

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the residents of Fairview Township was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 10, 2009 in the Fairview town hall by Clerk Marla Yoho with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Walt Richmond/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to appoint Jim Weizenegger as moderator.

Tom Dechmann/ Dave Rasinski/ Unanimous: Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting as presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Marla Yoho presented the year-end **Financial Statement for 2008**. Receipts totaled \$325,456.66 and expenditures were \$257,255.07. A complete Year-End Financial Statement is included with these Minutes. The Township ended the year with \$122,055.98 in the Checking account and \$94,511.66 in Money Market Funds at Bremer Bank (\$53,133.77 in Road & Bridge Reserves and \$41,377.89 in Logging Proceeds). The Fairview levy tax rate for 2009 is based on a Taxable Market Value of \$304,047,700.

Larson Allen Accounting firm completed a full operational and **financial audit for the year 2007**. The audit of 2008 is currently underway. Their report, which was submitted to the State auditors office, found all operations being completed as required and all finances were being monitored and reported accurately. The only recommendation they had was that the Township should have "Pledged Collateral" from the bank on any balances over \$100,000 due to FDIC limitations. That was taken care of but the FDIC was increased to \$250,000 the next month, which negated the need for the Pledged Collateral.

Walt Richmond/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to waive the reading of all checks written during the year since the monthly expenditure reports are posted on the wall.

Dave Rasinski/ Walt Richmond/ Unanimous: Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented.

Fire Report:

Walt Richmond reported the Fire Dept. responded to **189 runs in 2008**, with only 34 (or 18%) of them in Fairview Township. 61% of all runs were medical calls.

Fairview Township will be responsible for \$69,394.14 of the **2009 Fire budget**. That amount will increase by 6% for 2010 to \$73,560. The total Market Value of the 5 townships and city covered by the Pillager Fire Dept. is \$740 million.

Last year the **27 volunteer firefighters** in the department received 1,615 man-hours of training. Overall there was a total response of 2,323 persons with an average of 12.29 responders per call. This is a very good response rate.

In 2008 the Association received two **grants from Homeland Security**. The first was \$154,238 to be used toward the purchase of a new \$203,00 fire rig. The second was \$86,469 for Self Contained Breathing Equipment for all volunteers. These units are extremely expensive and the old ones weren't certifiable any longer.

An additional \$7,200 was received in assorted donations and grants including \$750 from the EMS to purchase a defibrillator for the new truck.

The **back-up generator** for Station #2 was replaced this year with a new unit that is currently up and running.

There were **4 new recruits** this year, none of them for the Fairview crew.

Since the first new truck purchased by the Association will be paid off this year, they would like to replace the **medical van**. This truck could cost as much as \$200,000 so they will be applying for another Homeland security grant.

Road Report:

Road Supervisor, Tom Dechmann reported that the Township had one major paving project in 2008 on **Birch Forest Road** at a cost of \$72,000.

A repair project completed on **Woods Drive** was originally bid at \$6,300 but was finally completed on a 'cost plus' basis at a cost of \$3,500.

Fairview entered into a joint road paving project with Sylvan Township on **West Lake Ridge Drive** which should be completed in the spring of 2009. (Fairview is responsible for about 300 feet of this road.) The projected cost for the Fairview portion is \$13,800, but it may run a little higher.

The **Mayfair Minimum Maintenance Road** is a one-mile long road that forms the border between May and Fairview Townships. In 2008 the Township spent \$1,350 to have the road grubbed, graded and a culvert installed.

There were 13 roads **crack-sealed in 2008**, another 12 or 13 of them scheduled in 2009.

The Federal Government has mandated that all government units meet new standards of reflectivity on all traffic and street identification signs. This new "**Retroreflectivity Program**" requires that all signs must be inventoried, measured for reflectivity and replaced on a specific schedule with completion by 2012. The new signs are up to 4 times more expensive than the signs currently used. Even the machine needed to measure the reflectivity of signs costs over \$10,000 and must be operated by persons with special training. This will be an extremely costly program for all townships, cities, counties and states. Cass County is planning to apply for a grant that will help with the costs, but is not optimistic about the amount that will be available and will filter down to the townships.

The **2009 Road Review** will be held on Thursday, April 23rd. The Supervisors and any interested residents will meet at the town hall at 8:30 AM. (This has been changed from the original date.)

Pillager Park Report: The shelter damaged in the 2008 storm did get rebuilt last summer. In addition, cement pads have been laid for placement of grills and picnic tables. There will now be 10 picnic tables. There were two sets of host campers in the summer of 2008. Unfortunately the second set of campers created an atmosphere of conflict by harassing the original campers. The second set of campers had to be asked to leave.

The Park received \$1,000 from the Lion's to be used toward upkeep.

Each participating member of the Park Board should expect their assessment to remain at \$2,000 for this year.

Summary of 2008 into 2009:

Appointed Treasurer: In 2007 Sharon Owen resigned her elected position as Treasurer of the Township due to family responsibilities. At that time the Board combined the positions of Clerk and Treasurer and appointed Marla Yoho, the elected Clerk, to fill both positions. Due to the combined office the Township has been required to have a costly financial and operational audit for 2007 and 2008. Sharon Owen is now able to return and the Board has appointed her to fill the position of Treasurer until the next election in 2010. Due to this change the township will not have to pay for an audit in 2009 and will ultimately save quite a bit of money.

Micropolitan Planning: The Gull Lake chain has been chosen as the pilot region for the Brainerd Lakes Micropolitan Planning program. Representatives from East Gull Lake, Lakeshore, Cass and Crow Wing counties and Fairview Township will work together toward creating more uniformity in their comprehensive plans and zoning regulations. The ultimate goal of this program will be to preserve lake and water quality for the region and the health of residents, visitors and woodlands.

