



Old 'Fossils' along Scenic 61, a Jim Munger photo



Wintertime Horses, by Jim Munger

Be sure to
VOTE
March 10th

Duluth Township Newsletter

Duluth Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org March 2009

What's Coming Up...

Vote for one Township Supervisor

Tues. March 10th, Polls open at 7am and close at 8pm in our Town Hall on Homestead Rd. This is a Township election to fill one Supervisor position. (see article)
BE SURE TO VOTE!

Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during office hours and also Saturday morning, March 7th from 10-12.

Annual Town Meeting

Tues. March 10th at 8:15pm.

Our Town meeting approves the 2010 Town budget and deals with other Town business. It's grass roots democracy! *However, please don't enter the Town Hall until 8:15pm because polls stay open until 8pm, then election materials need to be put away and chairs set up for our Annual Meeting.*

Planning Commission vacancy (see article)

The NSCS Valentine Ski Fundraiser

The stars were bright, the trail was fast, the food was great and the fire was warm...Thanks to all who supported the NSCS Endowment Fund Valentine Ski. Special thanks to our sponsors, **The New Scenic Café** and **Korkki Nordic**.

Winners in the raffle were Lauren Weckman and Liz Holliday. A good time was had by all!

Thanks to all contributors to this issue:

Dave Chura, Jeff Cook, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Mary Garmer, Helen Hendrickson, Janis Hooey, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Janet McTavish, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Alvera Pierson, Thomas Roi, Sherry Rovig, Mary Ann Sironen and our Webmaster, Linda Holliday. Thanks to Jim Munger for sharing his photographs in this issue.

'Bonus Point'

Alvera Pierson

Everyone in our Township knows where *Stoney Point* is, but do you know where *Bonus Point* is?

Bonus Point juts out into Lake Superior, and makes up the west side of the Bay of Big Sucker and Little Sucker Rivers as they flow into the lake.

This is how it got its name. Our father,

Alphonse Anderson, was born in Larsmo, Finland in 1895, and immigrated to the U.S. and the North Shore when he was 16, becoming a commercial fisherman. When World War I started, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent two years fighting in the trenches in France under General Pershing. Upon discharge, he used his war bonus money to buy 10 acres of land on Lake Superior from Jack Croft.

He started building skiffs and a fish house and fished commercially. When the other local Scandinavian fishermen set their nets, they would use landmarks to locate them, and soon Dad's land became known as *Bonus Point*.

Kathy Wurzer in her newly published book, "*Tales of the Road, Highway 61*" interviewed my brother Alvin and me, and wrote of the early days of the highway and commercial fishing, mentioning our family land, Bonus Point. So this is the rest of the story that I wanted to preserve in our local history.



Gert & Alphonse Anderson taking smoked ciscoes from hooks. (From *The Landmarks*, no.31, February, 1988.)

North Shore Locavores

Sherry Rovig

The next meeting will be Sunday, March 22nd, (4th Sun.) at our Town Hall. For more information, see "Locavore" tab on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org, or call: Sherry at 525-0489 or Georganne at 525-4679.

Meetings are free and open to the public. An educational hour often precedes (3pm) a 4pm meeting with a pot luck meal at 5pm.

Topics: March "Tree Grafting", April "Soils", May (to be announced).
Bring a dish to share and join us at the Town Hall.

"Volunteering is the price for living in a good Township."

Ken Hendrickson



Open all week, 11am-8pm
and open Friday and Saturday until 9pm

Specials:
Wed: fish fry
Thurs: Cribbage 6:30-*bring a partner!*
Fri: Knife River Fish cakes
Sat. & Sun. Breakfast 11am-2pm
Sun. Turkey dinner
5730 Homestead Road • 525-4525

Paid Advertisement

The Homesteaders

Helen Hendrickson

March 4th, Wednesday, 12:30, Town Hall. Potluck lunch. Program: Ron Dicklich, County Auditor. This is Homesteader's Birthday!

April 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall. Marlene Wisuri presents "1955 Revisted". Coffee time follows.

May 6th, Wednesday, 12:30pm, Town Hall, Program to be announced.

Everybody is welcome.
For information call Helen Hendrickson at 525-4154.



