletter
25, Thu, 7:00pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
26, Fri, **NSCS Halloween Carnival**, Community Center

November 2007

- 6, Tue, 7:00 **BAT** committee meets at NSCS
7, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
7, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
8, Thu, 7:00pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
12, Mon, 7pm **Senior Housing** group, Town Hall.
14, Wed, **7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
19, Mon, 6:30pm **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
21, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
22, Thu, 7:00pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

THANKS to resident **Jeanne Anderson** for donating a flat-bed scanner to the Township Office.

Township Recycling Center

North site – at the *Town Hall, on Homestead Road*
Staffing by Carolyn Marino and Al Anderson, Marlys Livingston, and Kathy Peer **Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thursday 3-7pm, and Saturday 8-12 noon.**
Below freeway has curb recycling pickup service available.
(Drop off only during recycling hours)

The Alger Line — Part 4 of 4

Todd Lindahl

The death of General Manager John Millen was a tremendous blow to not only the huge Alger-Smith Lumber Company, but to all of its employees too. He was a manager who had started as a boy working on log drives in Michigan and became a logging camp foreman later. Eventually he was promoted to General Manager and President of the Alger Line in 1898. He knew every employee by his first name and took a keen interest in every aspect of the railroad and logging operation. He was highly respected and well liked.

Now, Millen's replacement was his son-in-law J. W. Bayley. Unlike the former manager, Bayley did not share John Millen's enthusiasm for railroading or logging. He as well as General Alger's son were enamored with the automobile industry. From the start, Bayley began to scale down the operation. They filed for abandonment with the *Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commission*, but were denied. Many homesteaders depended on the railroad for access to their isolated homes in areas where there were no roads. All maintenance on the line was stopped except for emergencies in 1918. Then in 1919 the entire logging operation was terminated. Again they filed for abandonment and again they were denied. They had carried over 14,863 passengers on their passenger train during 1918 and this constituted a public necessity. From 1919 until July 21, 1921 the only train to run on the track was the passenger train pulled by one of the two remaining locomotives. On that date the *MRR&WC* finally allowed the company to totally abandon its railroad.

Hugh Richardson, the former electrician for the railroad, rebuilt a model T Ford car with railroad wheels and carried the few homesteaders, fishermen, and passengers that were left up and down the line. This homemade contraption was known as the "Jitney." It was his own private enterprise, which he continued until the rails were taken up during the summer and fall of 1923.

Over the course of its 23 years, the Alger-Smith Lumber Co. had changed the landscape of northeastern Minnesota in a way that had not been seen since the ice age. This then was the final curtain for the most important logging railroad in this state. It was also the end of the era of big timber logging the like of which will never be seen again.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Fire Fighters. The *Clifton Volunteer Fire Department* needs residents who would like to be a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to serve your community. Questions? Give a call to Chief **Bob Engelson at 525-6819** to find out what it's all about. The Department pays for fire training and the latest fire fighting attire.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District Board of Managers — The Township will be appointing 2 members of DNSSD. Applicants must live in Duluth Township and in the DNSSD sewer district area (below highway 61). If you are interested, contact our Town Clerk (525-5705).

PRE-SCHOOL

"Early Learning Sticks Like Glue"

Orientation for new pre-school families will be held Wed. Sept 12th at 10am and 1pm in room 6 at NSCS. Classes begin Tues. Sept 18th. All students are required to have a current immunization record.

Classes are offered on Tue, Wed, and Thu both mornings (9:15-11:30) and afternoons (12:15-2:30). Children ages 3, 4, and 5 may attend 1, 2, or 3 days per week. A monthly tuition fee is charged. Scholarships are available to assist families.

For more information contact Kathy Johnson, Pre-school Director, at 834-5429 or 525-0663 ext 106.

Thank you...

The 23rd annual community **Come-on-Home** party at the Duluth Town Hall on Saturday, August 11th, was a super event enjoyed by out-of-towners and local residents and we thank all who attended.

