

How about contributing to the Newsletter! — short articles about our history, pictures, masthead drawing or picture, etc. of interest to Township residents, leave a note for the editor at the Town Hall. or email: Editor@duluthtownship.org.



Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org

January 2010

What's Coming Up...

Township Supervisor Election is on Tuesday, March 9th (7am-8pm). Two Town Supervisors will be on the ballot. Deadline for applying (\$2) to run for Supervisor is January 12th at the Town Hall office. Candidate statements will be in the March Newsletter.

Annual Town Meeting, March 9th at 8:15pm is where the 2011 Town budget is discussed and approved.

Community Center property taxes will not be assessed for 2010, giving the Legislature time to clarify taxing public property used for public schools.

Township Resident Feedback Survey (see insert and article below) — deadline Jan. 31st.

Book Fair benefit for NSCS library is at Barnes & Noble Jan 30th. Pick up vouchers at NSCS or B&N.

Recycle glossy paper to benefit NSCS. Pick up bags to use at our Recycling center and drop off full bags at NSCS (not at our recycling center).

Book Fair to Benefit NSCS Library

At Barnes & Noble, Jan. 30th

Barb Jackson

There will be a Book Fair at *Barnes & Noble* on Saturday, Jan. 30th to benefit our North Shore Community School library. A portion of all items purchased that day with a voucher will be donated to the library in the form of a gift card (to be spent on books, of course!).

Vouchers are available at school or at the check-outs at the store (*vouchers are free but necessary to direct the donation to our school library*).

Sign up on the Township web site for important Township email notices: www.duluthtownship.org

About the Township Resident Feedback Survey

A one-page community survey is included in this Newsletter. Please take time to respond and mail it back (*or take it to the Town Hall News Box*). The last Township Feedback survey was in 2006 (*see our web site*).

The purpose of the survey is to provide Township residents with an additional opportunity to give comments and suggestions to help make our Township an even better place to live. You can also comment at monthly Town meetings all of which are open to the public (*see calendar*).

Survey results will be summarized in the March Newsletter. Note that the survey deadline is January 31st.

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Jody Anderson, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, George Hagglund, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooley, Barb Jackson, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Caroline Marino, Janet McTavish, Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Jim Munger, Shawn Padgett, Sherry Rovig, Dan Schutte, Mary Ann Sironen and our Webmaster, Linda Holliday.

Duluth Township Community Center Skating Rink Rules & Hours

Skating Rink Hours

Weekdays: 4pm—9pm

Weekends: 10am—9pm

- No one under 13 will be allowed on the rink without adult supervision.
- Children under 12 have priority on the hockey rink until 7:00pm
- No rough playing or fighting will be allowed.
- Obscene gestures or language will not be tolerated.
- Hockey and broomball may ONLY be played on the hockey rink.
- Recommended protective gear must be worn by all hockey players.
- No smoking or alcohol is permitted on Duluth Township Community Center property.
- The Township and/or North Shore Community School will not be responsible for thefts, accidents or injuries.

Pre-school Registration

Kathy Johnson

NSCS Pre-school is now accepting registrations for the 2010-2011 school year.

Classes will again be held on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Both morning (9:15-11:30) and afternoon (12:15-2:30) sessions are offered. Children ages 3-5 years old may attend one, two or three days per week. A monthly tuition fee is charged. There is a \$25.00 non-refundable registration fee when you enroll.

We have 2 openings for the remainder of this year in the 2-day (Tuesday-Thursday) afternoon session.

Please call Kathy Johnson, 525-0663 ext 106 for more information.



Stay at Home
218-834-3310

- Cat Care
- Dog Daycare
- Livestock

Daily • Weekends •
Vacations • Holidays

Dependable pet care in your home.

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Community Services in Duluth Township **AA** meets Monday at 8pm at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.

Clifton 4-H Club: call Kate Edblom 525-1276

Cub Scouts: call David Hoey 525-6617

Boy Scouts: call Jim Atkinson 343-0119; or
Email: jbatkinson@allete.com

Girl Scouts: call Julie Igo 726-4710

(Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please leave a note for the Editor at the Town Hall.)

