

2019 FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

Pillager ISD 116 School Special Referendum Election

May 14, 2019

Voting to take place at the Sylvan Town Hall

12956 24th Ave SW, Pillager

Polls Open: 7:00 am to 8:00 pm

In-person Absentee Voting at Pillager Schools District Office

323 E 2nd St, Pillager

March 29 through May 13

Township Contact Information

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Get Hooked on the Trail**

2019 FAIRVIEW TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING, March 12, 2019

2018 TREASURER'S REPORT:

BEGINNING CASH		1/1/2018		
Sales	Adjusted Checking	133,012.14		
	Money Market	<u>322,761.68</u>		
ADJUSTED BEG. CASH		455,773.82		
REVENUE			<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
	Interest	3,564.12	2,000	-1,564
	Cass			
	County	311,391.21	303,950	-7,441
	PILT/ Market Value Credit	11,673.85	11,650	-24
	Township Aid	4,834.00	4,100	-734
	Gas Tax Allocation	21,803.21	21,800	-3
	DNR - Pillsbury Forest Funds	4,152.12	4,100	-52
	Sale of Investments	0.00	1,000	1,000
	Utility Reimbursement/ Misc	<u>7,495.78</u>	<u>7,500</u>	<u>4</u>
	TOTAL	<u>364,914.29</u>	355,100	-9,814
TOTAL CASH		820,688.11		
ROAD & BRIDGE				
	Road Projects	94,530.28	99,500	4,970
	Blacktop Maintenance	28,383.10	27,500	-883
	Gravel Maintenance	3,300.50	3,500	200
	General Road Maintenance	36,798.38	23,350	-3,448
	Snow	<u>31,300.00</u>	<u>45,000</u>	<u>13,700</u>
	TOTAL	184,312.26	198,850	14,538
FIRE & SAFETY				
	Mtgs & Signs	2,886.96	4,700	1,813
	Pillager	<u>73,950.34</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>50</u>
	TOTAL	76,837.30	78,700	1,863
GENERAL				
	Administration	35,745.00	35,000	-745
	Elections	2,665.43	3,000	335
	Planning Comm	1,105.62	1,100	-6
	IRS/MN Revenue	5,893.70	3,200	-2,694
	PERA	4,805.86	5,250	444
	Medicare (Employee Share)	-4,069.31	-4,000	69
	PERA (Employee Share)	-2,252.58	-2,500	-247
	Supplies	1,866.71	1,500	-367
	Utilities	3,500.80	3,500	-1
	Mileage	2,441.86	2,250	-192
	Public Notices	3,921.69	4,500	578
	Dues & Subscriptions	1,105.46	1,250	145
	Insurance	3,860.00	3,800	-60
	Bldg/Equipmt Maintenance	2,967.79	3,500	532
	Legal, Audit & Special	8,471.65	8,000	-472
	Parks & Recreation	4,000.00	4,000	0
	Trails	8,059.50	<u>8,000</u>	<u>-60</u>
	Purchase of Investments	<u>676.35</u>		
	TOTAL	84,765.33	81,350	-3,415
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		345,914.89	358,900	12,985
YEAR END FUNDS		December 31, 2018	INVESTMENTS	
ADJUSTED ENDING CASH		73,852.52	MONEY MARKET FUNDS	400,599.54
INVESTMENTS		<u>497,615.89</u>	RD & BRIDGE CDs	61,273.56
Total Funds Available		571,468.41	COMMUNITY PROJECTS CD	<u>35,742.79</u>
				497,615.89

ROAD REPORT:

Total expenditures for Road Maintenance and Construction in 2018: **\$184,312**

Snow Removal: **\$ 31,300**

Blacktop Maintenance: **\$ 28,383**

Includes: **Sweeping:** \$2,320

Patching, Shouldering, Drainage, Wash-Outs: \$4,037

Crack Sealing & Patching: \$22,026

Antler Dr	Green Bass Lake Ln	Pillsbury Dr	Rookery Dr
Beauty Lake Rd	Gregory Dr	Pillsbury Forest Rd	Shadow Trail Dr
Beaver Pond Rd	Gull Lake Dr	Mayfair Rd	VanSickle Bay Rd
Birch Forest Rd	Hill Dr	Quill Dr	Westwood Shores Dr
Cottage Wood Dr	Maple Dr	Rardin Rd	White Pine Rd
Fondie Ln	Norway Pine Dr	Red Oak Dr	Wood Dr
Forest View Ct	Pillsbury Circle	Red Oak Trail	Town Hall Parking Lot

Gravel Road Maintenance: **\$ 3,301**

Grading, Patching, Fill: \$ 3,301

General Road Maintenance: **\$ 26,798**

Mowing Roadsides: \$ 10,720

Roadside Clean-Up: \$ 12,040

Legal Fees, Signs & Miscellaneous: \$ 4,038

Road Projects- Construction & Engineering: **\$ 94,530**

S Agate Shore Dr and S Agate Shore Trail

2018 Road Issues of Interest:

Ossego Road:

- The Roth family was issued a permit to replace their septic system with the drainfield placed on their property on the opposite side of Ossego Rd. This placement required having the piping bored 4-ft. under the road. The pipes are marked with metal stakes as reference points for future road work. The Roth's also received a permit to place a private railroad caboose on their property, which is not connected to the septic system.

Gravel Road Maintenance:

- Tom Dechmann measured the gravel roads the township maintains, with the following findings:

Orchard Park Lane:	55 Feet	.01 Mile	Ponderosa Ln:	1,920 Feet	.36 Mile
Rardin Minimum Maintenance Rd:	1,996 Feet	.38 Mile	Pillager Lake Rd*:	3,209 Feet	.61 Mile

* Maintained Portion: 2,415 Feet (Cty Rd 1 to the turn-around); Minimum Maintenance Portion: 793½Feet;

In addition, we have shared responsibility for 1-mile of Mayfair Minimum Maintenance Rd.

- In November, the Board resolved to close off the Minimum Maintenance portion of Pillager Lake Rd for the winter. On November 16th a padlocked chain and "Closed" sign was installed. The property owners on the "Closed" portion of the road are not inconvenienced by this action.

- Beavers continue to cause culvert blockages on Pillager Lake Rd and Birch Forest Rd.

Crack Sealing:

- The township entered into a \$6,411 contract with Anderson Bros. to apply Poly-Patch Crack sealer to 33 cracks on Cottage Wood Dr and two cracks on Rardin Rd., all of which were wide enough to warrant this better product.

- Tom Dechmann worked with Jerry Beckman of Anderson Bros. to devise a plan to make the annual spring crack sealing process more time- and cost-efficient. The crack sealing process will alternate between roads on the east and west sides of the township on a yearly basis, which will lead to a cost saving by limiting the movement of the heavy equipment. Also, pricing will be based on "time and materials" opposed to measuring each crack and a contract estimate.

Birch Forest Rd:

In 2018 the township continued to monitor run-off issues on Birch Forest Rd.

- In March, two culverts were frozen, causing water to flow across the road. The culverts were treated with bags of rock salt and were hydro-jetted. The ends of the culverts have become damaged and may need to be repaired/ replaced in 2019.

- In October another resident was having an issue with water in their basement. They felt the water was being backed up

from a beaver pond. Their agent was given a copy of the topographical map provided by the Cass County Wetland Specialist (Kelly Condiff), which shows that the pond is not higher than the property. The culvert closest to their house was clogged, which they felt contributed to their water issue. That culvert was unclogged twice in November and 3 beaver were trapped.

- Residents at the far end of the road have reported problems with the snow plow damaging their lawn (within the township right-of-way). This will continue to be a problem since the snow plows cannot make a distinct right angle, but must sweep in an arc at that end of the road.