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Boarding Kennels
Long & short term boarding
Reservations Required
218-525-4842
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Interested in Adult Recreational Volleyball? Plans are for a time starting in March or April at the Community Center. If interested, call resident Amy Burgerson or Wendy Meierhoff at 525-0263.



Robin Whaley
834-3310

Stay at Home
PET CARE SERVICES

Dependable pet care in your home.

Paid Advertisement



Classic dining served with Lake Superior moonlight

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RESTAURANT & BAR

Wine Shop, Catering & Fine Dining
5595 North Shore Drive - The Culinary Highway
218.525.2284 www.nokomisonthelake.com

Paid Advertisement

Live Well At Home Project

Mary Garmer

The Arrowhead Area Agency on Aging is conducting a survey of persons who are 60 years and older, live in the greater Duluth area, and are at risk of moving out of your home to access help. The survey is being conducted in this area by Parish Nurse (French River Lutheran) Mary Garmer. There is a short questionnaire that must be agreed to and permission will be sought to send your information on to the consultant nurse, who works for the project. The idea is to find people who could benefit by some assistance to remain in your own home. Those who are willing to participate will find Mary at the **next Homesteader's** meeting where they can indicate their interest in the project.

Our Thanks to Supervisor Jeff Cook

Jeff Cook is stepping down as Supervisor after many years of service to our Township. I asked Jeff to comment on some highpoints and he provided the following all too modest recollection.

"When I was first elected to the Town Board as a write-in 15 years ago, the Town roads were in deplorable shape. The whole road budget was spent on emergencies and some grading. Now they are in good shape, thanks to the town people agreeing to double the road budget. That was the first big hurdle for me and the Town Board at the time." (Jeff has served as the primary Supervisor managing our roads over the years.)

"The Community Center (school) was probably the most important asset that we needed to keep going in our Township. The school was, and I believe is, the heart and soul of our Township. I'm proud that I could play a part in keeping it here."

"The hardest and longest project was the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning upgrade. I was impressed with the community involvement. Our Storm Water Plan greatly benefited from the insight from that work." (Jeff has done the leg work and preparation of our extensive, State-required Stormwater Management Plan and follow-up reports.)

"Every Board member that I served with tried their hardest to do what they thought was best for the community. I think the present Board is highly motivated and very well rounded to handle anything that might come their way."

"Our biggest challenge in the coming years is to keep moving forward and not stagnate, for if we don't have growth we will see a dying community."

"Good luck to all and God bless." Jeff Cook

Our thanks to Jeff for his many years of fine service!

Supervisor Election — One candidate for Town Supervisor will be on the March 10th ballot. A candidate is asked to provide a statement about themselves and their interests and concerns for our Township readers. Statements are printed as provided.

Mary Ann Sironen
Candidate for Township Supervisor



Dear Townspeople,
My name is Mary Ann Sironen and I've filed for the open position on the Duluth Township Board of Supervisors. I'm a life-long resident of Duluth Township and live at the location known as *BlueBird Landing* on North Shore Drive. My wishes and goals for our

unique area are to preserve its culture and environment at the same time enhancing the tax base by supporting opportunities for well-planned growth. Because we are all affected by the cost of Township government that ends up on our taxes, I think that an important area of the Board's efforts will be in watching and controlling expenses as closely as possible.

I was an original member of the joint powers board that addressed the needs of sewerage along the shore areas of the Township and then served on the board of the *Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District* during its formative and construction phases. That experience and the lessons learned there, I believe, will serve the residents well as we move forward. I also served on the *Planning and Zoning Commission* for 6 years and presently sit on the *Lake Superior Coastal Council*. I've worked with the *North Shore Community School Endowment Fund Board* from its inception until the present. My membership in *French River Lutheran Church* as well as *The Homesteaders* is current and active.

My background is in clinical laboratory science and I retired from *SMDC* in 1998 after 23 years as a medical technologist, section supervisor and operations manager. Since then I've worked as a laboratory director for *SuperiorHealth Medical Group* and project manager for *FirstPlan/FirstSolutions Information Services*. Currently I'm on the faculty of *Lake Superior College* as an adjunct instructor in the medical laboratory program.