We also thank many others, the musicians who entertained us and provided music for dancing, the people who contributed and served food, those who donated and arranged flowers for decorating, and the friends and businesses who contributed door prizes.

Many people enjoy planning and setting up the *Come-on-Home* party. If you would like to be a part of that committee, call 525-4154.

The next *Come-on-Home* will be Saturday, August 9, 2008. Mark your calendars!

NOTICE

Amendments to Town of Duluth Zoning Ordinance Number 3

Consistent with the provisions and processes of Minnesota Statutes Chapters 365, 366 and 462, the Town of Duluth, Minnesota, has amended its Zoning Ordinance Number 3—August 12, 2005 (Ordinance). The primary intentions of the amendments are to: establish conditions for the use of dwellings as short-term rentals; modify and clarify the conditions for timber harvest and clear cutting in Shoreland Overlay areas; establish parameters for the construction and use of subordinate residential dwellings; insure that subdivided parcels meet minimum parameters for applicable uses; modify and clarify the application process for Planned Unit Development; clarify responsibilities for selecting and hiring members of the Township Planning and Zoning Commission and related staff; and modify the review process and performance standards for the Light Industrial Use classification. In addition, there are several minor corrections to the original Ordinance to address a variety of typographical, factual, or formatting errors that are not intended to significantly alter the original meaning. Copies of the entire Ordinance and these amendments are available at the Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804, online at www.duluthtownship.org, or at the St Louis County Law Library, 100 N 5th Avenue W, Room 515, Duluth, MN 55802.

Recycling Center at McQuade Road

The Town Board has been meeting with the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD), the Department of Natural Resources, and our local waste haulers to plan for recycling service on the Lake Superior side of Highway 61. As you know, our South Recycling Center is permanently closed. Among the concerns was that its location at the McQuade Harbor project would make it a dumping ground for garbage. An alternate location could not be found.

The group decided to ask our local haulers to offer curb side recycling pickup service for those living below Highway 61, beginning this July/August. This offers an alternative to our current Town Hall recycling site for shore-area residents who wish the convenience of road side service.

Our North Recycling facility is also available with shed keepers Carolyn Marino, Alvin Anderson and Marlis Livingston and Kathy Peer. The North Recycling shed is open Tuesday 7:00-11:00am; Tuesday 2:00-6:00pm; Thursday 3:00-7:00pm; and Saturdays 8:00-12 noon. If you have any questions, please contact Wendy (Anderson) Meierhoff 525-0263.

Building Assessment Team (BAT)

Steve Dahl, Co-Chair

The team continues to meet the first Tuesday at 7pm. At the last meeting we discussed priorities for capital improvements and reviewed a financial projection that takes account of current expenditures and needed repairs. One of the key problems facing the Township is the failing septic system. Funds are available from lease payments to cover the cost but the problem has become urgent. The NSCS Board and the Town Board held a joint meeting on August 20th on the problem and they have been working with County officials and an engineering firm to find a timely solution.

Senior Housing Initiative

Dave Edblom, Chair

The Committee is **looking for suitable land** for the project. An ideal would be 20-40 acres in a central or accessible area. If you have land that you would be interested in having used for this purpose, please contact Supervisor Wendy Meierhoff (525-0263).

We are waiting on a St Louis County study of housing needs and will be meeting with County officials to discuss ways to move ahead with the project.

Regular meeting times are the second Monday each month at 7pm in the Town Hall. Interested residents are welcome. There will be no meeting in September.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen

During the spring/summer, the D/NSSD Board has gone through a thorough analysis of the next phase of operations of the sewer system. It became apparent that the method for repayment of the debt from construction was going to have to be revised. A public meeting was held as part of the North Shore Community Association on June 3rd to explain the plan to the public. The following information was presented:

Project cost	\$13.5 million
WIF grant	-6.0 million
COE grant	<u>-0.5 million</u>
Loan	\$7.08 million

Additional cost of \$2,005,512 came from:

- An *Extended Hookup Plan* that brought the sewer from the main line to the eaves of each building: \$1,007,361. This construction would have been done by individual homeowners at an average cost of \$2,518 each, but with considerable work and likely delay.
- *Additional Septic Tank demolition*: \$773,151. It was a surprise that there were 558 additional septic tanks, duplicates or unknown to owners, than first estimated.
- A *settlement with the construction company* of \$225,000 for delay on their part and incomplete construction planning on the part of D/NSSD.