Recent Volunteers for our Clifton Fire Department: **Jason Carlson, Shane Kerby, Robert Peldo** and **Dan Roselund** (*firefighters in training*). **Neil Igo** and **Everett Swartz** are also volunteers who help our Fire Department in a variety of non-firefighter supporting capacities. Thanks to all! How about 1-2 more!

911 Address Signs Ready to Pick Up
(at our Town Hall on Homestead Road, during office hours)
Town Clerk, Ann Cox

- Ken **Johnston**, 2294 Lismore Road
- Jerry & Sheryl **Granmo**, 1751 Wildwood Road
- Roger **Rose**, 5252 McQuade Road
- Ed & Monica **Grohndahl-Ostrander**, 2041 Swanson Road
- Erik & Christine **Nelson-Glynn**, 2112 Pioneer Road East
- Marlin & Anna **Nelson**, 6137 Ryan Road
- Mark & Dana **Horlocker**, 2114 Johnson Road
- Max **Bruckelmyer**, 5848 Ryan Road
- Ryan **Bruckelmyer**, 1369 Old North Shore Road
- Dan **Libby**, 5565 North Shore Drive
- Adam **Hasting**, 2058 Pioneer Road East
- Nicholas **Massie**, 1935 Pioneer Road East

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Chief

Household Fire Extinguishers: *Guideline Information.*

At least one household multi-purpose extinguisher is recommended for every 600 square feet of living space.

At least one on each level of the home.

Recommended locations are the kitchen, utility and furnace rooms, garage, and any other area with a heat source, flammables, or potential for ignition.

Fire extinguishers have a number and letter designation to identify their intended application. A typical small household multi-purpose dry chemical extinguisher is a **1-A:10-B:C**.

The number indicates the size of fire the extinguisher is capable of suppressing and the letter identifies the class, or type of fire. **Class A** is ordinary combustibles such as wood, paper and cloth. **Class B** is flammable liquids. **Class C** is electrical fires.

An extinguisher with a **2-A** rating will suppress twice as much fire of ordinary combustibles as a **1-A** rated extinguisher.

Kitchen type extinguishers, the **white** ones, are class **B:C** (flammable liquids and electrical), and are preferred for kitchen applications because clean up after the event is easier and they are less damaging to appliances. Regular class **ABC** dry chemical extinguishers, the **red** ones, are corrosive and clean up is very difficult after the agent contacts hot surfaces such as stovetop elements, and are therefore not preferred for kitchen applications.



Bob Engelson, is Fire Chief of our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department. He and his wife, Marcy and daughters Brianna and Marissa live on Shilhon Road where his grandparents farmed. Bob has 27 years of service as a firefighter and medical first responder for our Township! He works as a production technician at New Page Duluth paper mill. Under his leadership, recent achievements he is most pleased about are acquiring a *FEMA* grant for our new fire truck and overseeing its design (*see the picture on the free 2010 Fire Department calendar, distributed to all Township households*). Bob volunteers because he feels it is important to contribute to the safety of our Township.



Jody Anderson is a firefighter on our Clifton Volunteer Fire Department, a medical first responder and on the Fire Department Auxiliary where she plays a key part in organizing the annual Harvest Dinner benefit and in getting the Fire calendar out to Township households. Jody has been a firefighter volunteer for 8 years. She lives on the Lismore Road. Jody is a musician and she owns and operates *Anderson Violin Repair Shop*, a small business in the Township. Jody volunteered to do something for the community and noticed the need for firefighters. She enjoys the people and has learned a lot. Jody is most pleased with getting the Fire Department's Harvest Dinner and community calendar going each year.

Vacation/Business Patrol — If you are away or need extra police checking, there is a form you can use to request police checking. See the Town Hall or our Township web site.

Call 911 for all emergencies

To leave messages and non-emergency information:
 Duluth Township Police: 393-8407 or 525-5705,
 St Louis County 911 or their office: 727-8770

The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

January 6th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. New Year's Potluck and Bingo.
February 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Music by Jody Anderson, coffee time follows.
March 3rd, Wednesday, 12:00, Town Hall. Program to be announced.
Everybody is welcome.
 For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.

