

Eureka! The News

Publication of Eureka Township, Minnesota

Winter 2018 - 2019



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Township Contacts:

Phone 952-469-3736, Fax 952-469-5525

Clerk – Rancee Solis

clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us

Deputy Clerk – Bob Finke

deputyclerk@eurekatownship-mn.us

Treasurer – Marcia Wilson

treasurer@eurekatownship-mn.us

Town Hall Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 am-2pm

25043 Cedar Ave. S.,

Farmington, MN 55024

Drop Box –Items may be placed in locked drop box near the Town Hall front door.

Website: <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>

Eureka Township Supervisors

Meets monthly, 2nd Monday, 7:00 p.m.

Seat 1 Donovan Palmquist
507-645-9868, term thru 3/20

Seat 2 Butch Hansen, Vice Chair
612-490-0091, term thru 3/20

Seat 3 Tim Murphy, Chair
612-719-9745, term thru 3/21

Seat 4 Mark Ceminsky,
612-819-1334, term thru 3/21

Seat 5 Lu Barfknecht,
952-469-3513, term thru 3/19

Eureka Planning Commission

Meets monthly, 1st Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Ralph Fredlund - chair
952-469-1335, term thru 4/19

Bill Funk, Vice Chair
651-442-5172, term thru 4/20

Julie Larson
952-469-3512, term thru 4/20

Allen Novacek
952-693-5940, term thru 4/21

Randy Wood
651-460-2347, term thru 4/21

Township Roads:

Mark Ceminsky 612-819-1334

Butch Hansen 612-490-0091

Building Inspector - 952-469-3736 or
clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us

VRWJPO - Mark Ryan 952-891-7596

Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us

Emergency/non-emergency authorities – all contacts - 911 (ambulance, police, fire)

Official Notices - bulletin board south (parking lot) side of Town Hall; published in Sun ThisWeek, Dakota County Tribune

Editor: Jody Arman-Jones, 651-463-2876
jodyarmanjones@gmail.com

ANNUAL ELECTION & TOWN MEETING



Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Eureka Town Hall

Polls open 7 AM – 8 PM



Supervisor position #5

Absentee/early voting ballot application:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/VotingElections/Absentee>

Absentee/early ballots are available 30 days (February 11, 2019) prior to the election and must be returned - not postmarked - to Dakota County Elections by election day, March 12, 2019.

Register to vote at:

<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterRegistration/VoterRegistrationMain.aspx>

Voters MUST reside in the Township to vote in this election.

Annual Meeting to begin approximately 8:15 PM

YES, IT MATTERS WHERE “YOUR” SNOW IS!

In Minnesota, “**It is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow onto [roadways].**” That includes any federal, state, county, municipal or township road. Penalties can be increased if illegal snow removal results in accidents or injuries.



Snow from your property should be plowed and stored on your own property and not pushed across roads, into ditches or onto neighboring property.

Both the Township road contractor and Dakota County Sheriff’s office have indicated this is a serious issue this year. Thank you for helping to make this winter season a bit safer for all of us.

A Letter from Eureka Town Board of Supervisor Chair, Tim Murphy

Greetings Eureka Township,

We hope your Holiday Season was spectacular and that your New Year is off to a great start. I am excited to share our Township has moved forward with completion and huge progress on all the items your Supervisors prioritized when we hired our two new clerks. Bob and Raneë have acclimated extremely well and both have worked tirelessly to get us back on track after our months without staff. Together they have tipped our record keeping room and processes upside down to assure we are in compliance. Our Building Permit process and its tracking system has been streamlined and brought up to date (many thanks to our Treasurer, Marcia, here). All our permit applications, along with instructions, are also now available on-line. Township activities that include all our meetings and agendas are now up-to-date and available on our website. Work continues to make the website more user-friendly. Additional exciting news is Deputy Town Clerk, Raneë Solis, became our official permanent Town Clerk in mid-January. Bob will remain as interim Deputy Town Clerk at least through March elections and until Raneë finds a replacement to help complete remaining special projects in process. This change is by their mutual recommendation and due to their huge efforts that bring us near current on all tasks given.