During the first years of operation, the District has levied annual amounts (based on the value of each individual property) to meet the difference between operating revenue and debt repayment. Since it was promised at the outset of the project that all D/NSSD users would share equally in the cost, the levy could not continue.

The realities of the repayment of loans, along with the promise not to continue a D/NSSD levy, resulted in the need for a *Debt Service Charge* that would be a separate billing of \$800 per user per year due. D/NSSD customers received letters with that information and a request for payment by October 15, 2007. If customers choose not to pay this amount directly, it will be placed on the tax rolls and collected with real property taxes for 2008. This *Debt Service Charge* replaces the levy that has been part of D/NSSD property taxes for the last few years and has the potential to change as debt is paid off.

D/NSSD Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7am at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. Public comment and discussion is a part of each meeting and all are welcome.

For sewer service, contact Eric Appelwick, Northeast Technical Services, 624-8042 or eappelwick@nettechnical.com.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

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

June 14th meeting. All Supervisors attended. A request to use the Town Hall to teach a youth theater class was approved. The Senior Housing Group's study of senior housing needs over the past 10 yrs was presented. Treasurer Johansen reported a beginning balance of \$613,171.81, \$20,193.47 receipts for the month and expenses of \$27,517.81. The claims list was reviewed and approved for payment. Funeral homes will be notified of a price increase for burial.

Department Reports: *Police.* An area mutual police aid agreement was approved. Problems with our CRP computer internet service were discussed and a contract with CW Technologies was approved. *Fire.* There were 2 medical and no fire calls. First responder refreshers have been completed. *Roads.* Supervisor Cook reported calls to say how well Mr. Rodda, is grading town roads. The annual road inspection will be June 30th. Chloride dust control will be applied. Michele Hagglund provided the list of those who do and don't want chloride by their homes. The Hagglunds will snowplow the Township parking lot. *Community Center.* Principal Camper reported music room sound insulation and changed classroom locks and handles. Testing has begun on the septic system. A lease addendum drafted by Attorney Strom to formalize the rent schedule was approved. Township vision and goals for the Community Center was discussed. *Town Hall.* The well top is being brought into compliance with Health Dept requirements. Poor draining between the Town and fire halls is being addressed. *Planning.* 5 people attended the open house on zoning revisions. Ordinance revisions were presented and discussed with the Board. A special meeting on ordinance changes was scheduled for July 10th. Recycling. WLSSD will be asked to use the south recycling shed and a letter will be written concerning south recycle collection service. Lakeview Castle liquor license approved. Two Defibulators will be purchased.

July 10th special meeting on Zoning Ordinance revisions. All supervisors, the Town Clerk, Planning Chair, Dave Miller, and one resident attended. A 10-page document listing changes was discussed. Some changes and clarifications were made. The effective date was set as September 1, 2007. The posted summary of changes is printed on page 4. A document with changes are available at the Town Hall and on the Township web site.

July 12th meeting. All Supervisors attended. Dan Tanner (chair), Jeff Cook, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff and Dave Mount. *Audience concerns:* A concern was raised about dogs in the West Knife River Road area. Sled dogs are not allowed in that zone district. It was suggested that a formal letter outlining the issues be sent to the Board for action. *Correspondence:* St Louis County sent draft zoning ordinance changes for information and comment.

Lars Fladmark sent his letter of resignation from the DNSSD Board of Managers. Dean Korri was accepted as a DNSSD Board Member from Lakewood Township. Treasurer: Last month's receipts were \$185,160.45 (including half of the annual property tax levy for the Township), expenses of \$22,871.50 for an ending balance of \$777,922.89. Note that this includes the capital expense fund from the school lease of the Community Center.