I encourage you to vote in the Township elections and hope that you'll put your confidence in me to represent you on the Town Board. I look forward to working with the present Board members and adding my skills to that mix to help Duluth Township remain a great place to live...and look for opportunities to make our life even better.

Thank you.

Comments from the Chair
Dave Mount, Town Board Chair

Hello again everyone. March means Township elections and the Annual Town Meeting. Please be sure to vote on March 10th — polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00pm. The Annual Town Meeting follows at 8:15pm.

One very significant milestone associated with this year's election is that **Jeff Cook**, our longest-serving Supervisor, is stepping down after 15 years on the Board. Jeff has done a great deal for our Township over his many years of service, and we all owe him our gratitude for his service. Jeff, thanks from all of us.

While I'm thanking people, I also want to thank the entire group of people that serve the Township in one way or another. In addition to paid staff, this includes a lot of people who donate their time, such as our firefighters, first responders and those who help with the news.

Another exciting development in the Township is the receipt of a \$23,000 grant from the Laura Jane Musser Fund's Rural Initiative (*see article below*).

Again, please vote on March 10th and plan to attend the Town Meeting that evening.

The Musser Grant
Dave Mount, Supervisor

The Town has been busy developing plans to improve the grounds at our Community Center (which houses our North Shore Community School). The Town received money from the DNR *Coastal Program* to fund the *UofM Center for Changing Landscapes (CCL)* to help develop plans for the future of the 40-acre grounds surrounding the building. The goal of that plan, completed late last year, is to address certain physical problems, such as drainage and runoff control, and to plan for the addition and improvement of facilities on the grounds, such as walking paths, athletic fields, the skating rinks, and the soon-to-be constructed outdoor classroom/picnic pavilion. Of course, undertaking such projects requires money, so the Town began writing proposals to obtain funding. We are pleased to report that the Town was successful in obtaining a \$23,000 grant from the Laura Jane Musser Fund, a charitable foundation which supports, among other things, grants to strengthen rural communities (*read more at <http://www.musserfund.org/>*). We are very grateful for their generosity in the current investment and economic environment.

The initial goals of the CCL plan is to improve drainage in the area surrounding the main building by a combination of re-grading and construction of a natural area to receive the runoff, and to prepare the landscape for a number of other enhancements funded by other sources including a grant from the Louisiana-Pacific Foundation obtained by our North Shore Community School. These improvements include an outdoor classroom/picnic pavilion, outdoor toilet facilities, a new basketball court and a new playground area for grades 4-6. Construction is planned for this summer; stay tuned for more details.

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 13th meeting. Four Supervisors attended. NSCS Director Susan Rose was introduced. NSCS hired Dan Schutte to manage the LP grant. Supervisor Dahl and Planning Administrator Lawson will serve as Town leads in coordinating grants for the Community Center.

John Bowen (our representative) and Scott Smith were approved to serve on the sewer board, D/NSSD.

Treasurer: \$103,190.04 deposits, \$103,305.61 expenses for a balance of \$770,984.39. Much of this is in CD's at several banks and, where the amount exceeds Federal insurance, a deposit guarantee bond covers our Township funds. As of Dec. 2008 our Community Center fund was about \$600,000.

Lake County Supervisor Derrick Goutermont attended to answer questions about their interest in creating an ambulance taxing district that would include homes in the eastern edge of our Township (just west of Homestead Road). Many questions and answers covered a range of topics. No action was taken. The extensive list of questions and answers is in the official minutes on our web site.

Departments: Planning: A facilitator was contacted to help with a meeting of Planning Commission and Odyssey personnel on their Stoney Point development interest. The Township will contract for an animal placement site to temporarily hold animals that our Police have to pick up.

November 25th special meeting. All Supervisors attended to review the Community Center site plan, grants for projects, and to coordinate efforts. The \$75,000 LP grant is for an outside pavilion and various playground facilities. The \$23,000 Musser grant will help with site preparation, trees and erosion control. Other grant ideas were discussed.

December 11th meeting. All Supervisors attended. Bob Rodda, our road maintenance person, asked that the road bids go out earlier to facilitate work. A resolution was approved to terminate the McQuade Public Access Joint Powers agreement now that the project is complete. Fire-arms concerns below the freeway were discussed. An open house to get public input is planned for Jan. 29th.