Our Industrial/Commercial Work Group has been meeting regularly to determine feasibility and recommend process. Know that nothing will or can happen without your input. Authorization was given at January's meeting to engage a professional planner. This will better define the process for public input. It should be known that by the recommendations of our Engineering firm's planner the Work Group is recommending we not consider the significant re-zoning that connecting to the Metropolitan Council's Interceptor Sewage system would require. This approach was researched by the 2040 Comprehensive Plan Task Force in 2015 and included conversations with the Metropolitan Council that determined it not feasible or appropriate at this time. We do, however, have railroad issues that support light C/I uses not requiring municipal sewer or water. This consideration could resolve rail car storage proposed in our Township by keeping them in Lakeville's C/I area and the far north of Eureka along the existing rail where immediate adjacent property owners are supportive. This is much preferable to a previously proposed location that was in the heart of our Township and that we could not stop due to Federal Railroad right-of-way legislation. More to come as the work group and consultant's progress. Again, before anything can be done we will be holding public hearings for your input. Please participate to share both support and concerns.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank Newsletter Editor Jody Arman-Jones for her twelve years of service to our Township. Family obligations and travel necessitate finding a replacement. Please contact Raneë or Bob should you be interested or know of a possible replacement. Jody has done an amazing job in this volunteer position that we owe her a debt of gratitude for!

Thank you again for the confidence you have placed in us as Supervisors. As always please do not hesitate to contact any of us with concerns, comments or input. We are here to serve you and need to hear from you.

Tim

One Planning Commission Seat Available

One position on the Planning Commission will be available for appointment in 2019. The three-year term runs May 1, 2019, through April 30, 2022. The Planning Commission meets monthly, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Commissioners receive a stipend of at least \$60 per meeting and standard IRS mileage. The Eureka Planning Commission is a citizen advisory committee appointed by the Town Board that assists them on matters related to planning and development. Visit the Township website at <http://eurekatownship-mn.us/planning-commission/> for more information about the Planning Commission and Commissioners. Interested persons should send a letter indicating interest in serving on the Planning Commission to the Town Clerk via e-mail at clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us or by USPS to 25043 Cedar Ave. S., Farmington, MN 55024. Letters should be received no later than Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at noon. Interested persons should be present at the April 8, 2019 Town Board meeting in order to be interviewed.





Clerk and Deputy Clerk Switch Positions

As planned when hired, Rane Solis has now taken over the Township Clerk position and Bob Finke has assumed the Deputy Clerk position, until such time as replacement Deputy Clerk is hired. The amount of work these two have done in their six month tenure and the degree of organization of Township records and administration is nothing short of a miracle...our sincere appreciation to both of you!

Eureka Estates Development Agreement Available for Viewing

From time to time, questions are raised about what the Township is responsible for in relation to the Eureka Estates Development. A copy of the agreement between the builder, M.W. Johnson Company, and Eureka Township is available for viewing at the Town Hall during regular Town Hall hours. Requests may be made to receive copies, for a fee.

This agreement describes what Eureka Township agreed to maintain, such as roads, and indicates land that was abandoned by the former railroad that cut through that area, among many other items.

Roads

Grenada Ave. in the Chub Lake bottoms is open currently single lane due to water infiltration and road damage from an overturned commercial vehicle. Please observe all road signs and avoid the area, if possible. It is hoped repairs will be begin and be successful in the Spring of 2019.



A reminder that Township roads have a 66-foot wide right-of-way. Nothing should be placed within that right-of-way, and if items are discovered within it, items are subject to removal at owner's expense.

Road issues? Text Road Supervisors Mark Ceminsky (612-819-1334) and/or Butch Hansen (612-490-0091) as soon problems are discovered!

Keep up with Township Happenings

As part of the Township reorganization and new staffing, the computer system is being revised and updated. If you'd like to be notified electronically, by e-mail, of official Eureka Township business, please submit your address to:

clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us or
deputyclerk@eurekatownship-mn.us



Even if you have made this request previously, please verify your desire to receive Township updates, including this newsletter.

Building Inspector Services Request for Proposal Accepted

The Board received three proposals for Building Inspection Services. Those proposals were reviewed at the January 2019 meeting. The proposal from the following firm was accepted:

Inspectron, Inc,
15120 Chippendale Ave., Suite 202
Rosemount, MN 55068



Contract negotiations are now underway.

Eureka! The News – Eureka Township Newsletter Editor Sought

After 12 years as editor of this newsletter, it's time to share the fun! This is a self-directed, volunteer position for a digital document that is usually published quarterly (currently January, April, July and October), in conjunction with the Town Board, Planning Commissioners, and Township staff.

Please contact the Town Clerk if you, or anyone you know, might be interested in becoming a valued volunteer with Eureka Township.

