

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the residents of Fairview Township was called to order at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, March 9th, 2010 in the Fairview town hall by Clerk Marla Yoho with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Ken LaPorte/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: **Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting as presented.**

Treasurer's Report:

Marla Yoho presented the year-end **Financial Statement for 2009**. Receipts totaled \$340,854.41 and expenditures were \$214,924.52. A complete Year-End Financial Statement is included with these Minutes. The Township ended the year with \$198,183.65 in the Checking account and \$14,313.88 in Money Market Funds at Bremer Bank. (Note: The checking account balance was very high since the second half of 2009 property taxes had just been received from Cass County. \$150,000 of that amount was moved to the Money Market account right after the first meeting of the year.)

The Fairview levy tax rate for 2010 is based on a Taxable Market Value of \$310,597,900.

Larson Allen Accounting firm completed a full operational and **financial audit for the year 2008**. Their report, which was submitted to the State Auditor's office, found all operations being completed as required and all finances were being monitored and reported accurately. Sharon Owen returned to the position of Treasurer in January of 2009, eliminating the need for an outside audit for 2009.

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

Ken LaPorte/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to **accept the Treasurer's Report** as presented.

Fire Report:

Walt Richmond reported the Fire Dept. responded to **189 runs in 2009**, the same number as in 2008. 35 of them (or 18%) of them were in Fairview Township: 23 medical, 3 car accidents, 3 fires, 2 lost persons and 4 false alarms (security system malfunctions).

The **2011 budget for the Pillager Fire Dept.** will remain the same as it is in 2010, at \$178,000. Fairview Township will be responsible for approximately \$73,560 of that budget.

Last year the **24 volunteer firefighters** in the department received 1,771 man-hours of training and 2,214 man-hours were spent on runs. They have 285 years of experience between them. Max Chastain had to resign from the Department after 8 years of service due to medical reasons.

In 2009 the Pillager Fire Dept. received over \$10,000 in **grants and donations** which were used for training.

The **2010 Freightliner water tanker**, purchased with the FEMA grant, has been delivered. This rig, which has a 3,000 gallon tank and pumps 700 gallons per minute, will replace the '85 GMC and '94 Ford trucks that have already been sold for \$17,600. The new truck will be fully equipped with the newest jaws-of-life and an onboard defibrillator. The 2000 pumper truck will be stationed at Fairview.

The **grass fire rig** kept at Station #2 was a government surplus vehicle which had to be returned. A new rescue rig will be put into service in June and stationed in Pillager. The older rig will be moved to the Fairview station.

By 2012 the State of Minnesota has required the state-wide radio system used by emergency personnel to be updated to an **800 MHz system**. Cass County will buy all new equipment for trucks and volunteers, but the department will be responsible for replacing and maintaining them.

Meadowbrook Township has approached the Fire Department about possibly joining the Fire Association, but geographical distance may not make it response time and monetarily feasible.

During his tenure as Chair of the Fire Association Board, Walt Richmond tried to institute a new way of allocating the budget responsibility for the member townships and city, but the other five members were not interested in

changing the formula.

Road Report:

Road Supervisor, Tom Dechmann reported that the Township had one major paving project in 2009 on **White Pine Road**, which was overlaid at a cost of \$33,328. In addition, the paving project on West Lake Ridge Drive, which was done in conjunction with Sylvan Township, was completed in the spring of 2009 at a cost of \$15,083.

There were 20 roads **crack-sealed in 2009**, at a cost of \$8,100. The Board of Supervisors will conduct a Road Review on April 13th to determine what roads need work in 2010.

The federally mandated "**Retroreflectivity Program**", which requires that all traffic advisory signs must be inventoried, measured for reflectivity and replaced with new materials on a specific schedule, has been the source of many meetings and training sessions during the past year. The inventory and sign evaluation required by 2012 has been completed. Cass County is working with the townships and cities to create a joint buying program that should help keep replacement costs down.

Pillager Park Report: The "Host Camper" program has been working very well, with the same host campers in place for the last three years. In the past they have taken care of the trash and done some cleanup, but this year they also mowed and put in flower beds, saving a lot in maintenance costs. The campers have agreed to come back again for the summer of 2010.

In order to keep the swimming area separate from the area where boats moor the Board will be installing another dock with a string of markers on cables. Also, a light will be installed by the boat launch area.

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

Town Hall Building Issues: There is an ongoing problem with the roof run-off (rain, snow melt) causing an **ice problem** at the entrance to the town hall. This poses a danger for residents entering the town hall as well as fire fighters entering the fire hall, especially in the dark of night. The situation is caused by the expanse of the roof and the way the two rooflines come together. The gutters freeze-up and then the melt over-flows and freezes on the concrete at the entrance. The other part of the problem is the shortage of space in the town hall meeting room, especially during elections. If the front of the town hall building could be built out to meet the roofline of the fire hall, the run-off problem could be rerouted and the meeting room area could be expanded. The "Community Project" funds are available to cover a portion of this project.