Culverts:

The township maintains three culverts on Birch Forest Rd. (as mentioned above), as well as two on Pillager Lake and Pinewood Rd., and one each on Gregory Dr., Red Oak Dr. and Orchard Park Ln. Tom Dechmann monitors them throughout the winter months for freezing and throughout the summer for clogging due to beavers and tree debris. The culvert on Orchard Park Ln. is plugged with large rocks, then debris causes it to become clogged. Efforts to find a diver or some way to remove the rocks has been fruitless. The DNR culvert, which is not far away, has remained open and allows for stabilizing the water levels on each side of the road.

Snow Plowing:

Rardin Excavating contracts for snow removal in Lake Shore, East Gull Lake and Fairview Township, as well as at Fleet Farm. There were some concerns that the roads were not being cleared early enough, so a joint meeting was held with Mike Rardin. He has 4 trucks and a grader. One truck starts at Fleet Farm at 5:30 AM. When that truck is done, it comes up to join the others to finish up the three municipalities. It was stressed that roads must be started early enough to get them open for school buses and residents trying to get to work. No specific time was decided on. There was discussion on the cost factor, is it better to wait until the snow has stopped, often causing the snow to become compacted, and then requiring more salt, or is it better to plow a couple of times to prevent compaction and keep the roads clear, which is the Cass County policy.

There is a salt shortage this year due to a strike at a salt shipping company, causing the price of salt to be higher.

Noxious Weeds:

Tom Dechmann continued his spraying program for Canadian Thistle, a weed on the Cass County Noxious Weed list., along Pinewood Rd and Cottage Wood Dr.

Road Construction:

Our major road construction in 2018 was a 1 ½ "-overlay of S. Agate Lake Trail and S. Agate Lake Drive. Engineering specs called for 1,152 Sq. Yds. of patching prior to a 1 "-overlay, but after digging out some of the patches Anderson Bros. found the existing black top to be less than 1" thick. At this point a decision was made to stop patching and increase the bituminous overlay to 1 ½". A contract change order was made at this time. During the paving project in 1993 the blacktop on Agate Shores Dr. was stopped and the last 400 Ft. of the roadway was left as gravel. This last 400 Ft. was paved with 2 ½ "of bituminous.

S. Agate Shore Dr. Vacation:

In October, Fairview Township vacated the approximately 400-ft. of township road easement that existed within the Birch Bay RV Park. In return for this vacation Shorty Spohn (Birch Bay RV Resort) had a 45-ft. radius "turn around" installed, paved and fenced thus closing off S. Agate Shores Dr. at that point. Birch Bay RV Resort changed their address to Sandy Point Rd. and signs have been installed to divert camper and RV traffic from S. Agate Shore Dr.

FIRE REPORT:

- Walt Richmond, Fire Association liaison reported the Fire Dept. responded to **260 emergency runs in 2018**, 28 less than in 2017. Decrease is attributed to the closing of one of the group homes in Pillager/ Sylvan.
- 2019 budget for Pillager Fire Dept. is \$179,500. Proposed budget for 2020 is \$212,700, increase of \$33,200, or 18%. Increase will cover the establishment of three depreciation accounts for turn-out gear, SCBAs (Self Contained Breathing Apparatus), and Motorola radios carried by the firefighters and in the trucks.
- Fairview fire assessment will be at least \$85,000 in 2020 if the formula used for assessing the fire association members doesn't change. The association members have been trying to reach an agreement on an equitable formula.
- OSHA has been inspecting fire departments and if they find outdated equipment, the fire dept. is fined.
- The association has instituted a program to pay the current 20 firefighters a stipend of \$5 per run attended.
- The new fire chief, Greg Ringler, is very proactive and is creating a service schedule for the trucks and equipment.
- The department has purchased a new pumper truck with a 3,000 gallon tank, which is kept at Station #2. It is a demo model, purchased at a discounted price of \$297,000.

- The assn. has started contract negotiations with East Gull Lake. Two options being discussed: 1) Increase the payment by \$5,000 each year; or 2) Increase the payment in an amount comparable to how much the budget has increased.
- Water storage tanks buried in Pillager Fire area have a 70,000-gallon total capacity. The trucks have an onboard capacity of 7,500 gallons.
- One of the female members of the Pillager Fire Dept. was voted as the Minnesota Female Firefighter of the Year.
- Two firefighters retired this year: Jim Weizenegger with 17 years of service and Bob Jackson with 27 years of service.