Ranee Solis, Town Clerk clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us Phone 952-469-3736

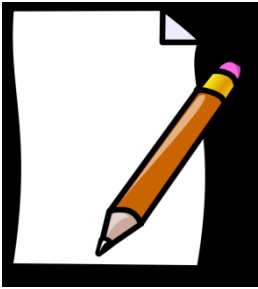


Airport Annexation Update



Two representatives of the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) attended the January 2019 Town Board meeting. Gary Schmidt (Director of Reliever Airports) and Mike Wilson (Manager of Airlake Airport) described negotiations for an Orderly Annexation of Airlake Airport into the City of Lakeville in order to obtain “city” sewer and water services. Originally it was thought MAC could pave 225th Street, but that has been ruled out due to future Dakota County plans for that road. MAC, Eureka and Lakeville would all have to agree to terms for an Orderly Annexation to occur.

Public Comments Part of the Meeting Minutes?



As of the October 9, 2018 Town Board meeting, if speakers desire their public comments at any meeting to be part of the meeting minutes (the official record), written copies of those comments must be submitted to the Clerk or Deputy Clerk at the time the comments are made.

This includes regular meetings in which a three minute per person comment period, not to exceed 20 minutes for all comments, is reserved, and for any Special Meeting, Public Hearing, etc.

County Sheriff Update



Deputies report the following concerns in rural Dakota County:

Garbage dumped along roads (rewards offered!)

Car prowling (keep vehicles locked)

Thefts from unlocked garages and sheds, especially 4-wheelers, skid steers, snowmobiles, trailers, etc. (It is very helpful to have VIN or Serial numbers and photos of stolen items)

Semi traffic on 225th St. - the Township is placing new signs to attempt to combat this use as a cut-through
Safety issues from long term parking along Highview Ave.

Dakota County is hiring a full-time Commercial Traffic person who will be starting soon.

Citizens are urged to report anything out of the ordinary, as it may link to something under investigation. All contact is now initiated by calling 911.

Useful information includes license plate numbers, vehicle descriptions, and direction of travel.

Vehicles parked in unusual places or for extended periods of time should be reported.

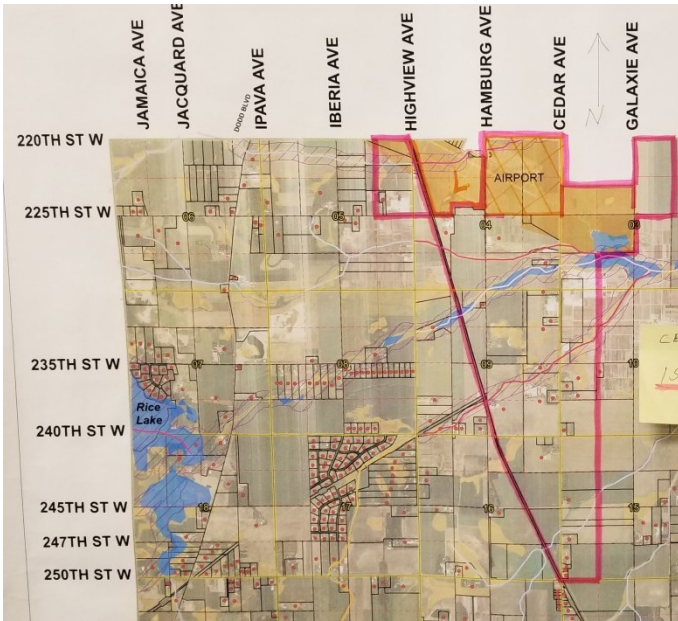
DURING ANOTHER CHALLENGING WINTER SNOW SEASON REMEMBER....

- Slow down.
- Leave early and give yourself plenty of time.
- The ditches are littered with four-wheel drive vehicles - they require the same driving care as all other vehicles.
- Secure all vehicles and equipment, even during daylight hours.
- Snowmobilers please exercise caution, including on groomed trails.