Department Reports: *Fire.* 1 grass fire and 2 medical calls. No news on our FEMA grant application for a replacement water tanker. Duluth Fire Department hydrant at McQuade Harbor is on hold. *Roads.* Two tankers of calcium chloride (4,400 gallons each) were applied to Township roads following a list of who does and doesn't want treatment in front of their property. All roads to be graded again in October. *Community Center.* Report on improvements was distributed. The grant for energy-efficient windows has been approved. The Township match from lease funds is \$15,000. Work will be done in 2008. A 12' emergency road for access to fields at the back of the school is being planned and bids sought. Surface water is entering the septic system. School buses will be parked at the Community Center during the day. Drivers will go by van back to Two Harbors. This saves considerable fuel for the school district. The 2007-2008 lease with NSCS was signed. *Town Hall.* The drainage problem around the Town Hall is serious with leaks into the basement. The Town Hall sits on posts. There was a discussion of putting a foundation under the structure. Some ground water is seeping into our septic tanks. Computers and the internet are now working. *Planning.* Report on variances and conditional use permits, one for additional horses on Pine Park Road (off the Scenic Highway). Pine Park is a private driveway with no easement or cartway established. No permit activity will be handled until the residents on the road reach an appropriate road agreement.

Dave Mount presented a summary of the history of capital improvement and expenses for the Community Center as a tool for planning maintenance and growth.

Ann Miller submitted a letter of resignation as Community Center Event Coordinator. A replacement will be sought.

August 9th meeting. All Supervisors attended. Dan Tanner (chair), Jeff Cook, Stephen Dahl, Wendy Meierhoff and Dave Mount. Treasurer: Receipts \$25,562.89, expenses \$17,272.09, balance \$786,213.78. Wendy is discussing diversifying and managing our CDs with several banks.

Department Reports: *Police.* (see report on page 2), *Fire.* 3 calls, 2 false alarms and 1 medical assist. Request extending eve on Hall #2 to stop ice buildup and a Fire Hall sign. Bids for road behind Community Center will be clarified. *Community Center.* There was a discussion about whether the Community Center Event Coordinator position can include Community Recreation. It will be discussed with applicants. *Town Hall.* The well head is up to code. A sill hydrant will be installed.

(continued on page 7)

(Board minutes continued from page 6)

The wooden posts upon which the Town Hall sits were last inspected prior to 1984. Replacing the foundation was proposed. *Planning.* The Planning secretary has resigned to take a full time job. A replacement is being sought. A petition was received concerning loose dogs, breeding kennels and rumor of a sled dog kennel. There is an ordinance that dogs cannot be uncontrolled off the owner's property and habitual barking is also controlled by ordinance. Pine Park Road residents will try to form a private road association. The amendments to the Zoning Ordinance were approved to take effect September 1st. *Recycling.* There was a discussion about whether it was worth hauling the south recycling shed to the Community Center as a storage building. WLSSD will be asked about using the building for non-recycling purposes.

August 20th special meeting on the Community

Center septic system. All Supervisors, Town Clerk, Town Attorney and the North Shore Community School Board met to discuss the septic system problem.

Duane Peterson from Superior Construction suggested a preliminary design for new tanks and a peat filter system. The approximate cost of repair is \$120,000 to \$130,000 (which would come from the current capital expense fund derived from NSCS lease money).

County officials have been involved in discussions. It was recommended that an outside engineer oversee and sign off on the project. Sealed bids will be sought and a consultant hired. A letter will be sent to Superior Construction requesting a written scope of bid, design of system, list of outside contract work needed, cost of design and a list of references.

***The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday)
Sept 13th and Oct 11th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings***



Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall and on our Town-

May 9th special meeting to hear an appeal for a conditional use permit to operate a boarding kennel at 7002 App Road in the FAM-3 zone (where kennels are not allowed). Members present were Janet Green, Michael Kahl, Seth Levanen, Dave Miller, and Yvonne Rutford. Planning Director Dahlberg introduced the request and Janet Lampi discussed her plans. Some neighbors expressed concern about barking. It was moved that the conditional use be approved with the provision that any future expansion would require the owner/s to submit a new Conditional Use permit application.

