



Duluth Township Newsletter

May 2002

www.duluthtownship.org

At the annual Township election a record 568 residents voted and incumbents Bruce Aho, George Sundstrom, and Corlis West were elected. The Annual Township Meeting was chaired by Phil Strom and, after discussion, the proposed budget for 2003 was adopted. Copies are available in the Town Hall. As is our practice, the Town Meeting was closed (not adjourned) so that it can be continued, if necessary, on August 8th. This Newsletter also contains a list of 89 businesses in the Township and an update on our North Shore Community School.

Thanks to contributors to this issue: **Helen Hendrickson, Rich Sill, Todd Lindahl, Shawn Padden, Jerry Simmons, Janice Hooey, Sherry Rovig, Ann Cox, Mary Ann Sironen, to Ellen O'Neill** for her contribution to last month's newsletter, and **Diane Desotele** for land use maps. A special thanks goes to student/resident **Stephanie Libby** for this month's masthead! Call the editor (525-5705 or home 525-0103) if you could volunteer to do the July Newsletter masthead!

A Special Township Thanks To:

© Township Election Judges who helped with a long election day in March: **Cathy Beck, Ann Cox, Julie Fogarty, Avis Jackson, Barb Jackson, Jeanette Jackson, Janet Johansen, Carolyn Marino and Mary Ann Sironen.**

© Planning Commission members **Regina Bourgeois** and **John Bowen** who completed 6 years of service.

© Volunteers **Dorothy Blomquist** for help staffing our North Recycle shed, and **Bill Aho** for help clearing snow around the Town Hall parking lot and recycle shed.

© Thanks to **Sherry Rovig, Jody Anderson** and **Ann Cox** for starting a Fire Department Auxiliary.

The Homesteaders
Helen Hendrickson, 525-4154

The Homesteader's will meet Wednesday, **May 1st at 12:30 at the Duluth Town Hall** on Homestead Road. Everyone is welcome.

June 5th at 12:30pm will feature an ARDC speaker.

July 3rd, 12:30pm is the time of the annual Homesteader picnic at the Town Hall.

First Annual Spring Rummage Sale
Saturday, May 4th 8-3pm

North Shore Elementary School Gym
Lunch will be available.

Profits go to benefit the Girl Scouts and the North Shore Elementary Endowment Fund.

AAL Branch 10264 will match funds raised.

For Information, contact Michele Libby at 525-5032

Township Police Report

Shawn Patton, Chief

There were 197 police events during the first quarter of 2002, approximately 2.2 per day. We are well on our way

Call Category	Year 2000	Year 2001	1st Qtr 2002
Medical emergency	31	31	5
Death	2	0	1
Fire alarm	18	15	5
Personal injury	11	4	2
Assault/disputes/threats	22	19	6
Arrests	7	8	0
Traffic violations	152	105	13
Other violations	0	2	0
Drug incidents	0	1	2
Property damage/theft/burglary	85	67	11
Disturbances/harassment	50	68	7
Assistance provided	59	46	16
Requested checking/patrol	677	244	114
Permits (handgun, explosives)	16	20	7
Information requests	11	9	0
In-service training/classes	6	4	0
Other (Unknown trouble)	23	11	8
Totals	1170	654	197

to a busier year. The table above groups a long list of different calls into 17 categories. These are listed from the more serious, immediate calls in the Township, down to those more routine requests for assistance that can be scheduled, at least to some extent. Some calls require considerable time during the event and in required documentation. Data for 2000 and 2001 are provided for comparison. The Township arranges for part-time

continued on page 2

Mailed to 790 Duluth Township families. Extra copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to volunteer newsletter editor Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or in the **NewsBox** on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

policing of 160 hours per month by officers who know the Township and live in the area. Note that events for 2000 included an unusual number of resident-requested checks on their home while they were away.

Be alert to the increased bike and pedestrian traffic on all Township roads especially North Shore Scenic road.

Annual Township Election and Town Meeting

A record 568 people voted in the March 12th election and the 3 uncontested incumbents were overwhelmingly supported: Bruce Aho (419 votes), George Sundstrom (465) and Corlis West (456). The Township vote for the school referendum was 280 yes and 288 no.