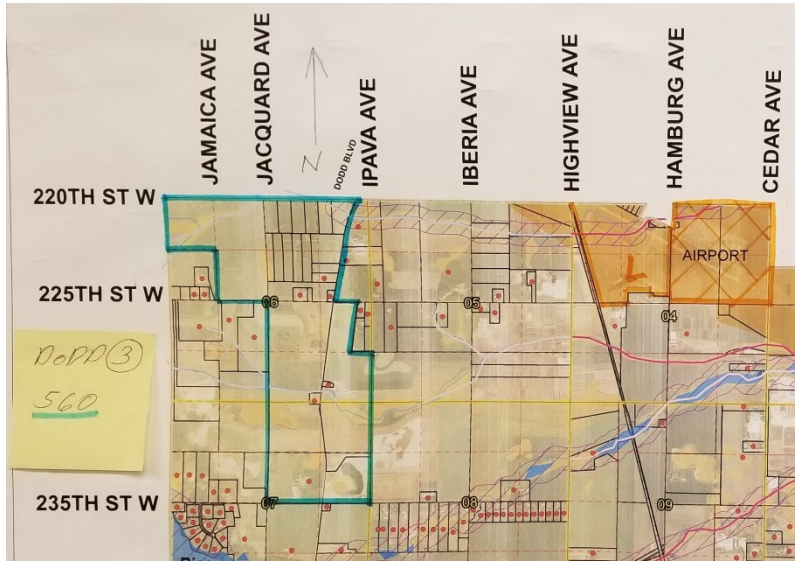


Commercial/Industrial Work Study Group Update

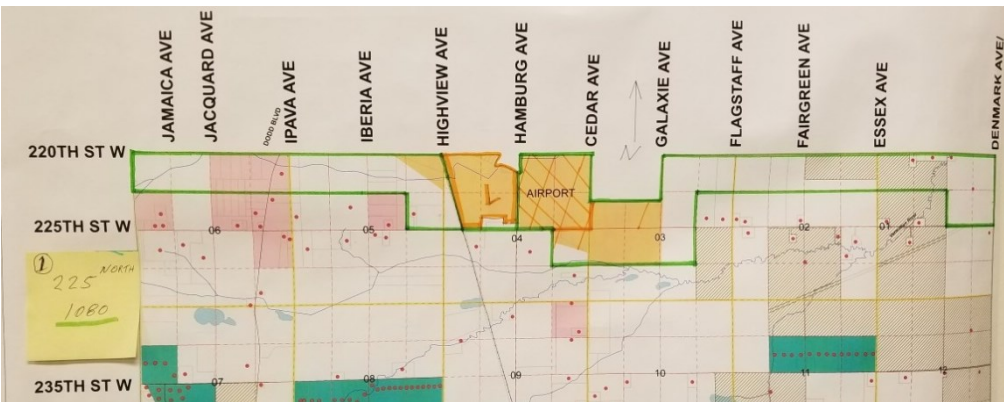
The Work Group held an initial open house on November 27, 2018. At that time, they identified three possible areas to be considered for commercial/industrial zones within the Township, as well as some possible zoning regulations. Maps of these areas are on display in the Town Hall Meeting Room, as well as pictured here.



Outlined in red above - approximately 1520 acres from the northern Township border south along Dodd Blvd. to 250th St. west to Cedar Ave. and north to the border.



Outlined in teal above - approximately 560 acres along from the northern Township border roughly south to 235th St., primarily along Jacquard Ave., then north roughly along Ipava Ave. to the border



Outlined in green to the left - approximately 1080 acres along the entire northern border and as far south as 230th St.

Many questions and concerns were voiced at the open house, all of which require additional research. As required by Minnesota statute, proposed changes, such as would be needed to create commercial/industrial zones, would require amendment of the Township's Comprehensive Plan and subsequent approval from the Metropolitan Council. Access to the sewer interceptor line that passes through the northern portion of the Township remains highly unlikely, through at least 2040, though a "private" sewer system could be considered. Water would likely have to come from a "private" source, and the Work Group is looking into water towers.

Commercial/Industrial Work Study Group Update

Continued on next page....

Commercial/Industrial Work Study Group Update continued...

At the January 2019 Board meeting a motion was passed to hire TKDA Professional Services to begin a four task examination of the issue as follows:

Task 1 – Prepare Commercial Uses Concept Plan – 10 hours (\$1,385.10)

Task 2 – Review Commercial Areas Concept Plan with Metropolitan Council and Identify Steps for Comprehensive Plan Amendment – 10 hours (\$1,385.10)

Task 3 – Review Comprehensive Plan Amendment Application – 40 hours (\$5,540.40)

Task 4 – Prepare New Commercial Zoning District for Eureka Township – 20 hours (\$2,770.62)

The Town Board will review findings from each task and approve moving on to the next prior to beginning another task. Total cost for this study is estimated at \$11,100 for all four tasks, with an hourly rate of \$138.51.

