

Summary of the Duluth Township Resident Feedback Questionnaire January 2001

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Background

In the January 2001 Newsletter a single-page tear-out questionnaire was included which asked for Duluth Township resident feedback. It sought ratings of ten Township functions or services plus comments about things they liked about living in the area, concerns and suggestions for changes they would like to see in the next few years.

The **purpose** of this *Resident Feedback Questionnaire* was to provide another means by which resident's could make their views about the Township known. Duluth Township is largely governed by volunteers who have their own work and family lives to balance with Township governance. It is often difficult to get more reflective views from residents outside the time-limited agenda of official meetings.

During 2001 our Township will be engaged in a number of important planning efforts, including the development of the sewer line along the shore and updating our 25-year old Township *Land Use Plan* and related *Zoning Ordinance*. These efforts involve steering committees, public information meetings, regular meetings of various boards and commissions, and a lot of volunteer effort. It is important for residents to become involved with the process, help address the issues and help anticipate things that need to be taken into account in these planning processes. This resident feedback questionnaire provides an initial and somewhat broader set of views by residents. It will also help residents and officials better understand the views and concerns of their neighbors in our Township.

This is an **initial report** of the results of the survey. It includes a summary of the ratings and comments that were made. Comments are simply listed rather than further summarized so that readers have the full set of information and can see the range of responses their neighbors have provided. Since it is suggested that there are somewhat different concerns depending on proximity to the shore, ratings are shown overall and also shown separately for those residing on the shore and the inland side of highway 61. Results will be summarized in the March *Newsletter* and on the Township web site www.duluthtownship.org. If you have questions about this survey, please contact the Newsletter editor.

Procedures

A one-page questionnaire was included as a tear-out page in the January issue of the *Duluth Township Newsletter*, delivered the first week of January to all 729 households in the Township. The questionnaire page had a return address on the back so it could be mailed to the editor (78%) or returned without postage to the secure Town Hall news box (22%). The deadline for responses was January 30th but returns were accepted through February 6th when the results were tabulated. The questionnaire form is provided at the end of this report (see page 24).

There were no follow-up requests for response (follow-up requests usually increase the response rate). A total of 82 questionnaires were returned (11% of the newsletters sent out). No names were requested but the respondent was asked if he or she lived above or below the freeway or did not live in the Township. No one indicated that they lived outside the Township. The questionnaire asked for satisfaction ratings on ten aspects of the Township and for comments about things most liked, concerns, and about desired future changes. Comments to explain satisfaction ratings were also requested. Statements that residents wrote were typed verbatim (with minor editing to make reading easier and to eliminate any potential for identification of respondents). The original questionnaires will be destroyed at the end of March, once questions of accuracy have had a chance to be raised and resolved.

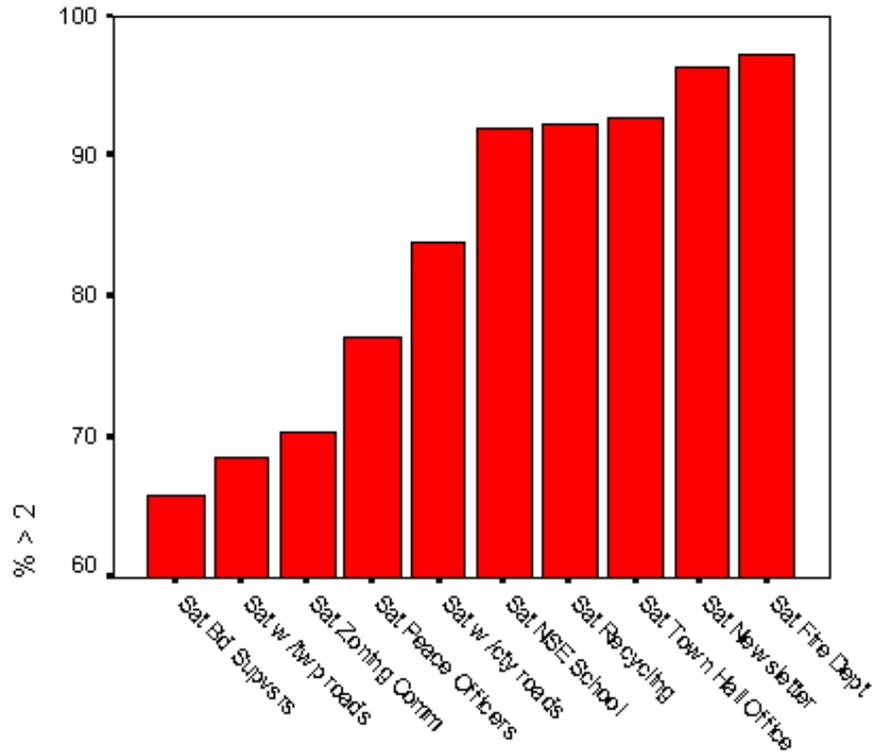
The primary **caution** in interpreting these results is that they represent about 11% of the households in the Township. These are respondents who received and read the *Newsletter* and who were sufficiently interested in Township affairs to share their views.

