

2015 FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the residents of Fairview Township was called to order at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, March 10th, 2015 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.

Tom Dechmann/ Walt Richmond/ Unanimous: Motion to accept the Minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting as presented with one correction.

Treasurer's Report:

Marla Yoho presented the following **Financial Statement for 2014:**

			BUDGET	BALANCE
BEGINNING CASH	1/1/2014			
	Adjusted Checking	59,443.79		
	Bremer Money Market	<u>217,366.20</u>		
ADJUSTED BEG. CASH		276,809.99		
REVENUE				
	Interest	107.41	180	73
	Cass County	286,141.83	284,500	-1,642
	MN Mkt Value Credit	18,183.44	500	-17,683
	Gas Tax Allocation	16,959.42	14,000	-2,959
	Miscellaneous	<u>8,471.50</u>	<u>1,025</u>	<u>-7,447</u>
	TOTAL	<u>329,863.60</u>	300,205	-29,629
TOTAL CASH		606,673.59		
ROAD & BRIDGE				
	Road Projects	82,850.43	110,000	27,150
	Blacktop Maintenance	26,573.75	20,500	-6,074
	Gravel Maintenance	4,167.00	6,750	2,583
	General Road			
	Maintenance	2,486.25	19,500	17,014
	Snow Removal	<u>45,258.00</u>	<u>25,000</u>	<u>-20,258</u>
	TOTAL	161,335.43	176,750	15,415
FIRE & SAFETY				
	Pillager	74,778.12	75,500	722
	Mtgs & Signs	<u>9185.32</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>-6,985</u>
	TOTAL	83,963.44	77,700	-6,263
GENERAL				
	Administration	26,006.42	25,000	-1,006
	Supplies	1,759.28	2,000	241
	Public Notices	1,013.51	2,000	986
	Insurance	3,506.00	3,500	-6
	Dues & Subscriptions	1,013.50	1,000	-14
	Mileage	2,470.84	1,750	-721
	Utilities	3,882.79	4,000	117
	Elections	2,339.00	2,000	-339
	Parks & Rec	3,000.00	2,000	-1,000
	Planning Comm	247.40	1,000	753
	Townhall Maintenance	8,393.23	1,750	-6,643
	Legal & Special	19,045.90	2,500	-16,546
	IRS	1,353.10	2,250	897
	PERA	3,259.20	2,500	-759
	Medicare (Employee Share)	-944.13	-1,250	-306
	PERA (Employee Share)	<u>-1,566.92</u>	<u>-1,250</u>	<u>317</u>
		<u>74,779.12</u>	<u>50,750</u>	<u>-24,029</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		320,077.99	303,200	-14,878
ENDING CASH	12/31/2014			
	Checking	114,349.25		
	(Outstanding Checks)	<u>-5,182.50</u>		
	ADJ Checking Balance	109,166.75		
	Bremer Money Market	<u>177,428.85</u>		
ADJUSTED ENDING CASH		286,595.60		

CD INVESTMENTS

\$122,064.11

(\$43,008.51 Community Projects, \$79,055.60 Road Reserves)

The Fairview levy tax rate for 2014 is based on a Taxable Market Value of \$295,234,100.

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.

Tom Dechmann/ Walt Richmond/ Unanimous: Motion to accept the 2014 Treasurer's Report as presented.

Fire Report:

Walt Richmond reported it was a very busy year for the Fire Dept. They responded to **246 emergency runs in 2014**, 15 more than in 2013. 31 of the calls (or 12.6%) were in Fairview Township. Of those 31 calls, 25 were medical runs, with 12 of them at Mount Ski Gull.

There are 24 volunteer firefighters right now. Each volunteer is required to attend 40 hours of in-house training and 25% of all calls. All firefighters are required to be medical First Responder and 'Firefighter I with Haz Mat Ops' certified within 2 years of joining the team. Most all have gone on to be Firefighter II certified. They also must pass the physical ability evaluation every year. Two of the firefighters are Certified EMTs (one is a Crosby Ambulance attendant and one is a Brainerd Policeman).

The volunteers logged over 2,500 man-hours of training in 2014 and approximately 2,900 man-hours responding to calls.

The 2016 budget for the Pillager Fire Dept. will remain at \$171,950 (the same as 2015). This is the sixth year in a row where the budget has remained the same or been reduced. The Fairview assessment will be reduced by approximately \$5,000 in 2015 due to the new contract with East Gull Lake. EGL will pay \$25,000 in 2015 for coverage of fires, car accidents and traumas. The \$25,000 will be allocated against each township's assessment according to their percentage of the budget.

The Fire Association took in almost \$80,000 in grants and donations. Those funds were used to purchase a battery powered "jaws-of-life" unit, a thermal imaging camera and a compressor to fill the SCBA units. The compressor recently received quite a workout when it was used to fill the SCBA units 41 times while they fought one house fire. Using the compressor saved a lot of time and wasted energy when they didn't have to run back and forth to the fire hall to refill them.