A good crowd of residents participated in the Annual Town Meeting. Phil Strom was selected to preside. The Wells Fargo was continued as our bank of deposit, the Duluth News Tribune was continued as our newspaper for official publications. The official posting places continue to be the Town Hall, Fire Hall #1 on Ryan Road, North Shore Community School, Scenic Café and the South Recycling Center. The Town Budget for 2003 was presented, discussed and approved (see the March Newsletter or the Town Hall). The 2003 budget was approved for \$251,426.30. If needed, this year's Annual Meeting may be reconvened August 8th, 2002 at 7:30pm.

Summary of Town Board Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

Jan 10th meeting. Present: Supervisors Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, Corlis West, clerk Ann Cox.

The Fire Department reported that a committee had been formed to discuss issues related to volunteering. A letter from Alden Township regarding fire coverage was discussed. Town Hall painting, construction of the office wall for security, and duct cleaning bids are being pursued. Tim Strom, Township Attorney, presented a draft agreement for the transfer of the North Shore Elementary School property to the Township for review. Election judges were accepted. A charge for extended hours for the District #381 referendum was discussed.

Feb 14th meeting. Present: Supervisors Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, Corlis West, and clerk Ann Cox. Phil Strom made a presentation concerning the School District 381 referendum. The meeting was briefly closed for the scheduled police economic opener. Guests Winson and McShane from Duluth spoke on the Congdon Trust property. Issues related to camping, policing, trash, clear cutting, and commercial fishing were discussed. There will be a later meeting to deal with some of these issues. The treasurer reported deposits of \$1944.46, expenses of \$7852.57 for a balance of \$151,752.07 for the past month.

A MN Peace Officers Standards and Training letter was read and the Board adopted resolution #21402. There were 3 fires and 2 medical emergencies last month. Fire and first responder refreshers will occur in April. The contract to provide Alden Township with fire coverage was discussed. A March 7th special meeting was scheduled.

Mar 7th special meeting. The purpose of this special meeting was to pay bills and to consider the transfer of ownership of the school from District 381 to the Township.

After discussion, a motion to enter into an agreement with District 381 to acquire the North Shore School property was passed and the chair and clerk were authorized to sign for the Township. Supervisors Dahl and Aho will handle lease issues. Sundstrom will not participate since he also serves on the new North Shore Community (charter) School Interim Board.

April 11th reorganization meeting. Present were Supervisors Jeff Cook, Steve Dahl, George Sundstrom, Corlis West, clerk Ann Cox. After Sundstrom and West took the oath of office, Sundstrom was elected chair. Other supervisor duties will remain as they were. Audit and financial reporting forms were approved. Minnesota Power inquired about cutting trees on a Greenwood Road easement in order to install underground wires. The Board approved if it is agreeable to neighbors. The Township will seek bids for cemetery care. Other reports were heard. There were 34 police events last month, 2 medical calls and 1 brush fire false alarm. Our police can now ticket for violations on the Congdon Trust. There are 7 prospective volunteers including 4 firepersons. An Alden fire protection agreement was discussed. The Planning Commission reported that 4 applicants were interviewed for the open position and Cindy Hale was forwarded as their recommendation. A petition supporting Bill Cox was presented. No action was taken. Mary Cooley applied to St Louis County for an off-sale liquor license. The Board indicated they had no objection. Bids for the office wall and Town Hall painting were discussed. A motion was made to thank the team of election judges (see page 1).

Summary of Planning Commission Meetings

(Official minutes are available at the Town Hall)

Permits approved: 52 in 1999; 61 in 2000; 65 in 2001.

Jan 24th meeting. Present were chair Regina Bourgeois, John Bowen, Dave Edblom, Sue Lawson, secretary Caroline Marino and administrator Wayne Dahlberg plus a small audience. The commission discussed the former Eagle Ministries property where a prospective owner was interested in a home upstairs and a small business downstairs. It is zoned commercial and although it has a non-conforming lot and structure it was felt that no hearing is required for the proposed use. An issue was raised about the need for a conditional use permit for having 5-6 horses in the W2b zone district. Finally, the need for an added Steering Committee meeting prior to the Feb 21st second public meeting was discussed. Resident Ellen O'Neill offered to facilitate a Jan 31st meeting to avoid having to pay Biko Associates for an added Steering Committee meeting. A notice will be placed in the *Newsletter* for applicants for one open Planning Commission position. The deadline for applications is March 15th.