Thank you to all who responded!

Results

The graph and table below show ratings for the ten functions or services listed in the questionnaire. The graph shows the percentage that indicated they were "satisfied" or "very satisfied". In each case, the majority of respondents were satisfied or very satisfied (the lowest was 66% satisfied). On the other hand, there are important differences in the level of satisfaction with nearly everyone being satisfied with the Volunteer Fire Department and the fewest being satisfied with the Township Board of Supervisors.

1. Percent of Respondents who are *Satisfied* or *Very Satisfied* with each Township Service: All Respondents



The following table shows the percentage of all respondents who checked each of the rating categories for each of the ten Township services.

2. Percent of Respondents Rating their Satisfaction with Township Service:

All Respondents

Item	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied	N (100%)
Township Board of Supervisors	11.4%	22.9	52.9	12.9	(70) ¹
Township roads	6.8%	24.7	54.8	13.7	(73)
Township Zoning Commission	12.5%	17.2	64.1	6.3	(64)
Township Peace Officers	14.8%	8.2	42.6	34.4	(61)
County roads in the Township	2.5%	13.6	65.4	18.5	(81)
North Shore Elementary School	6.7%	1.3	14.7	77.3	(75)
Township Recycling Centers	1.3%	6.4	46.2	46.2	(78)

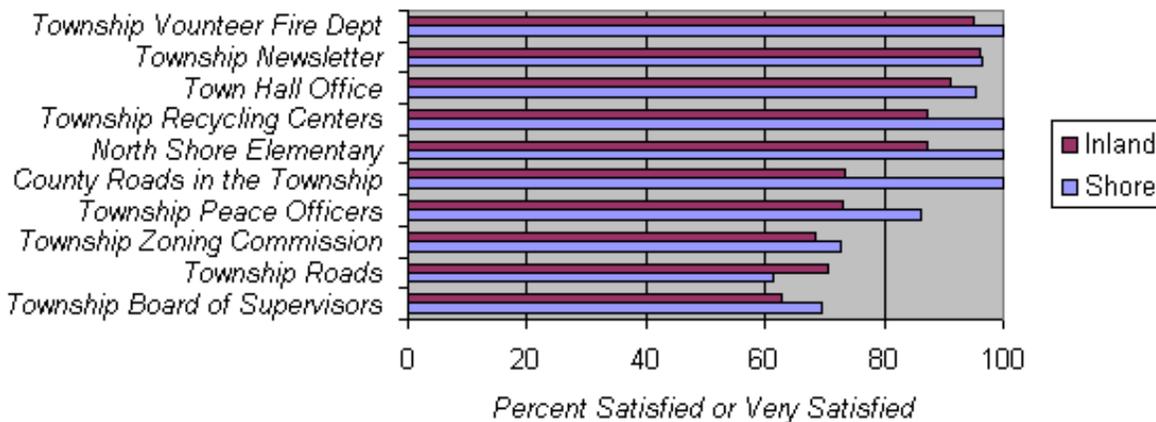
Town Hall Office	1.4%	5.8	60.9	31.9	(69)
Township Newsletter	2.5%	1.3	32.5	63.8	(80)
Township Volunteer Fire Dept.	2.8%	0.0	38.0	59.2	(71)

The following table shows the percent of respondents who indicated that they did not know about the Township service. County roads and the Township Newsletter were most well known and the Zoning Commission and Peace Officers were least well known. About a quarter of respondents indicated they did not know about the Township Peace Officers.

3. Percent Indicating They Do Not Know About the Township Service

Item	Percent Who "Don't Know"
Township Peace Officers	24.7% (81)
Township Zoning Commission	21.0% (81)
Town Hall Office	14.8% (81)
Township Board of Supervisors	12.5% (80)
Township Volunteer Fire Dept.	11.2% (80)
Township roads	9.9% (81)
North Shore Elementary School	7.4% (81)
Township Recycling Centers	3.7% (81)
County roads in the Township	1.2% (82)
Township Newsletter	1.2% (81)

4. Percent Satisfied or Very Satisfied for Shore-side and Inland-side Respondents



Graph 4 shows the percentage satisfied or very satisfied separately for respondents indicating they lived on the shore side or the inland side of highway 61. Several have suggested that these two areas of our Township have somewhat different concerns and priorities.

Data from this questionnaire suggest greater similarity than difference. If one uses a statistical criterion, there are statistically significant differences (at the traditional .05 level of significance) for only two of the rated items. All of the shore-side respondents but only 73% of the inland-side respondents were satisfied with county roads. Similarly, all of the shore-side respondents but only 87% of the inland-side respondents were satisfied with Township recycling centers. For the other eight items the differences were not large enough to be statistically significant.

Comments by Respondents

Four sets of comments are appended to this report. Comments have been lightly edited for readability and to prevent the identification of individual respondents. Comments listed below have also been reordered, so that answers to one item do not correspond to answers to other items.