Departments: Fire: The new tanker is due in January (FEMA grant) and a \$7,000 DNR grant was received. The need for a third stall in fire hall #2 (Town Hall) to house a rescue rig was discussed. **Community Center:** Inspection fees (e.g. boiler, septic, fire extinguisher, generator) increased from \$300 to \$2,817. A motion to pay these from the Community Center fund was approved. **Planning:** Board of Adjustment upheld Planning on the Bieraugel appeal (a sub-standard lot on the shore with erosion and storm-water issues. Variances have been denied over the years.) An open house will be held in Feb. on the short term rental ordinance. **Town Hall:** Dave Mount installed doors for an accessible cabinet to house a new leased copier. **Recycle:** Deer guts were dumped behind a dumpster and again aluminum cans for the school library were stolen. **Cemetery:** A new lawn mowing company, "Cutting Edge", gave the low bid. **Old business:** Chair Mount will call the MN

(continued at right)

(Board minutes continued)

Regulatory Board to indicate that citizens wish to be served by one ambulance service and want a higher level of service. If all parties agreed, Gold Cross, with higher certification than Lake County, is willing to serve our whole Township. Their standard is a 2-minute response. Lake County response time will be clarified.

Emergency animal housing is used only rarely. Lake County may be able to provide this service. Supervisor Dahl will check on police liability coverage (our current company doubled its limits, beyond what we need).

January 8th meeting. All Supervisors attended. Treasurer reported an ending balance of \$904,911.96 after \$27,165.45 deposits and \$28225.14 expenses. **Departments: Fire:** The old (1978) tanker will be sold on bid.

Planning: The facilitated meeting with Odyssey was held. They plan to submit a new proposal for Stoney Point development. The Bieraugel variance denial was upheld by the Board of Adjustment but is now going to court. Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) will handle the case for us. Long range planning group for the Town Hall site includes Fire Chief Engelson, Supervisors Tanner and Mount, Clerk Cox, citizen D. McTavish, Police Chief Padden, and Planning Commissioner Lannon. They plan to meet in March. **Town Hall:** Our election judge list approved. **Recycling:** Fred Johansen fixed our shed lights. Budget and Audit meetings are Feb 17th.

February 12th special meeting. Four Supervisors attended. The meeting was called to review the County's proposal to auction a 10 acre property (valued at \$46,000) near the old Clover Valley High School. The land is largely wetland and a federally listed impaired feeder stream. It would be very difficult or impossible to develop this parcel under our Zoning Ordinance. The Board passed a resolution asking St Louis County to withhold the parcel from auction and allow the Town to pursue purchase of the parcel using Outdoor Heritage or other outside funds.

The Next Town Board meetings: (2nd Thursday)

Mar 12th and Apr 9th at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Residents are urged to attend these public meetings

NSCS Pre-school Registration (2009-2010)

Program purpose: To provide a caring, sharing learning experience for pre-school children. We strive to promote love and respect for ourselves, each other, and the world around us.

Classes are offered for 3-5 year olds on Tues/Wed/Thur. Both morning (9:15-11:30) and afternoon (12:15-2:30) sessions are offered. Children may attend 1, 2 or 3 days per week. Those going on to kindergarten the following year are encouraged to participate in the 3-day program. As \$25.00 registration fee is required to hold a spot. Scholarships will hopefully be available again next year. If you would like to help assist a family, contributions can be made to NSCS Pre-school Scholarship Fund and mailed to our Community Center at 5926 Ryan Road. For more information contact:

Kathy Johnson (525-0663 ext 106 or 834-5429)

Township Budget Comparisons⁽¹⁾

What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting

For those who many not have attended a Town meeting, here's a bit of background. We gather in our Town Hall on Homestead Road after the polls close (8:15pm). Our Town Clerk, by law, calls the meeting to order and we nominate and elect a resident to lead the meeting.

Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, hands out a packet that includes minutes from last year's meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments—2008 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2009 budget and the proposed 2010 Township budget (see the table at the right).

This Annual Meeting votes on the budget for 2010...a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2010. In 2009 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes are approved, we vote on official posting and our official bank. Then the proposed 2010 budget is discussed and approved. Other business of the Township is raised and discussed and results of the Town election are announced. The meeting is usually suspended rather than adjourned. This permits a special meeting to be called in August in case there is other business that needs to be conducted by Township residents.