NSCS NewPage Recycling Program

Dan Schutte

NewPage Paper Mill will recycle glossy paper (magazines, newspaper ad inserts, etc.) and contribute funds to our North Shore Community School.
 All you need to do is bring **glossy paper items to North Shore Community School** on Ryan Road (not our Recycling Center). However, you can pick up bags to put the glossy paper in from our Recycling Center on recycle days.
 Help our school and the environment by separating out glossy paper for recycling.



Open daily at 11am Specials

Wed. night: All you can eat Fish Fry
Sat. & Sun. Breakfast 11am-2pm
Sat: Prime Rib; Sun. Turkey Dinner
Mon. Kids 10 or under eat free
Cribbage Night—every Thursday at 6pm
Irish music Tues Jan 5th & Feb 2nd 6-8pm
 5730 Homestead Road • 525-4525

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Township Calendar

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

JANUARY 2010

- 5, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee
- 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 6, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 12, Tue, Deadline for candidate filing for Supervisor
- 14, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
- 18, Mon, 6:30pm, North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library.
- 19, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 20, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training Hall #1
- 24, Sun, 3pm Locavores meet, Town Hall
- 28, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 30, Sat, Book Fair benefit for NSCS library, at Barnes & Noble (see article).
- 31, Sun, Survey deadline (see article)

FEBRUARY 2009

- 2, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee
- 3, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
- 3, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
- 11, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 15, Mon, 6:30pm North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library
- 16, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 17, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall #1
- 23, Tue, Deadline for March Newsletter
- 25, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 27, Sat, 6pm Community Dance (tentative), Town Hall
- 28, Sun, 3pm Locavores meet, Town Hall

MARCH 2009

- 2, Tue, Community Center Facilities Committee
- 3, Wed, 12:00 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
- 3, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
- 9, Tue, 7am-8pm **Town Supervisor Election**, Town Hall (candidate statements in March issue)
- 9, Tue, 8:15pm **Annual Town Meeting**, Town Hall
- 11, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
- 15, Mon, 6:30pm, North Shore Community School Board meeting, NSCS Library
- 16, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
- 17, Wed, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall#1
- 25, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
- 28, Sun, 3pm Locavores meet, Town Hall

Township Recycling Center

At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
 Staffing by Carolyn Marino, Al Anderson, Marlys Livingston, and Kathy Peer

Nov-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm, and Sat. 8-noon.

April-October: Tues. 7-11am and 3-7pm, Thurs. 3-7pm, Sat. 8-noon.

(Drop off only during recycling hours)

Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway.

**Opportunity/Job Opening
Duluth Township Community Education
Program Coordinator**

Our Township is seeking a coordinator for the Town of Duluth's Community Education (CE) program.

The position's primary responsibility is to coordinate the development of the CE program. It includes but is not limited to:

- Identifying courses of interest to the community.
- Recruiting instructors for the identified courses.
- Preparing announcements of upcoming courses.
- Registering participants.
- Assisting instructors with logistics.
- Coordinating the use of the Community Center facilities with school staff.
- Teaching courses, if interested.
- Managing the CE budget that has been established by the Town Board.

The position is funded for 8-12 hours per month at \$10 per hour.

More information can be obtained by calling Town Board Supervisor Wendy Meierhoff at 525-0263.

To apply for the position, send a letter of interest with a brief resume or description of your background to Duluth Township, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804.

Here's a chance to use your imagination and offer educational opportunities to the community. Step up to the challenge to make a real difference in our Township, meet some great people, and make a little money at the same time!

*The Woodbox
George Hagglund*

The midst of winter is a good time to remember the wood box that resided in the entry to our old farmhouse for many years. My mother cooked and baked on a cast-iron wood stove that was hungry for wood. It was the job of my brother and me to keep that wood box filled, and in the winter the need was endless. She also needed kindling to start the fire in the morning, and it was our job to find and split pine stumps for kindling.

Our farm house was located on cutover land that had been logged for its white pine around 1918. The loggers cut the timber, took out the logs and left. The land was cheap and either homesteaded or bought outright by Finns, Swedes, and a few Norwegians, who set up subsistence farms to raise their families. Our land was dotted with big white pine stumps that in the early years we would tackle with an axe to split off high-quality kindling wood for that insatiable stove. That required going out in the pasture and gathering an armload of wood to bring home.