The first lists all responses to the question "[Overall, what do you like about Duluth Township?](#)" Eighty-nine percent of the 82 respondents provided some viewpoint and these are generally similar. Respondents liked the rural and community nature of the Township.

The second set of comments respond to the question, "[What concerns do you have about Duluth Township?](#)". Ninety-three percent of those who returned a questionnaire made some comment. Here the responses vary but include concerns about development following the sewer line, roads, governance, and losing the North Shore Elementary School or losing our rural atmosphere.

The third set of comments provided by sixty percent of respondents consisted of [elaborations and explanations](#) of their rating of the ten Township service items.

Finally, the last set of comments were in response to the question, "[What changes would you like to see in Duluth Township over the next few years?](#)" Eighty-four percent of the 82 respondents provided suggestions about changes they would like to see. These include such items as changing to a 5-member Board of Supervisors, road maintenance, controlled development such as a local gas station/convenience store, policies aimed at preserving the rural atmosphere, governance practices, saving the North Shore Elementary School, and the need for some services.

Overall, what do you like about Duluth Township?

The natural setting, clean environment, low population density, extensive woods and wildlife.

Peace and quiet.

So far people seem to mind their own business. Hope it can remain so.

I like community input but sometimes certain people like to pick you apart if you don't go with the flow.

Rural environment

Excellent fire department and emergency medical response.

Friendly people in the Township.

Separation of houses. They are not on top of one another except some on the shore.

A nice place to live

That it is local and we still have local township government say on things.

Lot size for building is just the right size.

Small size

Familiarity with people and issues.

Good family-oriented residents.

Relatively low-cost overhead.

Amount of space between homes as well as the dense woods. Ideally this should be preserved.

Reality may force larger landowners to sell due to heavy tax load.

It is quiet and very much country-ish, not crowded. I like the country atmosphere.

Rural setting

The rural lifestyle. We have not yet been "yuppified" though this could happen if we are not careful.

The quiet and beauty of this area.
The road is always plowed and cleaned early in the day.
Acreage instead of lots.

I think, overall, Duluth Township is a good place to live and is run democratically.

The Township name.

Its semi-rural, quiet and unhurried atmosphere.

Great people and great community involvement.
North Shore School and rural residential character.

Our rural setting

Space and friendly neighbors.

Location and sense of community and spaciousness
Limited commercial use!

The rural setting and being able to do as you please.

Country living but close to town.

It is quiet and still has the country setting and feeling.
There is a feeling of safety out here and everyone leaves one another to live their own life.
You don't have the nosey neighbor syndrome here.

I like that we have an elementary school here so the kids don't have to ride the bus for hours.
Also like the way the governing body is set up.

Quiet, rural, wildlife inhabited.
Mostly neighbors that you grew up with and whom you can trust and look out for each other.

Peace and quiet. Rural life.

Peace and quiet!

Peace, low crime, and close to Duluth
Not over-crowded, ample acreages between residences.

The deer eat my garden and fruit trees and they ignore me.
We have a great school, good neighbors, fair taxes, great community involvement and it is a great place to live and raise kids!

It's where I live!

The rural quality and the freedom.

That it has the Town Hall and North Shore Elementary school.

Rural character.
Lake Superior shoreline.

Rural setting, peaceful (usually).

Beauty and quietness of area.

Rural character.

Friendly people, living by the lake
North Shore Elementary School

Peace and tranquility. Quiet atmosphere.

The natural beauty of lakeshore and woods.

Large lot sizes (parcels) for homes.

Unbuilt areas that allow for outdoor recreation (i.e. Hiking and skiing) and which provides shelter for wildlife.

It feels rural and is not overly developed.

Space, room to move, not living two feet from neighbors.

I like the beauty and geographical diversity of the township--from the north shore to the forests and bluffs.

I also appreciate the history of the township and the people who have lived here for generations.

The semi-rural nature of the township is what drew me to live here.

Most of the people living here

The people.

I'm glad we have a recycling center and a patrol officer sort of watching over the area.

Sparse population, low noise level, rural character

It provides for my family, a community to be a part of and a sense of peace.

Great elementary school.

Beautiful environment, rural feel, the lake

The people of the community and their diversity.

Nearly everything.

Country living with good neighbors.

The rural aspect.

I have lived here 40 years and for the most part I have been satisfied.

The distance from Duluth.

Rural. Lots of undeveloped land, low population density.

North Shore Elementary School and the community feeling surrounding it.

Recycling centers.

Its very beautiful here and still has the feel of country.

I like the mix of people who live in the township and the sense of community with events at the school

The recent history project and town hall events.

The world's best ski trails are located in our township too!

The close-knit feeling of a neighborhood community in the country.

It is a quiet community.

The school, community feeling, close feeling

Good friends who are active in school and gatherings.

Its rural-ness.

Love the area. We've been here our whole life.

Great fire department and volunteers.