Bill LaTour made a brief presentation on behalf of Paul Cibuzar in which he discussed the possible formation of an **Emergency Management Command Center** to be housed in the town hall. He explained that Paul would offer his expertise to apply for grants from Homeland Security for software, guide books, severe weather warning siren etc that would help co-ordinate efforts between the surrounding cities and townships in the event of an emergency such as a tornado or forest fire. It was suggested that Paul put together a feasibility study identifying what would be needed, anticipated costs, etc.

Ken LaPorte/ Sharon Smith/ Unanimous: Motion that the Board of Supervisors explore the possibility of expanding the town hall to reduce the safety hazards and provide additional meeting space. They should also work with Paul Cibuzar to investigate the possibility of creating an Emergency Management Center.

Trails:

Mountain Bike Trails: Rory Stumvoll has been working with the DNR to flag a proposed mountain bike trail through State Forest land. They must cross a small portion of Township land to gain access to the proposed trail.

Hiking Trails: At the 2009 Annual Meeting the attendees discussed the possibility of creating a hiking/ multi-use trail system along Hwy 77 that would connect with the existing trail in East Gull Lake and the trails being planned in Lakeshore. While there has been only favorable feedback from Township residents, the source of financing hasn't been determined. There is still a need for a committee of dedicated residents to help spear-head the project. The Micropolitan Planning Commission may provide some direction for this also.

Micropolitan Planning: Fairview Township has joined with Cass County, Crow Wing County, and the cities of Lakeshore, East Gull Lake, Brainerd, and Nisswa as part of the Micropolitan Planning Commission. The object of

this group is to coordinate land use, wastewater and storm water management policies for the contiguous area around Gull Lake. This group will also review existing parks, trails and recreational facilities, and may work together to find ways to extend the hiking trail system around Gull, ultimately connecting to the trail system in Nisswa.

John Sumption, recently retired Director of the Cass County Environmental Services Dept., has contracted with Region Five Development to facilitate this project for one year.

Ken LaPorte is participating on a committee of stakeholders who are working to find ways to improve and prevent further damage to **Lake Margaret**, which has been designated as having impaired waters.

Donations: Kathy Brown/ Bill LaTour/ Unanimous: Motion to authorize the Board of Supervisors to, at their discretion, make the proper donations in 2010 to support the CCED, Cass County Historical Society and other non-profit organizations that benefit the Township residents.

2011 Levy: The Levy for 2010 is \$300,000. The Larson, Allen accounting audit stressed the importance of carrying a reserve in the Township operating funds to cover not only unbudgeted emergency expenses but also to buffer for revenue shortfalls.

The Road and Bridge fund is currently debt free and has been building up a reserve to avoid having to borrow for anticipated work on an aging road system and to meet the federal "Retroreflectivity" program requirements.

The Fire fund will end 2010 with a small reserve to cover any unexpected maintenance on the fire hall.

A small reserve has been budgeted for the General Fund which may be used towards improvements to the town hall. Ken LaPorte/ Kathy Brown/ Unanimous: **Motion to reduce the 2011 Levy to \$290,000, broken down as follows: Road & Bridge \$165,000, Fire & Safety \$65,000 and General Fund \$60,000.**

Liquor Licenses: Kathy Brown/ Sharon Smith/ Unanimous: Motion to approve the Liquor Licenses for Jake's City Grille (old Kelly's) and the Quarterdeck.

Gambling Licenses: Kathy Brown/ Sharon Smith/ Unanimous: Motion to approve allowing pulltabs at Jake's City Grille and Quarterdeck, as well as any special case requests (such as Lakeshore Conservation Club raffle) that may be requested.

Fall Elections: The Primary Election has been moved up to August 10th to allow more time for absentee ballots to be printed, mailed and processed to the troops overseas.

The General Election will take place on November 2nd. Polls will be open from 7 AM to 8 PM.

Other Issues:

The **2011 Fairview Township Annual Meeting** will be held on Tuesday, March 8th at 6:30 PM. Sharon Owen/ Kathy Brown/ Unanimous: Motion to approve meeting time.

The **2010 Board of Review** will be held on Tuesday, April 13th at 10 AM at the town hall.

2010 Road Review will take place on Tuesday, April 13th immediately after the Board of Review. Township residents are welcome to follow along or to advise the Board of any road repairs they would like to have reviewed. The Board will also survey the traffic advisory signs currently in place and discuss any signs that may be added or deleted from the Township inventory.

Sharon Smith/ Kathy Brown/ Unanimous: Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Yoho, Clerk