Later on, Dad hired Paul Saari to come in and blast stumps using dynamite. It was exciting to watch, when the explosive went off the pine stump would rise in the air, sometimes splintered and sometimes whole. It was our job to pick up that lovely pine wood and bring it in to feed the wood box. My mother loved pine kindling because it burned quickly and hot.

The main firewood was acquired by going out in the woods on our property and cutting down poplar and birch trees. All

(continued)

(Woodbox, continued)

of this work was done on weekends, as Father worked in construction during the week and we boys had to join him to branch and pile trees for later transport. Most of the trees were relatively small — perhaps 5 inches or less across. After we had accumulated a reasonable quantity of trees, we would go and borrow Hank Kiesling's horse Fanny, who was experienced in the woods. She dragged a long chain and hook behind her which we would wrap around 10 or 12 trees, which she would then drag to a central collection point. She only had to be led once to the central wood pile, and from then on, she would pull the load there and stop without further instructions. She was a good horse, albeit one that always looked like she was starving to death, with ribs showing through her long winter hair.

The next step was to cut the wood up. Dad had an old one-cylinder engine with a big flywheel that he hooked via a long belt to a saw rig. Because the engine always stood for a year between uses, it generally needed a little persuading to start. Dad would be cranky before he finally got it started, and then the next part of the ritual began. The engine would be banging away, and my brother was assigned to the tail end of



the tree, which we then fed into the saw. Dad cut the wood into lengths, and my job was to grab each piece of wood and throw it on a pile.

When all the wood was cut up, we had the job of piling the wood in neat rows. That was the wood that got us through the winter, and eventually provided the heat to cook our food, bake our bread, and heat our washing water in the tank alongside the firebox of the stove.

Each day, we had to go out to the woodpile and split wood into pieces that would fit in the stove. It took quite armfuls to fill that big wood box. We had a pine stump that we split the wood on.

That was the arrangement for the first several years that we lived on the farm. Electricity didn't arrive until 1938 or '39, and bottled gas was a good deal later.

It was a great relief when we switched over to a stove powered by bottled gas, and life was never the same. Now we don't even recall the labor that used to go into the job of heating that cook stove!

Community Dance!

Jody Anderson

Tentatively set for 7pm Saturday February 27th at our Town Hall. Final plans will be announced and posted. The plan is for swing dance instruction at 6pm for those who would like to come early. The dance would begin at 7pm and include a variety including polka, waltz, 2-step, etc. Mark the date down and join others to break up the winter with some community fun!

From our Town Board Chair

Dave Mount, Supervisor

Season's Greetings on behalf of the Town Board. I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. With the end of the year, I thought I might take a quick look back at 2009 events in the Township.

- The Town took delivery of a brand new fire truck (tanker) which was paid for largely by a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA). This replaces the Fire Department's oldest truck, which was a refurbished milk truck.
- Two long time participants in Town government stepped down from their posts; Dave Miller from the Planning Commission and Jeff Cook from the Town Board. Those vacancies were filled by Barbara Crow and Mary Ann Sironen.
- Due to a change made by the Legislature, Duluth Township began receiving money from the taconite production tax fund. We received \$50,000 in 2009, \$38,000 of this went toward the new fire truck, and the remainder has been placed into a Town Capital Improvement Fund to save for future projects.
- An enormous amount of work was accomplished at the Community Center/North Shore Community School. A new roof was installed, and several improvements were made inside the building. In addition, large changes to the grounds were completed, including a new picnic pavilion, an outdoor toilet, and new playground for grades 4-6, and improved drainage, stormwater management, and walkways. These projects were funded entirely by grant money, school funding, and money from lease payments the school makes to the Town; no levied Township funds were used.
- Governor Pawlenty's use of the unallotment process to manage the State budget issues resulted in a cut of \$6,641 in State Aid to the Town, money which was formerly used to offset property taxes.
- Several amendments to the Township Zoning Ordinance were enacted. Changes included changing the process for appealing decisions of the Planning Director or Planning Commission, and updating the fees for building permits.
- The Town continues to struggle with short-term rental (rental for less than 30 days) as a land use issue; where it should be allowed and under what conditions. The Town Board and Planning Commission are working on a path forward.
- The State Department of Revenue initially issued an opinion that the Duluth Township Community Center (which houses our North Shore Community School) should be subject to property taxes, which were estimated at \$49,000 per year. This would be a crippling blow to the Town's ability to manage the Community Center and provide for its maintenance and improvement. Town Board members worked with George Sundstrom and representatives of North Shore Community School to enlist the help of State Representative Dill, State Senator Baak, and County Commissioner Peg Sweeney in reversing the Department of Revenue's position. Late in the year, the Department of Revenue suspended their position for 2010, pending further discussion of the issue in the Legislature. The Town is carefully watching this issue as we move into 2010.