Rural nature of it, access to the lake.
The expressway that is undeveloped, no billboards, etc.
Future development of it needs to be done with care.
The ridgeline that is not marred visually by big houses and other buildings.
Decent services.

Country living within half an hour of a major city.

Being in the countryside and nature.

The woods, streams, animals and human neighborhoods.

Small community

Rural character, large lots and proximity to the lake.
Proximity to Two Harbors and Duluth.
Like the Elementary School and French River Lutheran Church.

Natural beauty, sense of community, good neighbors, recycling, the Town Hall.

Peaceful, close family ties, wonderful area to raise family, children, pets, etc.

Rural area between Two Harbors and Duluth

I like the rural nature, friendly atmosphere, clean air.

Remote location.

You are doing better than a few years ago.

The privacy of country living, yet we are near enough to Duluth and Two Harbors.

Rural, good community involvement.

Duluth Township Board and staff do a good job overseeing all related business.

Concerns about environment addressed without being radical.

The quality of life, natural beauty and rural environment.

What concerns do you have about Duluth Township?

That any of the qualities listed above may be compromised if we're not careful or as Duluth Township becomes more populated.

Becoming like Lakewood Township. People don't have much of a say and if they do it doesn't seem to matter.

Lack of official (elected) township leadership.
"Dumping ground" for unwanted land uses of the county.

Never see Township Police only County Sheriff.
Does the new church development on Ryan Road have an adequate septic system?

Pollution from crowded systems.
All the barking dogs.

That not enough of the younger population is involved (age 20-40) with meetings, etc.
Is it that young people are not listened to or that a certain group of people make all the conditions and decisions?

We are too slow to update, sewer pollution, erosion of our shoreline
That we do not attract business locations that we want in the township.
We need gas, grocery, video, lodging and resort business to replace the tax base we have lost.

Road maintenance not cost effective: just not professional enough for the price we're paying.
Town Board of Supervisors is too small and not really ready or capable of dealing with issues as they evolve.

People drive way over the speed limit on Ryan Road. The road needs to be patrolled.

More information about zoning, roads, voting issues, etc. distributed to citizens.
As a homeowner with a small lot, I have great concern about the saleability of my home because of the 5-acre minimum ordinance in the township.
This area of argument needs a compromise for some equality for others in similar circumstances.

That it will be too much like city living, too crowded, an extension of the city.

Too few residents involved. I am guilty myself.

Uncontrolled and inappropriate development that could ruin what we have and make it more difficult to live the moderate lifestyle we have chosen.
Also raising property taxes due to increased valuations.

More resident involvement in decision-making.
The cell tower meeting and subsequent decision caused concern.

More priority should be given to township roads or other areas than the Peace Officers.

Getting too big. Too much government.

The arrival of high-density housing.

I have a lot of concern about the shore and the development that will inevitably follow the sewer line.
The pressure to develop will be enormous and I'm afraid our zoning regulations, even if we make them strict, will not be able to slow or stop it.
I worry about condominiums, hotels, planned unit developments, apartment buildings, resorts, etc., all of which have the potential to dramatically change the rural residential character of our township.

Losing our rural atmosphere with housing and population growth.

Farm interests being overthrown for residential interests.

High rate of taxation for people who live year-round. Levy should be placed on property taxes.

Taxes

Taxes

We feel it is a waste of our tax dollars to have the police force since the Sheriff has jurisdiction here anyway.
Peace officer money would be better spent on upgrading our fire department and getting it certified so our home insurance would go down.
We have witnessed too many hours spent by (a peace officer) cruising and wasting our money at the Knife River marina (which is located in Lake County).
In the squad car and harassing the younger population unjustly
(The officer) has a very questionable record and is not a very good influence in our judgment.
County roads are a disaster.

I'm concerned about possible over population of this area between the highway and Lake Superior after the sewer line goes through.
Residents should be informed of the leash law in the Township especially in the more populated areas.

It is getting overpopulated!
You have too many folks telling you what you can or can't do regarding hobby farms, etc. or they are worried about what others are doing on their property versus their own.
Too many tree huggers! Tree huggers seem to want rural life completely their way.

That we won't be able to keep our "own" school, which stands as a focal point for all our own children and families.
That we will not be taxed beyond reason.
That we will still be able to function as a Township without big government intrusion with laws for septic, wells, private lands.
Getting good Town Board leadership. Keeping our rural image intact.

Our gravel roads next to our homes need better upkeep and better grading.

Would like to see the elementary school stay open.
We need a convenience store.

That property values increase to the point that young people can't afford to live here.

Speed on Homestead Road and no shoulders on the road.

That township costs may become too high.

That North Shore Elementary will close.

People from metropolitan areas trying to turn the township into a city.

What effect the extension of the sewer line will have on development along the shore.

Over development, especially below the freeway.
Perceptions that north and south are separate units, lack of concern by citizens for the Township as a whole.
Those who are only concerned with their local issue of the moment--tower, sewer, road.