May 21st special informational meeting on the proposed Odyssey development. Members present: Chair Dave Miller, Dave Chura, Janet Green, Michael Kahl, Seth Levanen, and Yvonne Rutford. The meeting was at the site. Greg Schendel from Odyssey Development provided an overview of the proposed Stoney Point development. They are considering whether to submit their plan as a subdivision or a PUD (Planned Unit Development). Concerns were noted about wetlands and shore erosion.

May 24th meeting. Members present: Dave Chura, Janet Green, Michael Kahl, Seth Levanen, Dave Miller and Yvonne Rutford. Russ Krook presented information on his request to extend his conditional use permit for more than 10 horses on his property on Pine Park Road off the Scenic Highway (called "Seasons of Hope Youth Ranch"). It was suggested he work with the Planning Director and Assistant. A public hearing is required.

The draft of proposed language for revisions to the current Zoning Ordinance #3 were discussed. The public hearing on these changes is scheduled for June 7th.

Conditional use permit forms were revised to take account of St. Louis County filing fees. A list of past conditional use permits was sought.

June 28th meeting. Members present: Dave Chura, Janet Green, Michael Kahl, Seth Levanen and Dave Miller. There were three public hearings.

1) *Variance:* Request to change the setback requirement at 5864 North Shore Drive. After discussion the variance was approved with the condition that the design include mitigation of storm water runoff and the Planning Director approve the design of the driveway and garage.

2) *Variance:* Request for decreasing setback from 10 to 2 feet on property at 5281 North Shore Drive. Request was denied since the hardship requirement was not met.

3) *Conditional Use Permit:* Russel Krook at 1853 Pine Park Road requested a permit to increase the number of horses from 10 to 20. Two neighbors sent letters objecting to the change. Legal road access was a concern since there is no road agreement among residents of that private road. A motion was approved not to take up permit requests until Pine Park Road issues are addressed and resolved by the residents. Conditions on the current conditional use will be reviewed as well.

Phil Strom presented information on his proposed private development for seniors near the Community Center. At issue is the number of units that would be permitted. He was informed that a variance would be required.

July 26th meeting. Members present: Dave Chura, Janet Green, Adam Hendrickson, Michael Kahl and Yvonne Rutford. A neighbor's clear cutting was raised as an issue. A petition was also received from nine residents of the West Knife River Road concerning dogs. The draft revision of our Zoning Ordinance was discussed and suggestions made for the Town Board.

The Next Planning Committee meetings: (4th Thursday) Sept 27th and Oct 25th at 7:00pm in the Town Hall. Residents are urged to attend these meetings.

Burning Ban

A burning ban is in effect. The fire ban applies to all outside fires in the area including any burn barrels, brush piles, campfires, etc. As you can tell, it is a very dry and dangerous time for fires.

Burning Rules: no fire permits will be issued until further notice. Fire permits are required in Duluth Township unless there is more than 3 inches of snow on the ground. When burning is allowed, permits can be obtained from the Town Hall during business hours or from the DNR office in Two Harbors. Burning is permitted only in the evening. You are asked to call 911 to notify them when you start your burn to avoid false alarm calls. No construction materials are allowed to be burned (shingles, plastics, sheetrock, etc.).

We request that you adhere to the burning ban now in place. One person recently started to burn a big brush pile during the daytime, without a permit, and during the fire ban. It was a windy day. The fire was detected, perhaps by planes watching for wildfires during this very dry, high fire danger summer. Two fire departments responded, citations were issued, the property owner is liable for any fire that might start nearby, and the person may be fined and assessed the costs of emergency response to put out the illegal fire. Personal injury and damage to others' property apparently weren't involved. This is serious business.

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DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2007

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