Feb 28th meeting. Present were chair Regina Bourgeois, John Bowen, Dave Edblom, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, secretary Caroline Marino and administrator Wayne Dahlberg plus a large audience. The request for a hearing on a commercial storage facility was withdrawn. Brian Ross (Biko) will conduct a half-day workshop on density for the Steering Committee on April 27th. There was an update on the sewer project and Ellen O'Neill will

(continued from page 2)

write up a fact sheet on the planning process. *Plaques of appreciation for 6 years service on the Planning Commission were presented to Regina Bourgeois and John Bowen after completing their terms serving our community.* Adam Hendrickson fills one position and the other position will be filled after interviews in March.

Mar 28th reorganization meeting. Present David Edblom, Toni Fladmark, Wendy Gustofson, Adam Hendrickson, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, secretary Caroline Marino and administrator Wayne Dahlberg. Sue Lawson was elected chair, Wendy Gustofson as assistant chair, and Janet McTavish for the Board of Review. There was a public hearing on the French River Lutheran Church request for a side yard variance for their planned addition. It was approved with water and landscape arrangements acceptable to the neighbors.

Interviews were held with four applicants for the open Planning Commission position: Bill Cox, Cindy Hale, Chuck Sjodin, and David Sundberg. The vote was to recommend Cindy Hale to the Town Board for the 3-year term. The Commission expressed appreciation to all applicants for their interest.

The Steering Committee process was discussed and it was decided that some Planning Commission members would meet with the consultants April 8th to discuss plans and procedures.

Next Planning Commission meetings: (4th Thursday) May 23rd and June 27th at 7:30pm, Town Hall.

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District

Mary Ann Sironen, D/NSSD Secretary

A large number of property owners of the D/NSSD gathered at the Lakeview Castle at 7pm Thursday, April 25 for a Public Hearing on the sewer project that is being undertaken along the North Shore. Nelson Thomas, Board chair, gave an overview of the purpose and methodology of the assessment process that will be used to finance construction and operation.

Mel Olson, project engineer from *Ayres & Associates*, reviewed the scope of the project and gave an update on the construction schedule. **Bids for construction have been opened** and the contract will be awarded at the regular meeting of the D/NSSD Board on Tuesday May 7, 2002 at 7 a.m. at French River Lutheran Church.

Scott Harder, financial advisor to the Board, distributed a handout describing the special assessment estimates and a "residential equivalent unit schedule" that will be used as a base to determine the rates for commercial customers. At the present time, construction costs are estimated at \$12.4 million with engineering oversight at \$880,000 and easement work at \$300,000 bringing the total cost of the project to \$13.58 million.

A Wastewater Infrastructure Grant from the State of MN for \$6 million and an Army Corps of Engineers grant of \$500,000 has been obtained bringing the cost to be financed by the district to \$7.08 million. Ongoing negotiations with the Knife River-Larsmont Sanitary District could further reduce the total cost. Funds to cover the rest of the construction cost will come from a 20-year loan at 2.5% interest from the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA).

(continued on page 4)

Township Calendar

See updates on www.duluthtownship.org.

- May 1, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader's meeting TownHall
May 1, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
May 2, Thu, *North Shore Spring Celebration*, NSE
May 7, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
May 9, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
May 15, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** work night
May 16, Thu, 6:30 Comprehensive Land Use Planning **Steering Committee** working meeting, Town Hall
May 18, Sat, 9am on, Township **cemetery clean-up day.** *Come and help get it ready for Memorial day!*
May 19, Sun, 4:30pm, North Shore Community Association, membership social, Lakeview Castle.
May 21, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
May 22, Wed, 6:30pm **Steering Committee** working meeting, Town Hall
May 23, Thu, 6:30pm **Fire Auxiliary** meeting, Town Hall
May 23, Thu, Variety Show, North Shore School
May 23, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
May 27, Mon, 11am, **Memorial Day Ceremony**, at the Town Cemetery by the Veteran's memorial.
May 30, Thu, North Shore School Band Program, NSE
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June 4, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
June 5, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader's meeting TownHall
June 5, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road.
June 6, Thu, 6:30pm **Open House for the Public.** The Steering Committee will release the of **1st draft of the Land Use Planning** document. Town Hall. Residents are invited to provide written comments on the draft. Send comments to the Town Hall by Mon. June 17th.
June 7, Last day of school, NSE
June 13, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
June 15, Sat. Approximate date the North Shore School property is transferred to the Township.
June 18, Tue, 6:30pm at NSE School, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting.
June 19, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** work night
June 20, Thu, 6:30 **Steering Committee** working meeting to finalize the Land Use Plan.
June 23, **Deadline** for news for the July *Newsletter*
June 27, Thu, 6:30pm **Fire Auxiliary** meeting, Town Hall
June 27, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
The final Land Use Plan will be released.
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July 2, Tue, 7-9am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
July 3, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader's meeting TownHall
July 3, Wed, 7:00pm **Volunteer Fire Dept** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
July 11, Thu, 7:30pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
July 25, Thu, 6:30pm, **Fire Auxiliary** meeting, Town Hall
July 25, Thu, 7:30pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