Constant increase in property tax.
People's willingness to continue to pay tax increases will be short lived. People on fixed incomes are stuck. I am ready to move.
It is not worth it anymore.

Would like to see minimum acreage zoning requirements maintained (for residential lots) and perhaps increased.
Don't let the sewer line change zoning.

Losing North Shore Elementary School.
Sewer system -- I hope it gets a green flag!
Taxes!!

Taxes -- they have gone out of sight. How could people sell their homes at this rate?

I am very concerned about development after the sewer line goes in--both commercial development and homes.
The shoreline is unique and should be protected.

That development will be excessive with the coming of the sewer system.
Township should maintain its residential atmosphere.
Limit building and size of businesses.

Too much growth too fast.

I am concerned about the leadership in the township
Preserving the rural nature of the township
Law enforcement
Keeping North Shore Elementary as a viable school.

Making EVERYONE comply with the ordinances.

Urban sprawl.
Unplanned commercial development. Spread of "chain" restaurants and stores. Strip mall development.
Water quality issues.
Keeping green spaces.

Sewer line.

Keeping North Shore Elementary school open!

That they may be getting a little too picky about sewer systems and telling people what they can do with their property.

Rampant development from sewer line.

Don't want to lose gun rights with an anti-gun ordinance.

Extreme proliferation of reflectorized, useless signs.

Don't want any more reduction of speed limits leading to making North Shore Drive into an extension of London Road.

Growth that is unplanned.

Seasonal residents with no ties to the community

Keeping our school open. A dying community spirit if the school closes.

Reduced common spirit and citizen involvement.

Loss of school

Losing North Shore Elementary School. It should not close.

Do we need Township Peace Officers?

Too much development! It is turning into a suburb!

I am seriously concerned by the fact that the Town Board totally disregards the views of citizens.

The fact that some residents feel they have the right to tell their neighbors what they can do with their private property.

Fire department needs to be upgraded so our insurance rates go down.

Don't see the purpose of township police. In the last year the township police did not respond to minor or a major complaints.

Put the dollars toward the fire department.

My biggest concern is development so that eventually Duluth Township will just look like an extension of Duluth.

I'm concerned there won't be open fields and old cedar posts with sagging wire fence keeping the neighbors cows or horses in or out,

or an occasional dirt road to ride my bike.

I'm very concerned about the increase in traffic and road noise.

Lack of input by members in the fire department/first responders.

Lack of support of constables.

The need for a working sewer system for shore residents.

More diverse citizen group needed for Town Board and committees.

Budgeting with increased expenses it is costing more to maintain the same level of resources and services.

We should take a good look at each of the services provided to see if they are needed.

For example, do our Peace Officers duplicate what the County Sheriff provides?

Getting too crowded.

Too many house trailers that pay low taxes. It doesn't have a feeling of being permanent.

Cars traveling too fast on township roads.

With the sewer line coming, do not want big townhouse developments or condos built.
Keep as single resident housing.
We do not want or need a safe harbor refuge by McQuade Road. It's a waste of money so lets keep it dead!

Raising taxes.
No services. Let the cell phone tower go through. No service is available.
All township roads deserve work when needed. You owe it to the people.

Zoning getting too strict

I am concerned that citizens won't actively participate in the planning process.
That short term dollar signs in the eyes will take precedence over potential long term impact (environment, social, economic) of development.
The "build it and they will come" mentality is outmoded and can be disastrous.
There should be a moratorium on conditional use permits until an updated land use plan is in place.

The closure of North Shore Elementary will be a real blow.
Increasing property values and therefore taxes can be a real problem for retired and low-income residents.
The county's unrealistic demands regarding septic systems could cause significant problems in the future.

Keep up the good work.

Concerned that we are afraid to do what it takes to keep our community healthy.
To retain our school
To limit growth due to sewer construction
To work together on issues of growth and neighborhood conflict.

Zoning concerns when the sewer is built.
Protection of ground water.
Control of telecommunication towers.
Development along the shore; erosion and purity of Lake Superior.
Hope for controlled growth with a long-range view that retains the community feel and a clean, aesthetic environment.
Closing of North Shore Elementary. Our families will move away and the sense of community will be lost.
Concerned that the Board may decide to reduce the number of acres to build from 5 acres.
This would increase development and reduce the quality of life in the area as well as create environmental concerns.
The ever-increasing cost of taxes.
Having a 200-foot cell phone tower.
North Shore School.
Homestead Drive maintenance.
I am very concerned about the possibility of North Shore School closing.
If you had kept better track of road papers and concerns of people and checked up on what people do, this Culas problem would never have happened.
What a mess over such a small problem.
Unresponsive elected officials.
Poor knowledge about issues by decision makers.

Comments and Explanation of Satisfaction Rating

People have a say and its overturned by the Board. Sounds like Duluth!
This school referendum thing has been very poorly put. We all have to give up something to get something!