While there have been some challenges, there has also been great progress, and we hope 2010 is another positive year for the Town and all its residents.

North Shore Locavores

Sherry Rovig

The next meeting will be Sunday, Jan. 24th, (4th Sun.) at our Town Hall. An educational hour starts at 3pm, followed by 4pm meeting with a pot luck meal following.

Upcoming Education sessions:

- Jan 24th — foraging discussion
 - Feb 28th — multi-cropping & soil management
 - Mar 28th — *to be determined*
 - Apr 25th — sheep shearing
 - May 23rd — drip irrigation
- (check the web site for updates)

For more information, see our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org/locavore, or call: Sherry at 525-0489 or Georganne at 525-4679.

Meetings are free and open to the public.



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Reminders

Please do not drive vehicles on our *Community Center* recreation fields.

Also, no motorized vehicles on the *Korkki Nordic* ski trails, private property. Get permission to use them for trails.

Power lines are private property. Get permission before using them for trails.

Land Use Permits are required before any construction or excavation is started. The *penalty* for failing to get the proper land use permit is *four times* the permit cost. Contact the Planning Commission for details.

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

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

October 22nd special meeting with Town Board members on Short Term Rental policy.

Present: Supervisors Dave Mount and Mary Ann Sironen. Commissioners: Dave Chura, Barb Crow, Janet Green, Michael Kahl and Yvonne Rutford. Also at the meeting were Planning Director Sue Lawson, Assistant Director John Kessler, Planning Secretary Beth Mullan and Town Clerk Ann Cox.

Short term rentals are those less than 30 days where the owner is not present. Currently, these require a conditional use permit (CUP). Longer term rentals, as in the past, do not require a CUP (e.g. snowbirds renting their home for 2-3 months). Currently there are two short term rental CUPs, both on the lake side of the expressway. Township's experience has been that short term rentals have out-of-area owners seeking rental income. Problems have involved management oversight when there is a local issue, police calls, partying issues, need for screening, neighbors not knowing who is in the neighborhood, etc. A considerable amount of Township time and legal costs have been involved in dealing with short term rental issues over the past year or so.

The Town Board established a moratorium on short term rentals while the Planning Commission deliberated on potential zoning ordinance changes. The moratorium ended this past summer. The Planning Commission, after deliberation, felt that short term rentals should not be permitted, citing difficulty of enforcement, management time and costs, etc. The Town Board decided not to ban short term rentals, but instead to see if problems could be handled by listing more conditions on CUPs (e.g. noise, screening, local management, required reporting on activities, etc. with associated monitoring and enforcement). An earlier short term rental CUP was revoked due to failure to meet conditions but that led to prolonged legal actions.

This meeting between Board members and Planning Commission members was to discuss the topic. It was noted that short term rentals could be looked at as something permitted only in certain geographic areas or as something permitted if various conditions are met (or both). A small group of Commission members was formed to review the discussion and bring their findings back to the larger group in November.

October 22nd regular meeting. (following the short term rental discussion, above). Present: Dave Chura, Barb Crow, Jan Green, Mike Kahl, Yvonne Rutford. After approving the agenda and Sept 24th minutes, the Commission continued the Odyssey Development variance request hearing from Sept 24th. Jan Green withdrew the motion she had put on the table at the last meeting and presented copies of a new draft resolution approving the variance with conditions spelled out. There was a discussion about whether criteria for a variance in our Ordinance had been met. Questions were raised about the erosion mitigation, setbacks, and wording of proposed

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(Planning, continued)

conditions. Addendums to the resolution were proposed. The resolution with addendums was approved on a 3-2 vote (see Planning Commission minutes on the Township web site for details of the resolution).

