

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

September 2002



Eureka Township Supervisors 7:30 pm, 2nd Monday of Month

Beverly Topp, Chairperson
952-469-4859
Don Pflaum, Vice Chairperson
651-463-3577
Connie Anderson
952-469-2355
Kenny Miller
952-469-4803
Clark Smith
952-469-3352

Oliver Leine, Town Clerk
952-469-2294
Nanett Leine, Treasurer
952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission 7:30 pm, 1st Monday of Month

Greg Gudbjartsson, Chair
952-469-3963
Paul Boyum
952-469-3800
Mark Malecha
507-645-4015
Francie Madden
952-469-2958
Calvin Pflaum
651-463-3577

Township Contact

Nanett Leine
by telephone: 952-469-3736
Monday - 8:00 AM to noon
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Official notices published in:
Farmington Independent and
This Week/Life and Times
newspapers, & outside on the
Town Hall bulletin board.

Commercial Enterprises in the Township

A number of commercial and industrial businesses exist in the township that are outside the bounds of the township's zoning ordinances. Since the township is zoned agriculture, conditional use permits are required for some activities or uses but exclude commercial or industrial enterprises.

After months of work and hearing the concerns of the residents, the Town Board on September 9, 2002 adopted an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance that can permit these existing enterprises.

However, there are some conditions that must be met in order for the enterprise to obtain a Nonconforming Use Permit. Here are just a few:

- The permit is issued for a specific use & not to a person.
- The use will not be a danger or detrimental to the public health, safety, or general welfare of residents.
- Allows rebuilding in the event of a catastrophic event but not to expand the enterprise.
- Storage of equipment must either be inside a building or appropriately screened.

There are a significant number of other conditions in the amendment designed to protect the landowners and business owners. Copies of the Zoning Ordinance with its new Amendment and Application Form are available from Nanett Leine [see the side bar] or from the Eureka WEB Page at [www.eurekatownship-mn.us]. We recommend the WEB Page be used by non-applicants as there is no cost for downloading the materials and they will be available shortly.

Business owners must submit a completely filled out Application Form to the Town Clerk within 180 days from September 9, 2002, by March 8, 2003. After a thorough review by the Planning Commission and the Town Board, a permit may be issued.

Preserving Natural Areas and Farmland

Numerous public meetings have been held in the county for over two years to find out how residents felt about preserving farmland and natural areas in Dakota County. A survey conducted by Dakota County in 2002 showed that 96% of those surveyed had an interest in protecting natural areas, and another 54% expressed a strong interest in protecting farmland.

Dakota County Commissioners have approved the submission of a referendum to the voters in the county on November 5, 2002 to approve or not approve the sale of \$20 million in bonds to acquire, preserve and protect natural areas and farmland from development. The program would run for 10 years, and acquisition and preservation expenditures would be limited to approximately \$2 million a year. None of the money could be used to purchase land for parks or other purposes. This is a completely voluntary program, and no landowner is required to sell his/her land easements rights to accomplish the purpose of the referendum. It is up to the voters of the county, including those of us in Eureka Township, to vote on the merits of this referendum.

For further information and a copy of a fact sheet, contact Jane Vanderpoel at 651-438-4423 or Kurt Chatsfield by E-mail at kchatsfield@co.dakota.mn.us

MAINTAINING TOWNSHIP ROADS

Important work has been completed! At the south end of Denmark avenue two concrete box culverts were demolished and replaced with large steel culverts. The new culverts are longer and allow the road bed to be full width, providing a much safer road for oncoming traffic. Some of Eureka Estate roads were seal-coated this summer. The seal coat (a hot tar coat - followed by the application of trap rock) provides a new wear surface, as well as sealing the surface to keep water out of the road bed.

The township purchased a traffic counter as a tool to assess the traffic on roads, thus determining the frequency of maintenance and material requirements. Look for the rubber hose stretched across roads.

The board is preparing a roadside vegetation control plan. It is essential to control noxious weeds, brush and trees in the road right-of-ways.

The Billy Goat Bridge

The township board has signed a contract with Dakota County for the replacement of the bridge over 265th St., just east of Cedar Avenue. The design of the bridge and additional roadway requirements are under way. The county is taking responsibility for the initial design of the bridge, with both township and the railroad having a keen interest in the design. The county will pick up the large share of the costs, and the costs for the township can only be estimated at this time. The total cost of the bridge and the preparation of the site will probably be in excess of \$200,000. It is anticipated that construction of the new bridge will begin in 2003.

THE TOWN'S TASK TEAMS

The Envisioning Task Team is very close to completing its first assignment. It will be presenting an informal presentation of its report to the township supervisors in October, that will be followed up with a comprehensive written report.

The town board has approved holding a **public Open House** led by the Envisioning Task Team at the **Dakota County Extension Service Office in Farmington on November 14, 2002**. The open house, which will include a "walk through" of the task team's offerings of scenarios, **will start at 7:00 pm** and conclude at 9:30 pm. A post card reminder will be sent to all of the landowners in Eureka Township in October or early November. Check out the town's WEB page for additional details on the scope of this task team's mission or in the September 2001 issue of this newsletter. However, this task team is not a planning group for the township.