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

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



Township Departments	Actual Expenditures for 2007	Actual Expenditures for 2008	Approved budget for 2009	Proposed budget for 2010
Police Department ⁽²⁾	\$32,789	\$65,707	\$40,955	\$47,395
Fire Department ⁽²⁾	92,156	77,384	64,000	69,500
General Township	109,425	158,865	134,900	136,350
Planning & Zoning	24,828	32,453	16,900	25,050
Cemetery	6,131	4,919	6,000	5,000
Road & Bridge ⁽²⁾	66,233	85,399	70,000	103,000
<i>Total expenses⁽¹⁾</i>	\$331,562	\$424,726	\$332,755	\$386,295
Community Education	<i>(self sustaining from fees)</i>			
Recycling	<i>(paid by a WLSSD grant)</i>			
Community Center	<i>(paid from school lease funds)</i>			
Tax Levy Budgets (excludes income from fees and other sources)				
Approved/proposed levy⁽³⁾	\$305,785	\$327,304	\$332,755	\$386,295
Average annual cost per household⁽⁴⁾ <i>(using 740 households, depends on assessed property value.)</i>	\$413	\$442	\$450	\$522

Footnotes:

- (1) Note that the **actual** expenditures include expenses that may be partially covered by fees (e.g. permits, Community Education class fees etc.), grants (e.g. Fire Dept FEMA grant and Alden Township's contract for fire coverage), or carry-over funds. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.
- (2) Some Departments designate funds for special projects: Road and Bridge emergencies (\$35,000), Fire and Police to replace aging fire and police vehicles. These funds are included in the year end balances shown in the Clerk's report at the Annual Meeting.
- (3) The budget amount we approve may be reduced, when levied, by State or County aid to local governments. These funds have been severely cut or eliminated in recent years.
- (4) The average annual cost per household uses 740 as the number of households for comparisons here. The Newsletter is currently mailed to about 943 addresses (the U.S. Census counted 704 homes in Duluth Township in 2000 and estimated 723 for 2007).

Township Expenses and Budget for 2010

The table above shows actual expenses for 2007 and 2008 plus the approved budget for 2009 and the proposed budget for 2010. Actual expenses include income from various sources other than the tax levy, such as permit fees, grants (we've been successful in getting several), and carryover from budget savings in a prior year. There is an increase of 16% for 2010 over the budget approved for 2009. Note that actual expenses for last year are higher than anticipated. Township budgets have been pretty flat since 2000. Increases in the proposed 2010 budget stem mostly from Road maintenance needs (and fuel costs), and reflect lower receipts from permit fees, higher legal charges in the Planning budget, and higher insurance costs. Detailed information will be distributed at the Annual Meeting where each budget will be presented.

Your total property tax includes County and State level budgets, any State aid for local governments, and from special assessments (e.g. school district, sewer). The 2010 budget will be voted on at the upcoming **March 10th Annual Town Meeting**. Plan to attend!

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)

December 17th meeting. Commissioners present: Mike Kahl, Seth Levanen, Dave Miller, Janet Green and Bill Lannon. The Mohs' explored the possibility of a conditional use permit for a home based business at the corner of Greenwood Road and the Scenic Drive. They make dolls and furniture. A hearing will be held January 22nd. Draft minutes from the Dec 12th facilitated, pre-application meeting with Odyssey concerning ideas for their Stoney Point development were reviewed with no action (*no application for a new variance has been submitted*).

The Planning Director reported on the Master Site Plan for the Community Center and related grants for site development work. There will be an open house in February to gather views on the short term rental issue. There are issues with lot lines along the shore. The county apparently misplaced benchmarks and problems are being caught with newer survey technology. For example, a garage and well thought to be on one lot are actually on an adjacent lot. Given the problem, the Commission moved to require a registered survey for properties between the expressway and shoreline when requesting a variance or conditional use permit.

A planning committee will be set up to consider the Town Hall and Fire Hall space and propose a plan for future needs.

Zoning updates, updated fee structure, 60-day rule clarification, and Board of Adjustment authority will be considered at a the next meeting.