(DNSSD continued from page 3)

The annual assessment to the 450 property owners for PFA debt retirement is estimated at \$825 per year. When properties hook up to the sewer, an additional monthly fee of \$35/month for operation and maintenance will be billed to each property to be paid like any other utility. A third cost to property owners will occur as individual properties need to be upgraded in order to hook up to the sewer. Depending on the condition of each property, these costs could include an upgrade of electrical service to run the grinder pumps and/or other improvements in plumbing and basement drains. An inspection of each property will be done and further information regarding individual cases will be given at that time. The District will own the lines and the grinder pumps for each property but the connecting line from the pump into the building and its electrical service is the responsibility of the owner since public funds cannot be used for improvements on private property.

After this information was given, the Board heard questions and comments from the audience. Maps of the project have been made available at meetings in the community for the last year or so but can be reviewed at the Ayres office at 2711 West Superior Street (27th avenue west) in Duluth. Bids have been made on the current drawings so any changes at this point could impact the cost of the project.

Community Development Block Grant funds of \$150,000 have been obtained for low income residents in the City of Duluth portion of the project. A survey for eligibility for assessment abatement in the St. Louis County part of the District will be done this spring and financial assistance for individuals is expected.

Commercial customers will be sent letters in the near future inviting them to meet with the Rates & Charges committee of the Board to work through the rate structure for their individual businesses. Property owners are invited to bring additional comments and concerns to any Board member or any of the regular meetings of the Board. Minutes of all meetings and related information will be updated and kept current on the D/NSSD website – www.dnssd.org. The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

Regular Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 7am in the French River Lutheran Church. The public is always welcome.



North Shore Community School News

www.northshorecommunityschool.org

In this *Newsletter* you will find a page of NSCS news. For information call Phil Strom (chair) at 525-6200, or Leo Babeu at 834-2247. Meetings are open to the public and held the 3d Tuesday at 6:30pm in the North Shore School.

The Duluth Red Lake Falls & Northern

Todd Lindahl

Duluth Township might have been a very different place today if the DRLF&N had ever become a reality. This new railroad was just in the planning stage in June 1891 when it created a stir on the north shore. The plan called for a railroad terminus and community at the mouth of the Sucker River, which was to be named "Sucker Bay." A breakwater would extend out into the lake to protect harbor and loading facilities. The mainline track would run northwesterly and eventually reach the Mesabi Range mines. By mid-summer 1891 a surveyor by the name of Jonte and a crew of four men were running the preliminary survey line for the new railroad.

As far as the Duluth & Iron Range Railway was concerned, having another ore hauling railroad in the neighborhood was totally intolerable. They countered by creating their own new railroad based out of Marble siding west of Two Harbors. Their new railroad would be called the "*Mesabi Short Line Railroad*" and would parallel the line of the DRLF&N all the way to the Mesabi Range. D&IR survey crews immediately took to the field laying out the preliminary survey line. Back in 1886 the H. H. Porter group had used the threat of a competing railroad to force Charlemagne Tower into selling the D&IR to them. The strategy worked then, and it worked again now. The DRLF&N "dropped dead in its tracks" and along with it the community of Sucker Bay. The Mesabi Short Line was never built either. The D&IR did build to the Mesabi Range, but that line was from Allen Junction near present day Hoyt Lakes west. One can only wonder what might have been.

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Jerry Simmons, Fire Chief

The Fire Department has **four new members**, **Karl Leckinger** (Culbertson), **Andy Aug** (Homestead), **Neal Myrdal** (App), **Keith Darsow** (Wildwood). **Ann Cox** noted that we also have three new Auxiliary members, **Sherri Rovig**, **Barb Crow**, and **Jody Anderson**. Welcome and *thank you* from our Township (see the *Newsletter* article on the Auxiliary by Sherri Rovig).

This is fire season. **Burning permits** are required and can be gotten from the Town Hall during business hours.