The Town Hall Task Team and Commercial Task Teams are moving forward with their tasks.

Kudos - to Chester and Michael Rose: residents exemplar!

Ollie Leine reported that Chester and Michael Rose spent up to 3 hours diagnosing and correcting an electrical problem at the town hall in August. They made themselves available late in the evening, and showed a most commendable response to the "blackout".

Important Notice

Any new construction or change to a driveway or field road, such as an approach to a township road, requires a permit from the township. Applicants should contact Mark Henry at 651-755-3604 or Chris Nielsen at 651-755-0913 during normal working hours.

> CHAIR'S CORNER <

Airlake Airport - a Brief Review

Over three years ago Eureka Township met with the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) to determine what would happen to the part of the Airlake Airport which is located within the boundaries of the township. The Metropolitan Council (Met Council) had requested of the MAC that its reliever airports be brought up to date by eliminating the use of private septic systems. In the case of Airlake Airport, this could be done by extending the City of Lakeville's sewer and water lines to include the airport.

Meetings were held with MAC and the city of Lakeville to request this service. At that time, Lakeville did not want to extend the lines to the airport in Eureka Township unless that portion was first annexed by the city. They explained that other parts of Lakeville were not getting the Metropolitan Urban Service Area (MUSA) line so it would be difficult to explain to these residents why the city was giving it to Eureka first. Because township officers did not feel annexation was a desirable option, they could not readily agree to this option.

After much work with the the Metropolitan Council's planning department as a liaison to the MAC, Eureka Township received word, in the summer of 2000, that the MAC was going to provide a sewer interceptor to Airlake Airport on its own, circumventing any need for annexation by Lakeville. The purposed cost to MAC was around \$185,000.

After 9/11

This summer, Greg Gudbjartsson, our Planning Commission Chair, and I attended a meeting at Airlake Airport to discuss Eureka Township and the airport. We were informed that because of the events of 9/11, budgets were re-prioritized, with security as the highest level of importance, and there were no plans for MAC to construct the interceptor for us. The provision for sewer and water would be again a function of the city of Lakeville. We suggested that Eureka Township and Lakeville sign a joint powers agreement to serve the airport in the future. Lakeville did not respond favorably to that suggestion.

Annexation appeared to be the only way they wanted to be involved in providing sewer and

water to the area.

As goes much of life in a metro area, new considerations have come to pass that will have a possible impact on this subject. There has been a lot of news coverage in the last month or so about a new proposed sewer interceptor to the Elko-New Market portion of Scott County. This possibility has created a flurry of letters from various communities stating support for or opposition to the proposal, based on how these communities see how they might be impacted by this plan. The Empire Wastewater Treatment plant weighs in to the formula, in that its capacity (presently in the process of being doubled) is what will allow the new interceptor in Elko-New Market.

So how does this affect Eureka? We are not sure yet and have agreed to be part of a Met Council study of possible communities that might be affected by this proposal. What appears to be possible is:

- This interceptor, if run near Eureka Township, it could provide the airport with the needed sewer hook-up.
- The interceptor could put pressure for development on the township.

Perhaps the interceptor could run through the township without containing other hook-ups than the one for the airport, avoiding some of the development pressure. However, these kinds of questions are what will be determined in the affected communities study being planned in the near future.

We all know development continues to be a major factor in Dakota County. Although the township has committed to a one home per quarter-quarter policy, we will be watching as development marches along our borders.

Open House for Residents

I encourage residents to attend the Open House the Envisioning Task Team is holding on November 14th to explore with all of us the scenarios that have been developed as thoughts for further discussion. This will be an opportunity to see possibilities, to focus your own vision for our township, and to have input to what else might help this group look forward.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

Non Conforming Use Permits

Effective September 9, 2002, Ordinance 32 was adopted to permit certain enterprises to operate but subject to many conditions. Applicants have 180 days to submit an application for town board review and approval, or denial. See the lead article on page 1 for important details

Township WEB Page

The town board has approved the inclusion of

- the approved minutes of the meetings of the town board
- an index to all of the ordinances
- the text of approved ordinances
- the approved minutes of the town's task teams

on the township's WEB Page.

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

- for general information
- to get on the Town Board meeting agenda
- to get information on the requirement for a township building or mining permit
- tentative agendas of meetings are available at the town hall

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
Email: eureka@frontiernet.net
OR
at 952-469-3736

for immediate response on:
Monday 8:00 AM to noon
Thursday 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Other days & evenings, calls are transferred to Voice Mail. All calls will be returned.

Eureka Township
24797 Highview Avenue
Lakeville, MN. 55044
Tel: 952.469.3736
WEB Page:
<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Calendar of Meetings

Town Board

Oct. 15
Nov. 11
Dec. 9

Planning

Oct. 7
Nov. 4
Dec. 2

All meetings start at 7:30 PM
in the Town Hall on old
Cedar Avenue, a block south
of 250 St. W.