The Next Planning Committee meetings: Mar 26th and Apr 23rd (4th Thursday) at 7pm in the Town Hall.
Special hearings are posted at the Town Hall.

Police Department
 Shawn Padden, Chief

Our Police Department (Shawn, Steve and Mike) serves our Township 140 hours per month on random shifts. In 2008 they initiated or responded to some 1034 calls for service. Most frequent were requested checks of homes and businesses (353), followed by traffic warnings (62), requested extra patrols (60), checking suspicious vehicles (52) and animal complaints (46). Police responded to 39 burglar alarms, 20 fire alarms and 10 business or residential burglaries. There have been 26 medical emergencies and 2 water emergencies, 1 stabbing and 8 suicide attempts plus serving legal notices. They processed one permit to acquire and one to carry handguns. Our police responded to a great variety of other requests for assistance. These are listed in the Annual Meeting report.

**Recorded
 Police
 Events**

2008	1034
2007	1088
2006	881
2005	972
2004	1057
2003	969
2002	773

Firearms Meeting

Dave Mount, Chair, Board of Supervisors

On January 29, 2009, the Town Board held a public open house to discuss safety concerns resulting from firearms use between the freeway and Lake Superior, and ways in which these safety issues could be addressed. About 45 people turned out for a very constructive discussion, including representatives from the Minnesota DNR and the Township Police. Of the people that spoke, most expressed concern about creating new rules that might prevent people who are hunting safely to continue doing so. Some citizens echoed concerns reported previously to Township Police in regard to shots fired close to residences and/or deer hunters acting with disregard to various rules and lacking courtesy with respect to landowners. Officers of the DNR and Township Police are committed to enforcing existing rules, but their resources are spread very thin during rifle deer season. One very important tool for controlling unwanted hunting is posting of private land against either trespassing or hunting specifically. While some recognized that posting land might seem "unfriendly," it was agreed that if people talk with their neighbors to explain why they are posting their land, that concern can be alleviated.

The ability of law enforcement to take action against uninvited hunters on private land is limited if the land is not posted. Another important tool is to make sure to call the DNR and/or the Township Police if there are incidents of unwanted hunting or reckless behavior. Even if law enforcement cannot respond immediately, it is important that they are made aware of issues as they arise. In future Newsletters, we will be providing additional information on Minnesota's trespass laws and the legal requirements for posting private land.

At their February monthly meeting, the Town Board reviewed the discussion from the open house and decided to focus on public education efforts on posting of private land and contacting law enforcement where firearms-related issues arise. Additional steps, such as an ordinance, will be considered only if these measures do not adequately protect public safety. If you have suggestions regarding these topics, feel free to contact a Town Board member (*see page 7*). And, most importantly, if you hunt in the area south of the freeway, please be extra aware of nearby homes and roads. Note also that the railroad right-of-way is not public property and is posted against trespassing.

Call 911 for all emergencies

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

Crime Alerts Our Police Department maintains an **E-mail Crime Alert** notification (*also on our web site*). To receive notices send your email address to:

PoliceOffice@duluthtownship.org.



Sucker River, Jim Munger

Planning and Zoning: Year in Review

Dave Chura, Chair, Duluth Township Planning Commission and Sue Lawson, Planning Director

This past year, 2008, was one of the busiest years the Commission has experienced in recent memory. The Commission held eight public hearings. Three of the hearings were in regard to short term rental conditional uses and one of them in regard to a short term rental permit revocation. There also were three variance hearings.

One of those hearings was for a proposed subdivision development on Stoney Point. This was the culmination of numerous discussions over the last three years with the community and the Commission. As part of the subdivision proposal the developer was seeking a variance from the shoreland setback. The Commission denied the variance and the decision was appealed to the Board of Adjustment where the Commission's decision was upheld. Discussions continued between the Town and the developer and both parties mutually agreed to continue with a formally facilitated discussion to search for common ground in regard to development concepts that could meet the goals of the Town and the developer. This alternative was mutually beneficial to both the Town and the developer in that both parties were willing to explore options outside of the courts. It is expected that there will be a new development proposal for the Stoney Point subdivision this year.