Volunteer Fire Department/First Responder Auxiliary is being formed

Sherri Rovig

Many of us have planted seeds in pots in recent weeks -- our thirsty eyes eager to see the first green shoots and imagine the coming season's gardens. The seeds of a *Volunteer Fire Department/First Responder Auxiliary* have also been planted and are coming to light. A few residents, along with members of the current department, have begun exploring potential goals, actions, and resources that are needed to bring the auxiliary to fruition. As you might imagine, the task of starting a new project when resources are already strained requires creative thinking...and some *new resources* (also known as

(continued on page 6)



NSCS Board forges ahead for Fall opening

The Interim North Shore Community School Board and Board committee members are continuing to forge ahead in preparing North Shore Community School (NSCS) for a successful fall opening.

The personnel committee has crafted job descriptions and expectations for each of the school staff positions. A significant number of the current North Shore Elementary School teachers and aides have indicated an interest in continuing with NSCS.

By next year, the NSCS Board will be comprised of 50 percent staff and 50 percent parents. All staff are being made aware that with the privilege of self-governance that will come with the NSCS jobs comes a tremendous added responsibility. Current board members are convinced that the ultimate outcome will be academic excellence and broad parental and community participation.

The curriculum committee is working to strengthen and enrich the learning programs that will be used. The Board will

be hiring a half-time Curriculum Director to work with NSCS staff to further develop the integration of environmental learning and local history into all of the traditional academic subjects. The NSCS partnership with Wolf Ridge ELC affords the school resources and protocols that will strengthen school programs.

The buildings and grounds committee has been finalizing the lease between NSCS and Duluth Township that will define the financial and operational relationship between the two organizations. This agreement will formalize all matters relating to insurance, janitorial and maintenance, security and access, and capital expenditures. It is intended that the facilities will be available as a Community Center in addition to its primary use as the NSCS.

The success of the District #381 referendum has had a positive impact on NSCS Board's relationship with the District. There is a new and renewed sense of partnership as the Board progress toward the opening of our school. The new school in Two Harbors will help to insure that

NSCS students' positive educational experience will proceed beyond the sixth grade.

Community support for NSCS has been impressive. A recent example relates to the plan for a sign in front of the school. It's a beautiful concept, incorporating natural elements from our region; Lake Superior stone, and cedar logs. Ken Johnston, one of the premier stone mason contractors in our area, has graciously taken on the job of doing the stone work. Brooks Minde, who builds beautiful log homes throughout Minnesota, has agreed to furnish the cedar logs. The Board extends heart-felt thanks to both of these good citizens and to the many others who have contributed to the successful school launch. With the kind of enthusiastic support that has been seen and felt from across the community, NSCS promises to be an excitingly successful Community School.

- Phil Strom, NSCS Board Chair

NSCS student enrollment grows, surpasses goals

Student enrollment at North Shore Community School for the 2002-2003 school year has surpassed the Board's projections as enrollment forms continue to be processed.

As of this newsletter deadline, enrollment forms for 174 children have been returned. An additional 25 students have applied and been confirmed for openings, but have yet to be officially enrolled. All confirmed families have been contacted and asked to return their enrollment forms by May 1.

Interested parents who wish to apply to North Shore Community School are encouraged to apply as soon as possible for children in any grade for the 2002-2003 school year. If all current applicants do formally enroll, the fifth grade would be at

capacity, although, applications are still being accepted as families' situations can change, creating openings for additional students.

Applications received for a grade which is filled will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which form(s) are received.

For information on the enrollment status of any grade, contact Julie Igo at 525-1123.

For a copy of the North Shore Community School student information packets and application forms, call the North Shore Community School information line at 525-0663. Please leave your name, address, phone number, and number of application forms needed.

- Leo Babeu

“volunteers”). We hope to encourage residents to join us to make the Auxiliary both effective and enjoyable.

Some major concerns and questions that pop up are:

- **“What kind of time commitment would it involve?”**
This is dependent on what a person wants and is able to do. The more volunteers available, the better. We are planning on meeting once a month.
- **“Is it dangerous?”** While there are some hazards inherent in emergency situations, auxiliary volunteers won’t do the actual fire fighting or medical care. That would require another level of training and commitment.
- **“Why don’t our taxes cover the funding needs?”**
Our taxes help cover the approved budget for the Dept. It does not cover additional funds to train new personnel, acquire more efficient equipment, or other improvements. The Volunteer Fire Dept. and First Responders provide a great service to our community, as well as contribute to lower rates on our homeowner’s insurance. Fiscal responsibility and community preference (as voted at Township meetings) dictate a conservative budget for the Dept. Fortunately, we can aspire to an even better emergency response system in our township (and help sustain what we have) if we are creative and access other resources.
- **“If I don’t like certain duties, can I choose others?”** Sure, the list of possible ways to contribute is long and flexible. Everyone has individual strengths and preferences. What do you want to do?
- **“What are the duties?”** One of the great things about an auxiliary, is the wide variety of ways that volunteers can contribute. Some of the needs include:
Organize fund raising activities (i.e. spaghetti supper, dance, concert, fish fry); Bring food and drinks to emergency personnel; Go to emergency site and park at end of drive or road with flashers to signal location to others; Take air tanks back to fire station for refilling; Help replace/connect air tanks for firefighters; Help carry/stabilize gurney for first responders; Help gather medications/information for first responders; Research and apply for grants for equipment, etc.; Help clean fire halls; Help with paperwork; Refill tankers for fires (learn locations and techniques); Help with traffic control at emergency site; Help organize training; Inventory and help organize medical and fire fighting equipment.
- **“How will we be trained?”** Some of the training opportunities will be determined at our monthly meetings. The Fire Dept. and First Responders have also agreed to mentoring individuals for specific tasks.
- **“Can I go from Auxiliary to being a fire fighter or first responder?”** One of the potential benefits of an Auxiliary is that it can enable a person to gain exposure to fire fighting and first responder activities and a realistic understanding of the duties. This should help people decide if they are truly interested in those roles and ready for the Department to commit funds for training and equipment.
- **“Will I be required to go to all emergency calls?”**
No, the degree of involvement should reflect your own comfort level. Even if you don’t want to go to any emergency calls, there are many other ways to contribute.
- **“Do I have to use a pager?”** No, pager use will need to be limited to volunteers who wish to assist on emergency calls. There may not be enough pagers available for all who want to go to emergencies.
Phones are another way that volunteers can be contacted. We may wish to set up a “buddy system” for phone contact.

If you are interested in learning more about the Auxiliary or have questions, we will be **meeting at the Town Hall**

on the 4th Thursday of the month at 6:30pm. If you can’t make the meeting(s) and have questions or something you wish to contribute, please call one of the following: *Sherry Rovig 525-0489, Jody Anderson 525-4971, or Ann Cox at the Town Hall 525-5705.*

Update on our Land Use Planning Process

Duluth Township has been working hard to update its 1976 Land Use Plan and corresponding Zoning Ordinance. The *Planning and Zoning Commission* started the process several years ago. With the help of resident Ellen O’Neill a grant was applied for and subsequently awarded to hire professional consultants. The Town Board approved the matching funds and a contract for the services of Biko Associates and Desotelle Consulting was approved. They were the consultants who were also working with the *Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District* (DNSSD) on the sewer project that runs through the Township along the shore.

There were several reasons why our planning is timely: the sewer project was underway, we were part of a free information/education assessment of water quality, our old plan needed to be brought into alignment with the St Louis County zoning, and change over the last 25 years suggested a need to revisit citizen preferences for our Township.

Starting last spring, notices were posted in the *Newsletter* and elsewhere, encouraging residents to volunteer to serve on a citizens *Land Use Plan Steering Committee*. There was great interest in making it a broad-based committee that represented all segments of the Township. Letters were also sent to a large number of residents thought to represent various viewpoints and groups in the community, asking that they serve on the *Steering Committee*. Some 50 residents attended the first meeting as the official Steering Committee and agreed to meet regularly and work toward a Comprehensive Land Use Plan for the Township. Since then Steering Committee working meetings have had 20-30 members present. Meetings are announced in the *Newsletter* and elsewhere and Steering Committee members receive agenda/information packets and phone/postcard reminders. Steering Committee meetings are open to residents.

The Steering Committee first agreed on how they would proceed and how they would come to consensus on the plan. These ground rules were published in the September 2001 Newsletter (see the web site).

The Steering Committee has had 10 meetings starting June 28th, 2001. Two public information meetings have been held (Sept 20 and Feb 21) to provide information and get broader input from interested residents. A large number of residents have attended and made comments. Drafts of two main documents have been distributed. One is a descriptive community background and analysis and the other is a document capturing our collective vision of what we would like our Township to be in 20 years and policies we would like to follow.

The latest Steering Committee meeting on April 18th including a large number of residents plus the Steering Committee came to consensus on the *Vision and Policy* document. On April 27th there was an announced, general

meeting at which information about density issues and possibilities along the shore was discussed.