Some newer appointees on Zoning are refreshing, others seem not only inexperienced but do not seem to represent the community interests well.

Seem more concerned with self interests or those of a few buddies.

Having the City of Duluth influencing Township decisions (e.g.. McQuade project, sewer line). Many people move into the country to avoid Duluth politics.

Overall, I can't complain.

I am extremely concerned about keeping North Shore Elementary open!

I'm worried that people will not stay informed and the language on the referendum will be too confusing!

We have improved with having the newsletter.

We have supervisors working hard to update and bring many projects forward that we dragged on in years past.

The shore and the township above the highway have different issues.

Ryan and Homestead roads need wide shoulders for safety.

Graders on gravel roads need to learn how to re-distribute gravel, NOT push the top layer into the ditch.

Keep up the good work. A thank you to all concerned.

Get away from Two Harbors school system. They are only interested in Two Harbors.

I did not know about the recent meeting at North Shore Elementary School. I probably would have gone!

It would be nice to have a "self-serve" recycle center so that we don't have to go only during the limited hours.

I moved here to get away from city government. We are becoming more "city-like" every day and this is not good!

Recycling center is wonderful, folksy but needs a larger cardboard dumpster. It fills rapidly.

I love the Town Hall office.

Newsletter is like being at the meeting--well done.

Thank you for doing the township newsletter. I know it's a lot of work, but I do appreciate it.

Clover Valley recycling center needs more plastic and newspaper bins.

If we have fewer students why are school taxes going up instead of down?

I hope that the new sewer is affordable for all.

We feel the Fire Department does very well with their limited resources.

Supervisors have very trying positions and they are quite admirable at keeping things in control at meetings and are, for the most part, fair.

The Township roads could be better maintained!

We do need a gas station and grocery store. A K-mart would be great!

Plant trees in open areas that are a problem for drifting snow, now that snow fencing is not done. Trees would permanently take care of it.

The guy that does the grading doesn't know what he is doing on Old North Shore Road.

Get a guy that can do the job right! All he does is move the gravel to the sides of the road and then we have pot holes in the middle for the rain to get in!

Our cars are getting ruined. We are paying taxes to get our roads graded right!

Would like to see a convenience store and/or gas station at Homestead Road and the freeway junction. It has been mentioned to ICO.

The Township should not carry the expense of its own law enforcement officer. That role should be filled by the Sheriff's office.

Do not get us into any proposals that will tax us out of our homes.

Too much money spent on too few miles of township roads. Is this comparable to other roads?
Supervisors not available don't act globally, too much "fire fighting" and not enough planning.
Peace officers lack accountability. Who do they report to?
The Town Hall office could be open on additional days.
Zoning commission sometimes appears to only care about their individual areas (north, south, etc.).

More communication on township activities and actions.

Dog leash laws need to be enforced (e.g. on Lismore Road)!!

Recycling center is convenient and a great asset!

The peace officers, fire department and 911 responders deserve a lot of praise and thanks for a great service that they do for our community.

I support a change to five town supervisors
I support appointments for staff positions.

I would like to see new leadership on the Town Board. I have sat at Town Board meetings where the supervisors are rude to people, including lifetime residents who want better roads or just want their roads fixed.
I have also watched the supervisors totally disregard a large number of resident's wishes/petitions and do what they want. I do not feel the current supervisors are responsive to Township residents and therefore we do not have any kind of "representative" elected officials/government.

I think it would make a difference in the attitude of some people if the Peace Officers made themselves known to all of the residents.

Stop by homes and introduce yourselves and ask if there are any concerns, etc. I bet most people don't even know what Shawn and Mike look like!

I find it totally unacceptable that the town board TOTALLY ignores the input of its citizens -- out with them!
I find it unacceptable that the zoning commission does not evaluate and make decisions based on criteria and procedures in the Township Plan.

I'm glad they take care of grass cutting at the cemetery and keep it looking nice.
I don't believe they need blacktop at the town hall. We have too much cement and blacktop on the earth now.

Can't get to Township meetings because they are always on a weeknight and I work nights.

I am satisfied overall with government aspects of the township.
Our roads could be graveled more often but after all this is not a metropolitan area.
I expect and even want my road to have a rural feel.
One can't expect city services and live in the country.

North Shore Elementary is the jewel of this community.

I think the Supervisors have forgotten what "representative" government is!

An answering machine does not equal an office.
As a method of contacting the peace officers calling the Town Hall answering machine is useless.

The new newsletter is wonderful and I thank all those folks who help produce it.
I feel I am now well informed as to what is going on and can put events down on a calendar and try to attend when I can.

One of the main reasons I moved to Duluth Township was to have a little seclusion. Now they can almost build in your back yard.
As far as township road work is concerned, it seems like it depends upon who you are or who you know.

Get someone who knows HOW and WHEN to grade and haul gravel, not the current contractor.

The new format of the newsletter far surpasses the old format.

After the storms of July 99 I called the township office to report damage on the township road. It has never been repaired.