Early on in 2008, the Commission adopted communication agreements/ground rules that are used during public hearings and meetings. These agreements have been successful and have served the Commission well. Often public hearings are stressful and challenging. Although these agreements are helpful, the civility of Commission meetings is truly a testament to the values of the people in our Township.

There were 39 total building permits issued this past year which was an increase of 9 from 2007. The majority of these permits, about 80%, were in the inland portion of the Township. Single family homes accounted for about 25% of the permits.

The highest number of permits this decade occurred from 2000-2005 with an average of about 64 permits per year. Of those permits, on average, 20 per year were for single family residences.

In response to the Town Board's direction to proactively plan, the Planning Director coordinated a planning effort with the University of Minnesota Center for Changing Landscapes to develop a Master Site Plan for the North Shore Community Center/School. The Town received a \$5,000 planning grant from Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program to help complete the Master Plan. The Plan is complete and has already successfully been used to seek grant funding for implementing a part of the

Building Permits Issued 2000-2008		
	Total Permits	Single Family Permits
2000	56	17
2001	66	18
2002	57	18
2003	69	24
2004	70	23
2005	67	20
2006	44	10
2007	28	3
2008	39	10

(Planning, continued)

Master Site Plan. The Town has received \$23,000 from them: usser Fund to re-grade around the school building, construct rain gardens, and restore a swale.

The Planning and Zoning Department also applied for and received a Coastal Program grant for a computer projector and screen. These have been very helpful in our public hearings. We also anticipate using them in other educational and public meeting settings.

Based on the experiences and testimony from various short term rental hearings and the number of enforcement issues with those short term conditional uses, the Commission recommended to the Town Board that a moratorium be placed on short term rentals. The Town Board enacted a moratorium and the Commission has been reviewing and studying this issue.

Planning and Zoning in the Township works for two reasons: The people of the Township and the Planning staff and Commission members. It works because of the incredible amount of volunteer hours put in by the Commission. In addition to their monthly evening meetings, the Commission members put in enormous amounts of volunteer time preparing for the meetings. This year Commission members put in over 300 hours preparing for meetings, researching short term rental information, and reviewing fee schedules.

It also works because of the support of the people in the Township for embracing the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Regulations and their commitment to providing the financial resources for an effective Planning and Zoning Department. *Thank you for that support.*

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department
Bob Engelson, Chief

Our new 3000 gallon tanker has been delivered. It was built by *Forstner Fire Apparatus*, Madelia, MN on an International 330hp diesel chassis. The tanker was funded by a FEMA grant with some assistance from the Township. It is currently located in Hall #1 because there isn't sufficient door width at the intended location in Hall #2 (by our Town Hall). Plans are being considered to install a single door in Hall #2 once Township approval is received. Planning for added fire hall space is needed.

For Sale: 1978 International diesel tanker (formerly a milk truck). A condition of the FEMA grant for our new tanker was that this old vehicle be taken out of fire service. It will be sold and bids are being sought. If you are interested, contact Chief Engelson (525-6819) and watch for posted notices.

\$7,000 DNR grant received for various equipment and firefighting gear.

Volunteer Fire Fighters Needed — Our *Clifton Volunteer Fire Department* needs residents who would like to be a volunteer firefighter. It's a great way to serve your community. Call Fire Chief Bob Engelson, 525-6819.

Burning permits are not required while there is 3 inches of snow on the ground. Note that there is often a burning ban during the dry part of spring.

Duluth Township Information

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
 Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message),
 fax (218) 525-3845, web site: www.duluthtownship.org.
 or Email: TownHall@duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. and Wed. 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:

Jeff Cook, (2006-2009) 525-4010
 or Email: JeffCook@duluthtownship.org
 (Responsibilities: Road & Bridge, Police, McQuade Harbor, Board of Adjustment)

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

Wendy Meierhoff (2008-2011) **Vice Chair** 525-0263
 or Email: Wendy@duluthtownship.org
 (Responsibilities: Newsletter, Website, Community Education, Personnel, BAT, Senior Housing, Community Center)

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

Dan Tanner (2008-2011) 525-4087
 or Email: DanTanner@duluthtownship.org
 (Responsibilities: Cemetery, Fire Dept, RSPT, MPCA, Annual SSSP)

