

EUREKA! THE NEWS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF EUREKA TOWNSHIP

October 2003



Envisioning Task Force - An Update

Eureka Township Supervisors

7:00 pm, 2nd Monday of Month

Don Pflaum, Chair
651-463-3577
Kenny Miller, Vice Chair
952-469-4803
Connie Anderson
952-469-2355
Mark Malecha
507-645-4015
Dan Rogers
952-469-3739

Nanett Leine, Town Clerk/
Treasurer
952-469-3736

Eureka Planning Commission

7:00 pm, 1st Monday of Month

Francie Madden, Chair
952-469-2958
Butch Hansen, Vice Chair
952-469-6669
Corey Behrendt
952-985-5411
Cheryl Monson
952-469-5380
Calvin Pflaum
651-463-3577

Township Contact

Nanett Leine
by telephone: 952-469-3736
Monday - 8:00 am to noon
Thursday - 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm
Email: eureka@frontiernet.net

WEB site:

<http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Editor: Bob Papke
651-463-8546

Official notices published in:
the *This Week Life and Times*
newspaper, and posted on the
bulletin board outside the Town
Hall.

The Eureka Envisioning Task Force is in the process of wrapping up its work on a two-year project conducted on behalf of the township. The project undertaken with Dakota County and 1000 Friends of Minnesota offered a unique opportunity to use a new computer software product (Community Viz) designed to help communities evaluate the effects of growth and development.

The task force was created as a discussion and educational group, not a policy making group: it has no power to make planning decisions for the township. The purpose of the task force is threefold:

- formulate and discuss a variety of possible growth scenarios for the township.
- learn about potential impact of each growth scenario such as water quality, agriculture, wildlife, infrastructure and resident quality of life.
- educate the residents of the township about the task force findings.

The task force has completed the first two items and is working on the final task of sharing its findings with the residents. A 70 page written report was submitted to the town board and was unanimously accepted at their September 2003 meeting. Reference copies of the report will be available soon at the town hall and the Lakeville and Farmington public libraries.

The task force is creating a shorter "executive summary" from the 70 page report that will be available later this year. Notices will be included on the township's website as well as in future issues of this newsletter.

A public session is planned to present results of this project and to provide an opportunity for public feedback. This will take place on November 20, 2003 from 7:00 to 9:00 pm at the Dakota County Extension Office in Farmington.

During the past two years, members of the task force have worked hard to educate themselves about rural growth and development issues. We have always viewed our work as only a first step in the process of envisioning the future of Eureka.

The next step in that process lies with the citizens and elected officials of our community. Eureka citizens of today owe it to future generations of Eureka residents to think through development decisions we make and to carefully consider their long-term impact on the township. Unlike many neighboring communities we still have an opportunity to chart our own course. It is the hope of all members of the task force that our work will contribute to that process - by sparking discussion among township citizens, by helping them to see the complexity of decisions about growth, and by enabling all Eureka citizens to participate more effectively and confidently in decision-making about our township. Together we can create a vision for Eureka's future that strikes a reasonable balance between growth and protection of the many things that make our township such a great place to live.

I extend a personal thanks to all members of the task force for their time, hard work, and commitment to this project - Mike Greco, Envisioning Task Force Chair

Maintaining Township Roads

A number of roads have been gravelled, and ditches cleaned of brush or trees where this has been a problem. The following roads have upgraded through gravelling and grading:

257th from Dodd to east	Fairgreen Ave. from 265th to 255th
225th St. from Denmark Ave. to Essex	Fairgreen Ave. from 235th & south
Highview from 267th to south	Ipava from 267th to driveway
Jamaica from Hwy 86 north to driveway	245th from Dodd to Scott county line

Fairgreen Ave. was tiled for 1000 feet to eliminate flooding problems. A new culvert will be installed on Denmark, near Prairie Creek School, replacing one that is not compatible with modern vehicles and safety. A no parking zone on Denmark Ave. will be created between 275th and 277th streets.

Township Supervisors Mark Malecha and Dan Rogers are meeting with snow plowing contractors to develop a schedule for the winter of 2003-2004. A plan will be presented to the board in November.

The design for a new bridge over the railroad tracks just east of Cedar Ave. at 265th St. has been completed. However, the 265th St. Bridge Cooperative Agreement covering the agreement between Dakota County, Eureka and the railroad for the reconstruction of the bridge is currently on hold. The state has informed Eureka that funding is not available for this project. The Town Board will send a letter to the state requesting funding.

It would seem that residents of the township could exert some pressure on the legislature by telephoning or e-mailing our legislators Pat Pariseau (651.296.5241 or e-mail sen.pat.pariseau@senate.mn) and Steve Strachan (651.296.1069 or e-mail rep.steve.strachan@house.mn). Ask them to help their constituents on 265th by getting the money to build the bridge!