The Commercial/Industrial Work Group, consisting of Supervisors Hansen and Ceminsky, along with Commissioners Fredlund and Novacek, plan to continue to meet approximately weekly. See the Township website <https://eurekatownship-mn.us> for scheduled meetings, check the posting board on the south end (parking lot side) of the Town Hall for meeting times and dates, and/or request to receive Township updates from our Clerk, Ranee Solis, clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us or Deputy Clerk, Bob Finke deputyclerk@eurekatownship-mn.us. The public is welcome to observe these Work Group meetings, but public participation is very limited during this phase of the process. There will be additional open houses in the future to share more information as the process continues. This is a long term process and any changes that may be recommended would require Public Hearings and likely voter approval.

Grass Roots Government in Action Minnesota Statute Requires Annual Township Meetings and Elections

Minnesota Statute 365.51 A town's annual town meeting must be held on the second Tuesday of March at the place named by the last annual town meeting. If no place was named then, the meeting must be held at the place named by the town board. The place may be outside the town if the place is within five miles of a town boundary. If, on the day of the meeting and election in March, the National Weather Service or a law enforcement agency has issued storm warnings or travel advisories such that the clerk determines travel to a polling place would be difficult or hazardous for voters and election judges, the clerk may postpone the election and meeting. If the meeting and election are postponed, the meeting and election shall be held on the third Tuesday in March...An annual town election shall be held on the same day as the annual town meeting to elect all town officers required by law to be elected and to consider ballot questions, except as provided in section 205.075, subdivision 2. Other town business shall be conducted at the town meeting as provided by law.



Plan to attend the Annual Township Meeting

**Tuesday evening, March 12, 2019
Eureka Town Hall
25043 Cedar Ave
beginning approximately 8:15 p.m.**



Eureka! The News, your Township newsletter is distributed electronically!

If you wish to receive a copy (e-mail or hard), please contact the Town Clerks at 952-469-3736 or clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us or deputyclerk@eurekatownship-mn.us. There is no longer a bulk mailing to property owners and residents. The newsletter is also available for viewing on the website <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>.

2019 Eureka Township Calendar

Special events highlighted in red.

Changes to regular schedules in purple.

Events held at Eureka Town Hall, 25043 Cedar Ave., unless otherwise indicated

February 21	Thursday	noon	Applications due for March Planning Commission Meeting
March 5	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
March 5	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on March Town Board agenda
March 11	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
March 12	Tuesday	7 AM – 8 PM	Annual Township elections – Supervisor #5
March 12	Tuesday	8:15 p.m.	Township Annual Meeting
March 14	Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Board of Canvass
March 21	Thursday	noon	Applications due for April Planning Commission Meeting
April 2	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on April Town Board agenda
April 2	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for Letters of Interest for Planning Commission opening
April 2	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
April 8	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting, Interviews will be held for open Planning Commission position.
April 25	Thursday	noon	Applications due for May Planning Commission Meeting
May 7	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
May 7	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on May Town Board agenda
May 13	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
May 23	Thursday	noon	Applications due for June Planning Commission Meeting
June 4	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Planning Commission Meeting, Special Board Meeting
June 4	Tuesday	2:00 p.m.	Deadline for items to be included on June Town Board agenda
June 10	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Town Board Meeting, Special Planning Commission Meeting
June 20	Thursday	noon	Applications due for July Planning Commission Meeting

All new structures, most types of remodeling (both interior and exterior), and some types of repairs require a building permit under the Minnesota State Uniform Building Code and Eureka Township Ordinances. If you are in doubt about whether a project requires a permit, please contact the Town Hall at 952-469-3736 or clerk@eurekatownship-mn.us.

PLEASE NOTE – As of January 26, 2017, the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization is again overseeing parts of the permitting process for anyone who lives in the Vermillion River Watershed (northern 2/3 of Eureka Township). Those residents will need to contact the VRWJPO *BEFORE* applying for a building permit from the Township. Contact Mark Ryan at Mark.Ryan@co.dakota.mn.us or 952-891-7596.

Applying for a Transfer of Building Rights? Stub abstracts required at the time of making the application.

Eureka Township Ordinances are available from the Town Clerk at \$5 for a CD or can be accessed on the website, <http://eurekatownship-mn.us>, or at the Dakota County libraries in Lakeville and Farmington, the Eureka Town Hall and the Dakota County Law Library.

Got a Project in Mind?

A reminder that Eureka Township governmental actions take place on a **monthly basis**, not a business day model. If you are planning a project that may require a building permit, please plan ahead and allow ample time, especially if you have a specific deadline in mind. *When filling out applications, be sure they are completed in full, with all requested information provided, and submitted to the Town Hall 10 days prior to meetings.* Double check the application instruction sheets and check the website!