It would be helpful if the recycling centers could take office paper and cereal box type cardboard.

A big thanks to all who serve the township, both volunteer and paid.

Information on those running for Town supervisor is needed.

Supervisors need to be more responsive to constituents. We object to their support for McQuade boat launch project.

The Zoning Commission has a problem with variances. They need to make zoning decisions that protect the environment.

Good newsletter. Could we make a business directory?

We need a 5-member Board to accommodate the growing township's needs.

Town clerk does a very good job but she needs more office hours to help eliminate work brought home on her own time.

It would be nice to have the office opened one more afternoon (like Wednesday 4:30-7:30 for late workers).

I have never been to the recycling center because the hours are incompatible to my schedule.

Township staff and office do a good job.

I've never even seen a Township policeman.

I really like the newsletter, it helps keep us informed. Keep up the good work.

Town roads. The budget seems to be high.

Newsletter, its great to have a newsletter again. Thanks to the editor.

The roads just keep getting worse! If a person goes on a trip, sometimes of several miles, the Homestead road seems to be in the poorest shape.

It is a main road for our area, yet hasn't had much done to it in 40 years. It was in past years one of the first plowed after a snowstorm but not anymore.

North Shore Elementary school. How can the principal be proud, running two schools and helping both close?

Is there concern about how this will look on a resume?. How dumb can this community get? Get rid of the principal now.

What changes would you like to see in Duluth Township over the next few years?

I like Duluth Township the way it is.

Let's keep the environment clean and protect the way of life we enjoy here.

Help the natives persevere.

Plant natural barriers or clean up roadside yards!

I think there should be different faces from time to time (Board, Zoning, etc.) Keeping the same old clique, relatives, buddies, etc. leads to a kind of dictatorship!

For the life of me I can't understand why Duluth Township is in Lake County School District.

Why are we to pay higher school taxes than they do? Lets get fair!

You have a structure for this tower (the water tower) to use instead.

Try to curb some spending so Township taxes don't have to rise each year.

Change in Board of Supervisors and Zoning Commission -- better representatives concerned about the Township's future and experienced/knowledgeable about how to protect residents and the environment from outside financial/corporate intrusions.

Water flooding over roads, especially on Ryan Road at the Englund Road intersection. County has not solved this problem with one 36" culvert.

County puts Band-Aids on many problems without really fixing them.

Regarding the recycling centers, I'm not aware of where they are.

I would like that a regular spot in the newsletter and more encouragement for people to recycle!

Sewer completion, the safe harbor and park at McQuade Road,
A plan for replacing business at Clover Valley high school and former store locations in the Township.

A 5-member Board of Supervisors
Better quality Zoning Board
Road maintenance taken over by St Louis County or a professional private contractor
New land use, planning/zoning ordinance.

Curbside recycling pick-up.

Creation of our own sewage treatment plant utilizing monies for federal/state combined with local residents. Ultimately the system would connect to Duluth.

Pretty much as it is.

Someone controlling that sewer project. I think they have created a monster over which they have no control.

Increasing pressure for development and higher income commuters building homes who have very different ideas and values than many long-term residents.

Some sort of moratorium on property taxes for senior citizens.

Retain fire department and recycle center. Reduce or eliminate the rest.

Really, none. Maybe we could organize plantings of flowers along the lakeshore.

None. I love the way it is!
I'd like North Shore School to stay
I really don't want more development.

More people getting involved in the Township Fire Department, Town Board meetings, and First Responders.
This question on area lived in divides up the township We have that problem now!

Stronger support for the few farms in the area.

Property taxes should be frozen until property is sold. There is no incentive to improve property when taxes push us out of our life style.

Taxes lowered. If we have new residents moving into the township, why are taxes being raised when more money is coming in?

Second thoughts on ever returning (peace officer) to service with his shady past, he is an embarrassment to our township. He is a topic of conversation from Two Harbors to Duluth. I do not know him personally but do know of his conduct and it is not pretty.
He is not one to be representing law enforcement any more. More investigation of public records would be appropriate.

More community support/involvement with the police/fire/first responders.
Possible change in zoning for a minimum acreage allowance to slow overpopulation.

Clean up the old Clover Valley high school. It's a disgrace!
Do something constructive about the large flooding on Greenwood Road every year.
Enlarge the parking lot at the Town Hall.
Fix Homestead Road. We need a new bridge by the dog kennels.

Pave the Shilhon road hill. Most heavy rains wash it out.

Return of a convenience store/gas station.

Less intrusion from land zoning proposals.

More long range planning.
More responsive town board of supervisors.
Additional activity at Town Hall leading to more open hours.
Perhaps increase use of the Hall as a community center for all ages, not just Homesteaders.

Sewer system, lower taxes.

Strict adherence to minimum lot size requirements.
Monitor overnight camping along the shore in "illegal" areas.
Work to maintain the North Shore Elementary School.

Lower taxes!!

The roads committee needs improvement, definitely get outside bids and give less preference to only certain roads.