Township Supervisor Mark Malecha will present a weed control plan for 2004 to the town board in November.

Site of the New Town Hall

The attorney for Eureka Township and the attorney for Mr. Hollis Larson are completing the details in an agreement for the transfer of land as a gift by the Larson family to the township. The site is located on the southwest corner of old Cedar Ave. and 250th St. This will be the site for the new town hall.

A task team is highly likely to be created to develop possible designs of a new building for this site.

Comprehensive Plan & Township Ordinances

At a special meeting of the Town Board & Planning Commission on September 9, 2003, it was decided to submit the present Comp Plan to the township attorney to evaluate it for completeness & correctness. Also decided: a plan to restructure existing ordinances into 6 categories. With 34 different ordinances in place, access to them is a bit cumbersome. The board also directed the town's attorney to restructure zoning ordinances into a working draft. Joint Town board and Planning Commission meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of the month to work on these ordinances and Comp Plan. A tentative public meeting is set for December 1 at the town hall for the Comp Plan up-date. Check the legal newspaper notice for confirmation.

Building Permits are Required

Persons who want to add to a house, build a new house, garage or polished must apply for a building permit. Here is the procedure: 1. Contact the Town Clerk, get an application, complete it. & return it to the Town Clerk 2. Attend the Planning Commission meeting. 3. The Planning Commission will refer the application to the Building Inspector who will forward it to the Town Board. 4. The Board will act on the application with the applicant present.

Town Election in 2004

Any resident, 18 years and older may file as a candidate for one supervisor position in the 2004 election.

The first day of filing is Dec. 20, 2003 and the last day of filing is Jan. 13, 2004.

Filing withdrawal is January 15, 2004 5:00 pm

For further information, contact Nanett Leine, Town Clerk/Treasurer

Board Happenings

Greetings to all.

The town board has had a busy summer and fall, numerous building permits have been approved; a number of new houses, additions, decks, and out buildings. Eureka is growing.

MAC representing the Airlake Airport, and the city of Lakeville have approached the board regarding an annexation of 1.7 acres which the FBO (flight base operation) is located, a part of the FBO building is in both the township and the City. The FBO and MAC are asking for them to be in the same jurisdiction. City water is an issue to them.

The board has laid out an aggressive plan to implement changes to our ordinances over the next year. Beginning in October meetings will be held after the planning commission meeting and the third Monday of each month. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Elections to the Town board are right around the corner, Filings will open the end of December early January through the middle of January with the elections happening in March. So if you are interested please file.

- Supervisor Mark Malecha -

Commercial Task Team* - A Preliminary Report

Ken De Master, Chair of the Commercial Team, provided a written preliminary report during the October 14th meeting of the town board. Here is a very brief summary from the report he presented:

- There is no immediate need for C1 development in Eureka at this time.
- The town's Comprehensive Plan concludes that commercial and industrial land uses are not well suited in a rural areas like Eureka Township. The Task Force supports this assessment.
- Principles are offered to guide commercial development in the future.
- If commercial-industrial development is considered, the method and location of such development should be considered in order to have the least impact on existing residential and agricultural uses.
- A citizen survey of commercial-industrial development should be conducted to ensure citizen involvement.
- A market analysis of the area should be conducted before any new commercial-industrial development is undertaken.
- A professional planner with expertise in rural development should be hired to guide the process in any future commercial-industrial development.

Obviously this is only a very brief idea of the amount of work that the task team has done since its creation. The team accumulated a large amount of information. Some of this was derived from experts in addressing financial issues and rural development: others from relevant faculty members at the University of Minnesota. A large number of issues were tabulated from numerous discussions by the members of the task force. The preliminary report is a severe condensation of the materials collected and discussed.

The town board requested that the task team prepare a final report for the November meeting of the board.

**This task team should not be confused with another task team that has completed its work of a review of Ordinance 32.*

RASP Signs in the Township

Residents are urged to purchase new two-sided signs from the county that provide highly readable street addresses on a green background. Why these signs? A number of addresses of the residents in Eureka lack street numbers, making it extremely difficult for emergency personnel to find the right address in the event of a crisis. **Contact Nanett either by telephone or e-mail and order your sign now.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

HELP! WANTED! A DEPUTY CLERK AND TREASURER

The person, who is appointed for this position, will work on behalf of the Town Clerk/Treasurer in her absence, or if she is not able to attend meetings.

The position is "as needed" and the successful candidate will receive pay based on the number of hours worked.

Interested persons should contact the Town Clerk, Nanett Leine, at 952.469.3736 for additional details.

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

CONTACT: Nanett Leine
by E mail at
eurekatn@frontiernet.net

by telephone 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

Nov. 10

Dec. 8

Jan. 12

Planning Commission

Nov. 3

Dec. 1

Jan. 5

All meetings start at 7:00 pm and are held in the Town Hall on old Cedar Avenue, a block south of 250 St. W.