Road Report:

Road Supervisor, Tom Dechmann distributed the following Road Report:

Total expenditures for Road Maintenance and Construction in 2014:	\$161,553
Snow Removal	\$45,258
Blacktop Maintenance	\$15,732
Includes:	
Patching:	\$3,847
Crack Sealing: 49,583 Linear Feet, or 9.5 Miles	\$8,497
Sweeping:	\$2,475
Drainage, Misc:	\$ 913
Gravel Road Maintenance:	\$4,288
Grading, Class 5 Fill:	\$2,869
Drainage Issues:	\$ 120
Rardin Minimum Maintenance Rd.	\$1,298
General Road Maintenance:	\$13,427
Mowing Roadsides:	\$9,368
Roadside Clean-Up, Mailboxes	\$3,168
Sign Installation, Misc.	\$ 891
Road Projects:	\$ 82,850
Birch Bay Dr.:	\$33,786
Anderson Bros. reclaimed bituminous and aggregate on the two portions of the road, graded and patched 3 different areas, applied a 2" asphalt overlay. Excluded the portion of Birch Bay Dr. between Quarterdeck Rd and Gull Lane in anticipation of potential wear and tear due to proposed construction at Quarterdeck Resort.	
Ossego Rd:	\$49,064
Anderson Bros. overlaid a 2,893 ft roadbed with a 2" asphalt overlay. Project included the approaches to 23 driveways.	

Pillager Lake Road:

Beavers clogging the drain on Pillager Lake Rd. were a problem again this year. Eight beavers were trapped this past summer.

Gregory Drive:

The culvert under Gregory Dr. was a problem again last spring when the snow began to melt. In March we had Fyle's jet the culvert open again.

Crack Sealing:

9.5 miles of township roads were crack-sealed in 2014 by Rardin Excavating at a cost of \$8,497.

Cottage Wood	*Hill Dr.	Hines Circle	Maple Dr
Orchard Park Ln	Pillsbury Circle	Pillsbury Dr.	Pinewood Dr
Quill Dr	*Red Oak Dr	*Red Oak Trail	*Rardin Rd (to # 12095)
Rookery Dr	White Pine Rd	Wood Dr	Birch Forest Rd

* These four roads were routed before sealing

2015 Road Review:

The date for the annual road review has been set for Friday, April 17th. Township supervisors will leave the town hall at 8:00AM. Any township resident may participate, but must provide their own transportation. The tour is expected to last until 1:00PM.

Future Road Projects Under Discussion:

Fairview North Project: Pillsbury Forest Rd
Fairview South Project: Gregory Dr, Shadow Trails
Fairview West Project: Pillager Lake Rd, Orchard Park Ln

Mayfair Rd/ 45th Ave SW:

In August of 2014 we received two letters from the May Township board asking Fairview Township to share an estimated \$10,000 cost to improve 45th Avenue, south of Cty Rd #34; and to spend \$3,500 to add 3 inches of gravel to the Mayfair Minimum Maintenance Rd/ 45th Ave. The Fairview board declined both offers.

SNOW REMOVAL COMPARISON

2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	
Nov			1,838
Dec	3,725	3,389	5,182
Jan	3,923	9,073	2,493
Feb	9,653	8,291	5,720
March	10,747	11,428	
April	12,679	<u>9,447</u>	
May	<u>1,427</u>		
TOTAL	42,154	41,628	15,233

Seasonal Road Restrictions: Spring Load Restrictions for the Central Frost Zone will go into effect on Thursday, March 12, 2015 at 12:01 AM.

Pillager Park Report: Walt Richmond reported the "Port-a-Pottie" program worked out very well last summer so the Park Board will use them again in 2015.

The Board had boulders placed along the road coming into the park and the boat entrance ramp to prevent erosion from tires.

They also installed a gate at the entrance to close off the park at night and during the winter.

There hasn't been a Host Camper at the park for the last three years, but the host from Rock Lake Campground has decided to not return to that campground and may consider moving down to Pillager Park for the summer. The dues for 2015 will remain at \$2,000.

Fairview Planning Commission: It has been another fairly quiet year, with only one Conditional Use Permit reviewed by the commission, allowing a 48' by 96' storage building on the Bentley property located at 9794 Cty Rd 77.

Year In Review:

Weather Warning Siren:

In May the township was presented with an opportunity to install another weather warning siren on the west side of the township. After scouting for the best location, the DNR gave us a 21-year term easement lease for a ½ acres site at Stark's Vista off Cty Rd 1. Not only was the lease issued at no cost, but the DNR covered the expense of clearing the trees for installation.

\$10,979 from the Pillsbury State Forest land lease program was allocated to the Community Projects fund to pay for the siren. This is a refurbished unit with different attributes than the siren installed near the town hall in 2010. The newly installed siren does not have voice capabilities like the one near the town hall ... but is a revolving siren. During the monthly tests it only gives a short horn burst, but in a weather event or emergency the siren would emit a 3 minute blast. The township entered into a contract with Frontline Plus to service the unit at a cost of \$400 per year. The batteries powering the solar panels may need to be replaced over the years, but there is no other cost anticipated with their operation. The township will consider extending the height of the pole if it becomes necessary in the future. The purpose of the sirens is to notify people who are outside their homes, in the forest or out on the lakes during the day, it is not intended to warn people inside their homes who have access to radios and televisions.