Taxes need to be reduced.

Regulations are necessary for businesses and people who need to get rid of junk out in the open.

Better winter maintenance of the Scenic Highway -- plow sooner and more frequently.

Enforce the law and have significant consequences for those who cut trees along the lakeshore.

Less hunting in populated areas

Keeping the school open.

All out effort to keep North Shore Elementary School open.

New gas station and convenience store.

Against safe harbor project.

I would like to see a broader base of involvement by residents in the Township. It seems that lots of things are decided by a small number of folks--an old boys network.

I would like to see this opened up and see more involvement by folks especially as the Township begins a comprehensive land use planning process.

I would like to see elected and appointed officials work harder to take advantage of some of the sources of money there is out there for planning, infrastructure, community involvement.

The budgeting process is a joke. There is no imagination or risk-taking financially.

I have been very dissatisfied with law enforcement here in the Township and would like to see that change.

I would like to see a comprehensive land use plan, which has had lots of resident involvement, completed and approved.

Our own school system (district).

Upgrade on Homestead Road soon.

Development and approval of a comprehensive land use plan.

Town officials that are responsive to citizen input.

None

Help to keep real estate taxes down.

Approval of boat launch site.

Minimum 10 acre lot size zoning.

Reduce overzealous use of signing.

Development pressures due to sewer and availability of land.

I would like to see a strong policy that views growth in a way that discourages subdivisions and town houses and promotes (or in reality allows for) residential expansion on larger lots or acreages if the sewer goes through.

A senior apartment or living home for citizens of the community to move to.

More community input.

North Shore school.

We really need a gas station/convenience store in the area.

Get rid of township police.

Hook up to WLSSD.

Get rid of present supervisors.

Go to a 5 member Town Board.

Comprehensive zoning.

I would like a whole new Town Board made up of people who listen to the voters.

Town office needs more hours.

Properly trained township officials.

Upgrade the fire department to class 10 rating.

Discontinue peace officers.

Zone to maintain the rural quality of the inland portion of our township.

Zone to protect the quality of our streams, watersheds and Lake Superior.

Be very cautious about allowing variances to septic system setbacks from streams.

Maybe a couple of get-togethers at the Town Hall--pot luck/dance type events so folks can get to know one another.

More involvement (including myself) to help out work committees.

I would like proposals for change and development to be seriously considered as to impact on the "feel" of the country and how those changes may impact the environment.

Septic/sewer system reform that works and is long term.

More funding for constables. More patrol times are needed.

Safe harbors; either at McQuade or at very least update "bluebird" landing.

More funding for Township roads.

Increased communication. The web page is a great start.

Post official information on the web in addition to the existing posting sites.

Revert back to ten acres for building sites.

Better maintenance of township roads.

Keep North Shore school (and our community center) without big increases in taxes.

Clean up some of the "junk yard" residences.

A town board that listens to the people. We have real concerns that affect us and you people sit on your throne and dictate what will or will not be done.

Have St Louis County grade, plow and maintain (gravel) the township roads. The current contractor is not with the program!

The county will save us money in the long run. They have the equipment; good gravel and can get the job done.

Convenience/general store/gas station with a neighborhood friendly design, strategically located.
That the new land use plan be sustainable, environmentally, socially and economically for current and future residents.
Property taxes must remain affordable.
Must not be wholesale development along the expressway, ridgeline and scenic highway.

Like most people, I live here because I like it the way it is and don't want to see any dramatic changes.
Some controlled, light commercial development--a convenience store, particularly--would be welcome.

Keep the lakeshore clear of (new) buildings.
Do not reduce lot sizes or permit any condo's or townhouses on lake shore land.

Adopt a land use plan that achieves: clear planning of development on the shore side, maintenance of minimum lot sizes and provides for limited commercial expansion.
We must work harder to build programs to connect community members through school projects, recreation opportunities, etc. and to foster communication on upcoming issues.

Put Township officials' phone numbers in the newsletter for convenience.

Relax the zoning regulations.

Comprehensive land use study to precede sewer line development.
Expand recycling program (Two Harbors is better).
Upgrade the Fire Department to help keep area safer and property taxes lower.
Five person Board that's more responsive to the community.
No more floods!
Paint the Town Hall using professionals who use good paint.
Get a garbage building and get the garbage out of the Township Hall, it smells!
Continuing to maintain the 5-acre building restriction.
Some new people involved with the Board and Township positions.
Would like to see taxes go down. Almost too cost prohibitive to live here already (most important).
Would like to see North Shore Elementary kept open or at least utilized.
I would hope the rural atmosphere continues. I have fears about that due to the sewer project. I don't want more development!
The roads upgraded.
I would like to see the McQuade Harbor project stopped.
That area would be a nice welcome/info center without spending millions of taxpayers money.
Boaters should know to watch the weather and get off the lake before storms come. Knife River is a sufficient safe harbor.
Better road repairs.
Proper road signs up and where they belong.
Better governance.