Recess of Annual Meeting: Due to the worsening weather and the small turnout for tonight's meeting it was agreed to recess at 8:30 PM and to reconvene at **6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 14th**. At that time the meeting continue with the agenda as originally presented. **Rasinski/ Dechmann/ Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Yoho, Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING RECONVENED
APRIL 14, 2009

The Annual Meeting of Fairview Township residents was reconvened at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 by Clerk, Marla Yoho. Jim Weizenegger continued in his position as moderator.

The Agenda of the March meeting was picked up where it had left off.

Trails: Cass County Commissioner Jim Demgen, Mark Kavanaugh, Neal Gaalswyk and Rob Mason, all members of the East Gull Lake Trail Committee, made a presentation to the Fairview residents about the trail system within their city. They will be extending the trail around the airport runway and up Cty Rd 70 to the Gull River dam. A new proposal calls for extending it from the Classic, down the County right-of-way to 18, terminating at the Sylvan boundary and also a section making a continuous loop around the airport and continuing up 77 to the Fairview boundary. By its completion there will be 9 ½ miles of multi-use trails. The portion opened in 2008 is being used heavily.

Jim Demgen explained how East Gull Lake received \$375,000 of non-tax dollars from Cass County. This money comes from a special fund created when the State of MN exchanged their leased land lots with the County for forest land. The County sold these lots off and invested the proceeds. The principal cannot be touched, but the interest is allocated for recreational projects. An additional source of financing has been a Park Dedication fee assessed on any new developments proposed in the City. This fee is set at 5% of the Market Value of bare land. While they prefer to receive this in cash, the developer has the option of donating land for a trail right-of-way if it would be more appropriate.

It was noted that these trails are multi-use, meaning they are being used by roller bladers, walkers, bikers, golf carts and ATVs. The East Gull Lake trails have a 15 miles-per-hour speed limit and they have not had any problems to this point. While they have not prohibited snowmobiles, most drivers don't want to run on an asphalt surface.

Al Knowlen of Anderson Bros. provided an estimate of \$86,000 per mile. This construction figure would include a 12 foot wide 4" base of Class 5 and a 10 foot wide 2" bituminous surface. The figure does not include any right-of-way acquisition. Cass County is receptive to the idea of expanding the trail system within Fairview and Lakeshore is exploring the addition of trails within their city. The DNR, while they have no immediate opposition to the trails, will not agree to having any township trails connect to their trail system.

Cass County will be installing federally mandated rumble strips along Cty 77 this summer, which will make it more difficult for bikers to ride along the edge of the road.

It was agreed that a mailing should be created in which we request resident participation in a committee that would gauge the interest, spearhead fund acquisition and determine placement of any potential trails within Fairview. The East Gull group will be happy to advise us. They mentioned that there is money available from grants and, eventually, from the Clean Water Act that was recently passed.

Donations: Jim Rardin/ Kathy Brown/ Unanimous: Motion to authorize the Board of Supervisors to, at their discretion, make the proper donations in 2009 to support the CCED, Cass County Historical Society and other non-profit organizations that benefit the Township residents.

2010 Levy: The Levy for 2009 was \$310,000. The two outstanding loans carried by the Township for past road projects and the fire substation have been paid off, leaving the Board with additional funds to be used for pending road repairs, increases in the Fire assessment and increases in the General fund for possible Planning and Zoning Dept. needs. The Road and Bridge fund is anticipating increased costs for all asphalt work for an aging road system, a shortfall in the Snow removal fund, the need to create an additional reserve to meet the federal "Retroreflectivity" program requirements. The Fire fund will end 2009 with a surplus (due to loan repayment) which will allow that Budget to be decreased by \$25,000 for 2010 only. It was noted that one recommendation coming from the 2008 Annual Audit was that the

Township is maintaining a Road and Bridge reserve that is acceptable, but is on the low side for a Township with the amount of roads in Fairview. **Kathy Brown/ Sharon Owen/ Unanimous: Motion to reduce the 2010 Levy to \$300,000, broken down as follows: Road & Bridge \$175,000, Fire & Safety \$65,000 and General Fund \$60,000.**

Liquor Licenses: Walt Richmond/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to approve the Liquor Licenses for Kelly's and the Quarterdeck.

Gambling Licenses: While the Board has not been asked to sign off on a Gambling license for any establishment in Fairview for the last 2 years, a motion was made and carried to allow the Board to approve a Gambling License for Kelly's or the Quarterdeck, provided the Board approves of who will benefit by the proceeds. **Kathy Brown/ Walt Richmond/ Unanimous.**

Planning Commission: The Planning Commission completed a review of the Township Comprehensive Plan in April and the Board of Supervisors approved the changes they suggested. The Comprehensive Plan has been updated and is available for reference on the Community Growth Institute website. A link to the Comprehensive Plan is being added to the Township website. There were very few issues coming before the Planning Commission in 2008 due to the cutback in construction. If the Township were to create their own Planning and Zoning department this might be the perfect time, before development and construction escalate again and while the Micropolitan Planning project is attempting to create a coordinated set of development standards for the Gull Lake area.

Other Issues:

The **2010 Fairview Township Annual Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 9th at 7 PM. **Walt Richmond/ Jim Weizenegger/ Unanimous.**

The **2009 Board of Review** will be held on Tuesday, April 21st at 10 AM at the town hall. It will be an Open Book meeting.

The **Township website** is up and running. The URL is: www.fairviewtwpmn.com There are still areas to be completed, but the main information is all in place.

Walt Richmond/ Jim Rardin/ Unanimous: Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Yoho, Clerk