What's Next? The Steering Committee has planned two working meetings to consider strategies for achieving our visions and policies (**May 16 and 22**). On **May 23rd** the Planning Commission has its regular meeting. Then a first draft of the Land Use Plan will be released at a public information meeting **June 6th**. Written comments on the plan will be requested by **June 17th** after which the Steering Committee will go over the plan and comments on **June 20th**. The Planning and Zoning Commission will release a final draft of the Land Use Plan on **June 27th** prior to its presentation to the Town Board at a meeting to be arranged sometime this summer. Once the Board adopts that document, specific zoning ordinances need to be developed and submitted for comment and approval, which will probably take several months.

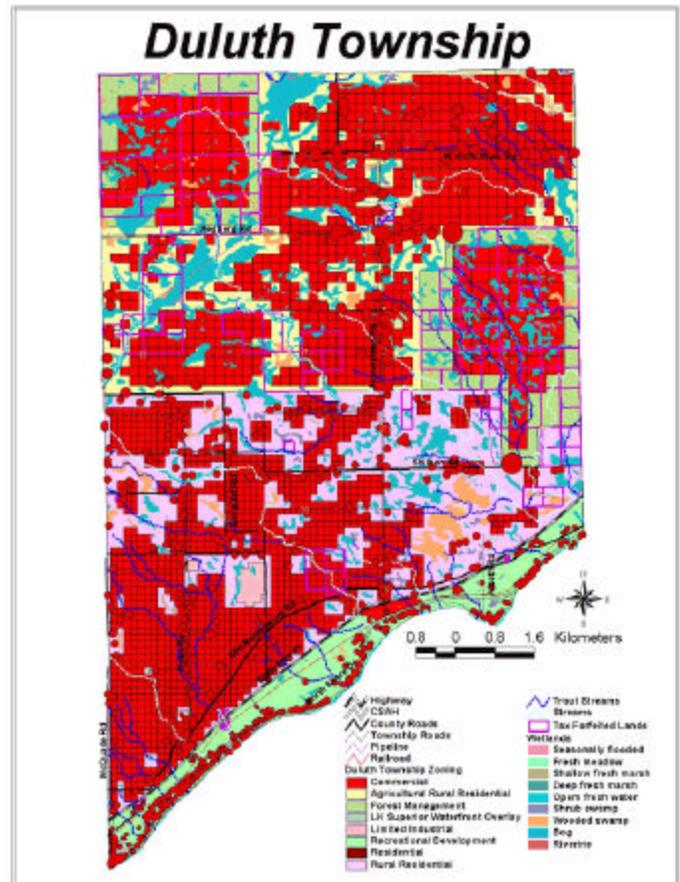
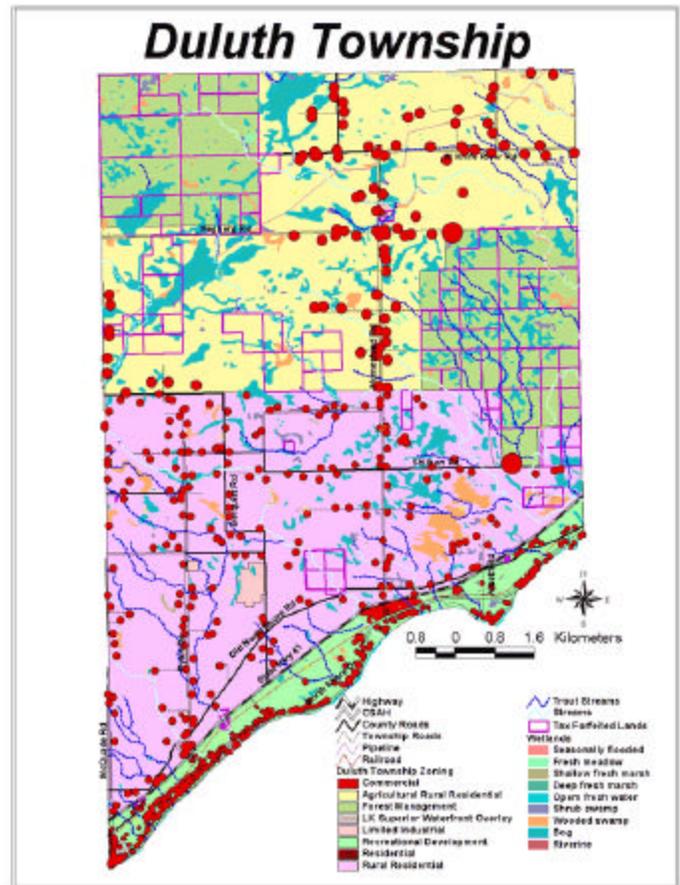
The consultants provided the following maps (these are in color on the web site and can be seen in the Town Hall). The map at the top shows our current buildings (circles represent places that have buildings). The map at the bottom shows (approximately) how the current zoning ordinance would permit building development. In various polling and responses, residents have said they like the Township to remain "rural", more or less the way it is. One question the Steering Committee is dealing with is whether people mean the way it is on the ground now (top map) or the way the current zoning ordinance would permit it to be (bottom map).