PILLAGER PARK REPORT: Walt Richmond, Pillager Park Liaison, reported the member assessment for Pillager Park will remain at \$2,000 for 2019.

- The DNR did replace the fishing pier, but it is 10-ft shorter than the old one rather than 10-ft. longer. The old pier is also being used.
- Electricity has been installed at the pavilions.
- Walt will be applying to the DNR for permission to remove some of the weeds from the swimming area.
- They did find a Park Host for part of the 2018 summer, but she didn't work out. They are looking for a replacement.

GULL LAKE TRAIL COMMITTEE:

Jenny Gunsbury, Fairview Trail Advisory Committee Chair, and Marla presented a summary of the progress made on the Fairview Trail over the last year.

- The trail logo was revised twice to make it inclusive of Nisswa, and to read "Get Hooked on the Gull Lake Trail".
- The FTAC has used local venues, such as the Community Outreach Day, the Nisswa Firecracker Race, the Habitat for Humanity bike ride and other events, to promote support for the trail by setting up displays and sharing information.
- The FTAC and the Fairview Board of Supervisors took on the responsibility for litter clean-up on a 2 ½ - mile section of Cty. 77 through the "Adopt-A-Highway" program. Committee and Board members, as well as Cass County Sheriffs' Deputy Brad Rittgers, worked together in the fall for the first clean-up session. The next one is planned in the spring.
- Lake Shore held a ribbon cutting in October to celebrate the opening of the new portion of Cty 77 and 3.9 miles of trail.
- Last summer the FTAC painted "the Rock" with the new logo, which created a lot of favorable conversation and press about the trail. Unfortunately, the artwork was painted over in about a week.
- In February applications were submitted for the DNR Regional Trail and the DNR Federal Recreational Trail grants. In June we received notices of both grants being awarded for \$100,000 and \$150,000 respectively.
- After being approved, the DNR requires extensive documentation concerning endangered species, archaeology and the environment before the grant funds can be awarded. As part of that documentation and approval process, a Wetland Delineation Report was completed in September. That report is needed to gain approval from the SWCD, US Corps of Engineers, DNR and Cass County ESD for the placement of the trail within the county right-of-way and to document any wetland displacement and replacement plans. This process also requires the purchase of "Wetland Credits".
- In July an application for a Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails grant in the amount of \$1,212,000 was submitted. In December we were notified the GMRPT had approved the application, pending the allotment of Legacy funds by the state legislature by May 31st.
- If the funds are allocated and all required paperwork (mentioned above) is submitted and accepted by the proper agencies, the funds would become available no earlier than July 1st. Only then can the actual design and engineering work begin. Specs could potentially be submitted for the bid process by late summer, with the possibility that some clearing and wetland circum-navigation work could begin in the fall of 2019. We anticipate actual construction taking place in the summer of 2020.
- The major grants from Cass County, the DNR and the GMRPT will cover most of the expenses, but the construction estimates we have been working off are over 2 years old and do not include expenses such as purchasing wetland credits at a cost of \$42,000. In addition, these grant funds are issued as reimbursements, which means the billings must be approved and paid before they can be submitted to the grant agencies for reimbursement. This may require a line-of-credit through Bremer Bank, with the associated financing costs.
- The FTAC has continued to raise funds where ever they see a possibility. As part of that process, they will be hosting a "Pints for A Purpose" fund-raiser for the Fairview Trail at the Jack Pine Brewery on Wednesday, May 1st from 5 to 8 PM. \$1 of each pint sold will benefit the trail. In addition, all proceeds from the sale of Jake's chicken wings (donated by Jake's Grille) and pizza (donated by Papa Murphy's) will go towards trail construction. The committee is also looking for partners who will issue matching fund challenges as part of the event.
- On April 25th, Jenny and Marla will be speaking about the trail progress on the Community Focus program on WJYY.