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),
Jan Green, **Michael Kahl** (Vice Chair), **Bill Lannon**,
Seth Levanen, **Yvonne Rutford** (and a vacancy)
 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
 Email: FireHall@duluthtownship.org

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

Community Education Coordinator: (to be announced)
 Email: EducCoordinator@duluthtownship.org

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

Township Calendar

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

—MARCH 2009—

- 4, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's**, Town Hall
 4, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
 7, Sat, 10am-12 noon Office open for absentee ballots

- 10, Tue, 7am-8pm **ELECTION** for a Town Supervisor
 Town Hall — Be sure to vote!
 10, Tue. 8:15pm **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**,
 Town Hall
 (Please do not enter the Town Hall until 8:15 to allow voting to end, equipment to be stored and chairs to be set up for the meeting.)

- 12, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall
 13, Wed, 6-8:30pm 4-H Bingo fundraiser, NSCS
 16, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library
 17, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
 18, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** training, Hall#1
 22, Sun, 4pm **North Shore Locavores**, Town Hall
 26, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

—APRIL 2009—

- 1, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
 1, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
 9, Thu, 6:30pm Annual Stormwater meeting, Town Hall
 9, Thu, 7pm **TOWN BOARD**, Town Hall.
 15, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** Training Hall #1
 20, Mon, 6:30pm, **North Shore Community School Board** meeting, NSCS Library.
 21, Tue, 7am **Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District** meeting, French River Lutheran Church
 23, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall
 23, Thu, Deadline for May Newsletter
 26, Sun, 4pm **North Shore Locavores** meet, Town Hall

—MAY 2009—

- 6, Wed, 12:30 **Homesteader's** meet, Town Hall
 6, Wed, 7pm **Volunteer Fire Dept:** business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
 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, 4pm **North Shore Locavores** meet, Town Hall
 28, Thu, 7pm **Planning Commission**, Town Hall

Township Recycling Center

North site – at the *Town Hall, on Homestead Road*
 Staffing by **Carolyn Marino** and **Al Anderson**, **Marlys Livingston**, and **Kathy Peer** **Tuesday 7-11am, 2-6pm, Thursday: Nov-March 2-6pm, April-Oct 3-7pm and Saturday 8-noon.**

(Drop off only during recycling hours)

Please report theft of aluminum cans at recycling, to Police.
 Curb recycling pickup service is available below the freeway.

Vacancy on the Township Planning and Zoning Commission

This year marks the end of Dave Miller's term on the Township Planning & Zoning (P&Z) Commission, and he leaves with everyone's thanks for the time he has committed to serving our Township. While we are sorry to see Dave go, this provides an opportunity for another Township citizen to step forward to serve.

The P&Z Commission is a 7 member board that guides the implementation of the Township's Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. No special qualifications are necessary to serve on the P&Z Commission, other than an interest in the Township's future and a willingness to serve. Commission members serve 3-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday each month, with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per meeting stipend.

Interviews to fill the Commission vacancy will be held by the Town Board after the March 12th application deadline. Interested citizens should submit a letter of interest and relevant past experience to Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804. If you have questions or would like more information, please leave a message for Supervisor Dave Mount, at the Town Hall: 525-5705.

Meeting on our Stormwater Plan

On April 9th at 6:30pm the Township will hold its annual citizen's meeting on our Stormwater Plan in our Town Hall. It is a time to ask questions about the plan and raise issues related to stormwater. This is a required meeting and a part of our State-mandated stormwater report. Attend and participate in this meeting and stay for the regular Town Board meeting which follows at 7pm.



Railroad Bridge at Little Sucker River, by Jim Munger

Mailed to **940** Duluth Township homes and businesses. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer *Newsletter* editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the *NewsBox* on the Town Hall porch. The Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, **BB&K Printing**, and mailed for us by **UDAC**.

DULUTH TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

M A R C H 2 0 0 9

Inside this Issue:

- Township **Election**, Mar 10th
- **Annual Town Meeting**, Mar 10th
(see *budget info article*)
- Comments from the Board Chair
- Township **Calendar**
- What's Coming Up
- Town Board & Planning Meetings
- Police and Fire Information
- "Bonus Point"
- *Spring Community Ed classes*

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

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.