Planning Director Sue Lawson reported on an upcoming Conditional Use Permit hearing for a property on Johnson Road. The Commission designated the area of impact for the *Community Participation Report* as all abutting properties on Johnson Road. There is another meeting on the Bieraugel variance which is in litigation (regarding a small "unbuildable" lot on the lake next to Bluebird Landing). A request was made for someone to attend a meeting on the Knife River TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Loads) draft report.

Other discussion involved using interim conditional use permits rather than traditional CUPs for shorter term permits. A meeting is being held with the St Louis County Land Department to discuss a proposed timber sale off the Shilhon Road.

November 26th no meeting. (Thanksgiving day)

The Next Planning Committee meetings (4th Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall): Jan 28th and Feb 25th.

Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings.

Knife River TMDL

Recently, a draft "Total Maximum Daily Load" report on the Knife River report was released. It is an assessment of the turbidity (muddiness) of the Knife River. Much of the Knife River watershed is within our Township. Town Board member attended a recent meeting on this TMDL.

At the moment, the attempt apparently is to determine what is "normal" and what is "excessive". Once that is determined, then there is a step to identify sources of excessive turbidity, allocate shares of responsibility, and seek their reduction. The Township, because of its stormwater classification, may become liable for some of this from our ditches.

Our Town Board is keeping abreast of the issue. Concerns have already been voiced about our Township's inclusion, how measurements are made, and about fair distribution of any "excess" control.



Summary of Town Board Meetings

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

November 12th regular meeting. Supervisors Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, Mary Ann Sironen, and Dan Tanner were present. A motion was passed to formally close the Meyer cartway petition since it has been resolved. All costs incurred by the Township are paid from the required cartway petition escrow fund.

Resident Val Brady reported there is excess sediment in the Knife River. Much of the Knife River watershed is in our Township. The South St Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District has a grant program which would help resolve any issues involving our Township. A motion passed to authorize Supervisors Tanner and Mount to pursue the grant possibility as long as the Township's share does not exceed \$15,000 from the existing Road budget and that projects fit with normal Township road maintenance priorities.

Treasurer report: October receipts \$42,016.39, expenses \$64,643.07 and an ending balance \$733,987.63. We can replace our voting machine with a used new-style replacement machine. Ours will work for 2010.

Department reports: (written reports are given to the Supervisors to save time): **Police:** (written report filed) Supervisor Meierhoff is negotiating the contract. **Fire:** We have 4 new members with room for 1-2 more. **Planning:** (written report filed). **Legal:** (written report filed). **Roads:** Supervisor Tanner's work on roads was acknowledged with appreciation. Our road maintenance contractor, Bob Rodda, has done the last grading of the year and his work has received many favorable comments. An EPA required activity is to list any waters not meeting specific standards and develop a plan for improvement. The Knife River is on the list for turbidity (see article, p6). **Community Center:** Supervisors Sironen and Meierhoff plus resident George Sundstrom expressed our concerns over taxing our Community Center property at the County Board meeting. Attorney Ford will look into the legalities. Supervisor Meierhoff and Commissioner Sweeney will write a resolution supporting our concerns. George Sundstrom is in contact with Representative Dill's office. Chair Dave Mount will be the central point for information/contact on the taxing issue. **Town Hall:** A new chair rack will be ordered. Federal stimulus funds may be available to upgrade public building energy conservation. **Recycling:** Lights will be repaired. The County was asked for salt/sand for our parking lot. **Communication:** CLP and Lake County is pursuing fiber optic cables on light poles. If our Township wishes to participate we would need to pay \$5,000 in planning seed money. It was decided not to participate since it would affect only a part of the Township. Potential topics for the resident feedback survey was discussed. The last survey was in 2006 and is posted on the Township web site.

Correspondence: County notice that the Old North Shore bridge will be removed. Supervisor Sironen was supported to represent us on the 2010 Coastal Program.

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(Board, continued)

D/NSSD sewer board election was approved. Our MA-TIT insurance package will be reviewed by Supervisor Dahl. **New business.** There was a question about whether we should continue our local Board of Audit and Equalization (for property tax assessment concerns) or have these handled by the County. The survey will include a question for residents.