New Roof:

In June Rardin Construction had to replace the roof on the fire/town hall. There had been a problem with rain and snow runoff running through the fire hall overhang and down the inside of the fire hall wall. The fire hall roof was 13 years old and the town hall roof was installed in 1975. Total cost was \$14,850.

Internal Audit:

CliftonLarsonAllen completed an internal audit of the township finances in August. This audit is required by the Office of the State Auditor every 5 years. The township books and accounting systems were found to be complete and accurate. Their findings included an analysis of the reserves held by the township to support any emergencies or deficiencies in revenues. They found the reserves for the General Fund to be very stable. The Road & Bridge reserves were found to be stable and adequate, dependent on any proposed projects. They were concerned about the reserves held for the Fire Fund and found the reserves to be quite small. They suggested that the Fire reserves be built up to an amount equal to 50% of the yearly expenditures.

Broadband Grant:

In August the State of Minnesota announced they were allocating \$18million towards the "Border-to-Border Broadband" grant program. This money was designated for the expansion of broadband service into areas of Minnesota that were un-or-underserved for internet access. CTC has already installed fiber optics into the portion of Fairview in which they provide phone service. The remaining section, about 493 homes and properties near Cty Rd 77, is part of the CenturyLink system, which has declined the request to extend their high speed service up that corridor.

CTC approached the township, expressing an interest in applying for a grant if there was enough public interest. Since the grant applications were going to be "weighted" for acceptance based on health care needs, business needs and economic deficiency, CTC felt it would work better if they combined Fairview with the FT. Ripley area on the application. At the same time, we discovered the SOMA wireless internet access system that many residents rely on for their only internet access was out of business and would cease to exist in 2015.

Between 60 and 75 people attended a special public meeting at the town hall and about 120 letters and surveys were sent to CTC by interested residents. Letters of support also came from Sheriff Tom Burch, Fire Chief Randy Lee, Senator Paul Gazelka, Representative Mark Anderson and the Cass County Commissioners. CTC produced an informative video featuring local residents, business people and educators, all explaining how the lack of dependable internet access has adversely affected them. The video has gone on to be shown at state-wide broadband conferences. The application, one of 40 submitted, was requesting \$2million to be matched by CTC, to complete the \$4.3million project.

On February 2nd, we received word that CTC was awarded a \$2million grant. By the very next day trucks were running around the township taking measurements for fiber optic cable. They hope to start digging that cable in between mid-May and July, but there is slight shortage of cable due to the high demand all across the country. CTC anticipates connecting some homes by the end of the year.

The SOMA dish/antenna is scheduled to be removed from the tower near Ski Gull in August. Affected residents, including the town hall, will have to seek out alternate sources for internet access until the CTC service is up and running.

See the CTC update attached to this report.

2014 Election:

The mid-term primary and general elections went very well. In the November general election there were 421 votes cast in the Fairview Township precinct, which gave us an overall voter turnout of 71.2%. 350 of those votes were cast at the town hall and 71 were cast as Absentees.

Fondie Lane:

In November the property owners along Fondie Lane petitioned the township to accept their road into the township. The road was paved several years ago and is in need of some minor crack sealing. The residents agreed to reimburse the township for the expense of that crack sealing when it is done in the spring. The board voted to accept the approximately 1/3 mile long road into the township.

Donations: Kathy Brown/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to authorize the Board of Supervisors to, at their discretion, **make the proper donations** in 2015 to support non-profit organizations that benefit the Township residents, **up to a total of \$5,000**. Kathy Brown spoke about the many benefits that Ski Gull brings to the area, complimented their management and asked that the Board consider supporting them generously.

2016 Levy: The Levy for 2015 is \$284,200, as it has been for the last three years. The CliftonAllenLarson external audit found the Fire Fund reserves to be insufficient and should be built up to the equivalent of one-half years expenses or approximately \$35,000.

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. Snow removal expenses have been higher than normal the last two years. Budget for 2014 was \$25,000 and actual expenditures were \$45,258. **Kathy Brown/ Walt**

Richmond/Unanimous: Motion to increase the levy by 3.5% or \$9,950, setting a levy of \$294,150 for 2016. It will be allocated as follows: Road & Bridge \$135,000, Fire & Safety \$95,000 and General Fund \$64,150.

Liquor and Gambling Licenses : Kathy Brown/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to approve the Liquor Licenses for Jake's City Grille, Mount Ski Gull and the Quarterdeck/LakeShore Lodge.

Kathy Brown/ Tom Dechmann/Unanimous: Motion to approve gambling permits at Jake's City Grille, and Quarterdeck/ LakeShore Lodge, as well as any special case requests (such as Lakeshore Conservation Club raffle) that may be requested.

Other Issues:

2016 Fairview Township Annual Meeting: Tom Dechmann/ Kathy Brown/ Unanimous: Motion to approve holding the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 8th at the Fairview Town Hall at 6:30 PM.

2015 Board of Review will be held on Friday, April 17th at 1 PM at the town hall.

Walt Richmond/ Tom Dechmann/Unanimous: Motion to adjourn the Annual Meeting at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marla Yoho, Clerk