The Steering Committee urges you to keep informed and involved. You are welcome to attend working meetings of the Steering Committee, provide your comments to Steering Committee members, submit written comments to the various draft plans, and attend the public meetings that are called along the way. The Township web site will contain the main documents (www.duluthtownship.org) and these will be available in the Town Hall.

Many thanks to those who have devoted so many hours and have been involved in this important Township planning effort.

Talk to your neighbors who volunteered and serve on the Steering Committee: Bruce Aho, Regina Bourgeois, Jim Bourgeois, John Bowen, Prudy Cameron, Jeff Cook, Stephen Dahl, Wayne Dahlberg, Bruce Duncan, Dan Dunphy, Kevin Eckholm, Dave Edblom, Toni Fladmark, Rod Garver, Jan Green, Wendy Gustafson, Cindy Hale, Adam Hendrickson, Peter Hendrickson, John Kessler, Sue Lawson, Caroline Marino, Jan McTavish, Don McTavish, Kathy McTavish, Dave Miller, Ellen O'Neill, Jim Sage, Mary Ann Sironen, Ed Stielstra, Babs Strom, George Sundstrom, Corlis West.

To contact someone about the planning process, call:
Wayne Dahlberg, our Zoning Administrator, **728-4293**, 6022 Bergquist Road, Duluth, MN 55804, or
Dianne Desotelle, *Project Manager*, Desotelle Consulting **728-1228**, PO 3220 Duluth, MN 55803, or
Jean Coleman, Biko Associates, Inc. **612-588-4904** 2634 Vincent Avenue North, Minneapolis, MN 55411.



DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

M A Y 2 0 0 2

Inside this Issue:

- Township **Calendar**
- Town Board meetings
- Planning Commission meetings
- Report on Annual Town Meeting
- Community School news
- Land Use Plan Steering Committee
- New Fire Auxiliary group formed
- *Duluth Red Lake Falls & Northern*
- **Township Business List**
- Update on Land Use Planning

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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If your name and address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (News box on the Town Hall porch). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

Duluth Township Information for 2002

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. 12:30-3:30
Thursday 9:00-12:00 and 4:30-7:30

Supervisors:

- Bruce Aho** 525-4033 or email:
BruceAho@duluthtownship.org (Roads)
- Jeff Cook** 525-4010 or email:
JeffCook@duluthtownship.org (Outside meetings)
- Stephen Dahl** 525-4679 or email:
SteveDahl@duluthtownship.org (Town hall,
police, zoning)
- George Sundstrom** 525-5655 or email:
GeorgeSundstrom@duluthtownship.org (Chair,
cemetery, outside meetings)
- Corlis West** 525-7719 or email:
CorlisWest@duluthtownship.org (Fire Dept,
outside meetings)

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

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

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

Cemetery: **Denise Connolly** 525-7161

Planning and Zoning Administrator: **Wayne Dahlberg**
728-4293 (office) or email:

WayneDahlberg@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Secretary: **Carolyn Marino**
email: CarolynMarino@duluthtownship.org

Planning and Zoning Committee: **David Edblom,**
Toni Fladmark, Wendy Gustafson, Sue Lawson
(chair), **Janet McTavish, and a vacancy being filled.**
email: PlanningZoning@duluthtownship.org

Peace Officers: **Chief Shawn Padden**
Officer Paul Johnson
email: PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org

Fire Department: **Chief Jerry Simmons**
Assistant Chief Bill Cox
email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

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

Township Recycling Centers

- North site** – Town Hall, **Bob Abrahamson** will staff the center Tuesday 2-6pm and Saturday 8-12noon.
- South site** – McQuade & Scenic Hwy, **Caroline Marino** staffs the center Tues 7:00-11:00, Thurs 3:00-7:00, and Sat 8:00-noon (phone: 525-4592).