December 10th regular meeting. Supervisors Wendy Meierhoff, Dave Mount, Mary Ann Sironen, and Dan Tanner attended. Treasurer: \$143,522.40 receipts (including 2nd half of tax levy), \$20,388.29 expenses for an ending balance of \$857,121.74. The claims list was reviewed and bills approved for payment. The court date for the Bieraugel matter is Dec. 22nd at St Louis Court House. Replacement of the "Welcome to Duluth Township" road signs is being pursued. It doesn't look like we are going to participate in energy grants for public buildings.

Department reports: **Police:** none. **Fire:** One nuisance fire call. **Planning** (written report filed). Odyssey development on Stoney Point has preliminary approval at County Planning. **Roads:** The goal has been set for turbidity in the Knife River. Responsibility for reduction in the turbidity level is being apportioned. The Township will have one portion of the load to reduce. MPCA becomes involved when the implementation plan goes into effect. Township concerns are being pursued. Application for a road improvement grant has been submitted. We will know by January. **Community Center:** A condensate pump is needed and Supervisor Meierhoff was given authority to spend up to \$2000 for replacement. A NSCS/NewPage program to recycle glossy paper was announced. A resolution on the taxing issue was received from our NSCS and will be included in a packet of information the Township is developing for future use. **Town Hall:** Clean-up items were discussed. New chair racks are here. **Legal:** Our Community Center will not be taxed in 2010. A letter will be written thanking Representative David Dill for his interest and support on this issue. Dave Mount is our point of contact. Supervisor Meierhoff and resident George Sundstrom will continue being proactive on the Community Center tax issue.

Old business: Resolution to re-nominate Supervisor Sironen to the Coastal Council was approved. Date for the budget discussion with departments was set. The Township has several old ordinances that no longer apply or need to be dropped. Although the Town Board appears to have authority to rescind these, it was decided that the old ordinances would be bundled for action by residents at our Annual Meeting.

**The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday)
Jan. 14th and Feb. 11th at 7pm in the Town Hall.
Residents are urged to attend these public meetings**



A Jim Munger photo.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2010

Inside this Issue:

- Township Feedback Survey
- Year's summary by our Town Board Chair, Dave Mount
- Job Opening: CE coordinator.
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- Township **Calendar**
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- Town Board & Planning Meetings
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- NSCS News insert

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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929 are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. 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.

Duluth Township Information — 2009

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. 8:30am-12am
Thursday 9am-12 and 4-6pm

Planning Office Hours: No posted hours, call the
Assistant Director for an appointment (393-8500)

Supervisors:

Stephen Dahl, (2007-2010) 525-4679 or
Email: SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Shares Roads, Community Center,
Recreation Facilities (JOC))

Wendy Meierhoff (2008-2011) 525-0263
or Email: Wendy@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Community Education/Recreation
Coordinator, Police, Alternate on Planning, Shares:
Recreation Facilities (JOC) and Community Center)

Dave Mount (2007-2010) **Board Chair** 525-7961
or Email: DaveMount@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Board Chair, Planning & Zoning, North
Shore Mgmt Bd, Shares Town Hall,)

Mary Ann Sironen, (2009-2012) **Vice Chair** 525-2010
or Email: MaryAnnSironen@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Personnel, Newsletter/web site,
Duluth/County Assn of Twps, Senior Housing, Board
of Adjustment, Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District,
Alternate: North Shore Management, Board Chair)

Dan Tanner (2008-2011) 525-4087
or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
(Responsibilities: Cemetery, Fire Dept, RSPT,
MPCA, SWPPP, Shares Town Hall and Roads)

Town Clerk: **Ann K. 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 Director: **Sue Lawson**

Assistant Director: **John Kessler** 393-8500,
Email: JohnKessler@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Beth Mullan**
Email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Commission: **Dave Chura** (Chair),
Barbara Crow, Jan Green, Michael Kahl,
Bill Lannon, Seth Levanen, Yvonne Rutford
Email: PlanningZonng@duluthtownship.org

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

Fire Department: **Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief**
Keith Darsow, President Bill Cox
Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

Burning Permits are available from the **Town Hall** during office
hours, and from **Fire Wardens:** Jay Zink (525-5589),
Jeff & Caroline Marino (525-6431), or the **DNR**
office in Two Harbors (1568 Hwy 2, 834-6609).

Community Education Coordinator: Supervisor Meierhoff
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.