- Jenny has written an article sharing the story of the Gull Lake Trail origin, construction plans, and future connections to appear in the April/ May issue of the Lake Country Journal.
- Anyone donating \$100 (or more) towards the Fairview Trail will receive a limited-edition engraved Gull Lake Trail mug.

FAIRVIEW PLANNING COMMISSION:

The Fairview Planning Commission attended seven field inspections on behalf of the township with the Cass County Planning & Zoning Commission members. Those inspections included:

Askegaard: Application for variance to construct garage with a small portion within the OHW (ordinary high water) setback from Sylvan Lake. Ultimately, the building was reoriented to lie outside the OHW setback.

Beach Club LLC: Application to amend existing CUP to include 2 additional parcels. Application approved by the CCP&Z.

Beach Club LLC: Application to rezone 2 additional parcels as Water Oriented Commercial and to approve CUP for revised resort configurations and expansion. Application was approved with conditions by the CCP&Z.

Birch Bay RV Resort: Application for approval of CUP for Phase 2, 73 units. Application was approved.

Hengel Ready Mix & Construction: Application to create a gravel pit in May Township. There was an original plan that they would use a Fairview Township road which was not constructed for the weight of gravel trucks. Hengels eventually decided to make use of a May Township road.

Manson: Application to construct a garage within the Beauty Lake Road setback and move a storage unit to a location within the setback of Beauty Lake. The application was approved with the garage located over 100' from Beauty Lake and 14' from the road, and the relocation of the storage unit with conditions.

McCormick: CUP Application to place and grade 628 cubic yards of earthen material in order to provide driveway access to an undeveloped lot intended for the construction of a residence and garage. For almost fifty-years the township has been dealing with water runoff issues on this road.

The Township Board asked the TEP panel to approve the plan. The CCP&Z approved the application.

Stockness (Proposed Owner) & Watson (Current Owner): Application to remove existing and construct a new 1,800 sf residence with a closer lake setback to a GD lake. The proposal also includes the development of a new driveway to be constructed within the bluff. The CCP&Z approved the application.

DONATIONS: *Walt Richmond/ Tom Dechmann/ Unanimous: Motion to* authorize the Board of Supervisors to, at their discretion, **make the proper donations and expenditures** in 2019 to support non-profit organizations that benefit the Township residents, **up to a total of \$5,000.** In the past, the Board has approved donations to Mount Ski Gull, which provides local jobs and recreation, the Pillager County Fair, the Cass County Historical Society and the area Dive Team that works in conjunction with the Cass County Sheriff's Office. In addition, the township has received requests for support from Faith in Action for Cass County, the Cass County Economic Development Commission, and Support Within Reach.

2020 LEVY: The 2019 levy is \$310,000. The Fire assessment will be increased substantially and the reserve for this fund is already too low. *Walt Richmond/Jenny Gunsbury/ Unanimous: Motion to* increase the 2020 Levy by approximately 1.62% (\$5,000) to **\$315,000.** The new levy will be allocated as follows: **Road & Bridge \$120,000, Fire & Safety \$100,000 and General Fund \$95,000.**

LIQUOR LICENSES: *Tom Dechmann/ Paul Cibuzar/ Unanimous: Motion to* approve the following Liquor Licenses: Jake's Gull Lake Grille, Both On- and Off-Sale; Mount Ski Gull, On-Sale: Quarterdeck, Both On- and Off-Sale.

OTHER ISSUES:

2020 Fairview Township Annual Meeting: *Paul Cibuzar/Jenny Gunsbury/ Unanimous: Motion to* approve holding the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 10th, at the Fairview Town Hall at 6:30 pm.

2019 Board of Review will be held on Tuesday, April 16th at 1 pm at the town hall.

2019 Annual Road Review will be held on Tuesday, April 16th starting at 8:00 pm. Residents are welcome to participate but must provide their own transportation. Weather alternate date: April 29th.