
Florence Township

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Goodhue County, MN • 2010 Annual Newsletter • March 2010

PO Box 97 • Frontenac, MN 55026

Your Township Government:

Florence Township is governed by five elected officials

Your Current Board is:

Joe Ellingson, *Chair*

Joan Marshman, *Supervisor*

Mike Blair, *Supervisor*

Sue Eisenmenger, *Clerk*

Tom Gnotke, *Treasurer*

*Agenda
for the Annual Meeting
Tuesday, March 9, 2010*

The meeting commences at 8:00 p.m. on March 9 at the Township Hall

1. Call the meeting to Order
 - a. Declare the election closed
2. Elect a Moderator to conduct the Annual Meeting
3. Pledge to the Flag
4. Read the minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting
5. Committee Reports:
 - Cemetery
 - Friends of Town Hall
 - Planning Commission
 - Heritage Preservation
6. Present the Audit report for 2009
7. Present the proposed budget for 2011
8. Public comments and discussion
9. Announce the outcome of the election
10. Establish the time and date of the 2011 Annual Meeting
11. Adjourn



This newsletter is being distributed to the residents of Florence Township in order to inform and prepare them for the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, March 9 at 8:00 pm at the Florence Township Hall. At the Annual Meeting you have the opportunity to express your views and help determine your taxes for the next year.

Township Election

Two positions are up for election this year. Supervisor for a three-year term, and Clerk for a two-year term.

Two positions are up for election this year. One Supervisor for a 3 year term and one Clerk for a two year term. Candidates that have filed:

Supervisor: Joan Marshman and Clay Ruggles

Clerk: Sue Eisenmenger

All candidates are long time residents and Florence Township and have previous experience on the Town Board.

**The election will be held Tuesday, March 9
at the Florence Township Hall.**

The polls will be open from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

The Annual Meeting will follow.

Building Permit Procedures

A building permit is required for all new construction and most remodeling. To determine if you need a permit, call the County Zoning and Land Use Management office at 651-345-3104.

If you live in Old Frontenac, you must acquire approval from the Heritage Commission first. Call Cory Koplun at 651-345-3270. They meet on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

Then call Sue Eisenmenger at 651-388-6041 to fill out a permit and get on the town board agenda for their approval. They meet on the 4th Monday at 7:00 p.m. Then your request will go to the County Planning Commission.

Goodhue District 4 County Commissioner Report

By Jim Bryant

Goodhue County Commissioner

Is it me or does this seems like a long winter? I am writing this on Super Bowl weekend and some of you will probably watch the big game and think, our Minnesota Viking should be playing. That reminds me on how some things do not always work out as we all want or think they should.

This year I have had the honor of being the Chairman of the County Board. This year I have asked everyone from citizens, employees and Board members to work together and come up with ideas and solutions on how we do things, with less. A good way to start, is by listening and working together. The economy is not where we want it to be. It is no ones fault, so finding solutions is important.

In February we have invited all the townships to one of two meetings to talk, discuss and share ideas on how we can do road maintenance together.

This came up last year at several township meetings throughout Goodhue County. We think this is a good idea and we look forward to discussing and sharing thoughts and ideas.

Each time I drive down Highway 61 and into Frontenac I think about the cooperation, compromise and compassion we had to improve the safety along Highway 61 in Frontenac. The project comes up from time to time in conversations throughout the County and I let those know what a joint cooperative effort it was by so many and a tribute to all of you.

Each year the County Board holds several of their regular scheduled County Board meetings throughout the County. This year we will be holding our March 2nd, 2010 meeting at the Florence Town Hall at 9:00am. If you have time and would like to stop in and see what we are working on, please do so, I would love to see everyone. A big thanks goes to Florence Township for allowing us to hold the meeting in your beautiful Town Hall.

We have met with our local legislators and talked to them about working together and we all know things will look different for us here in Goodhue County. The County Board has said that just about everything is open for discussion and possible change.

In December of 2009 the County Board passed a budget with a zero levy increase for 2010. We continue to look at each job opening that comes up in our organization. Not all are filled and some from time to time are replaced. I still believe that government will be looking much different in the years to come and I still believe that is not a bad thing.

I plan on stopping by your annual meeting on March 9th. My plans are for Florence Township to be my last stop of four stops that night, so I can spend time to talk and listen to you.

If you have any questions, comments and suggestions please contact me at 651-388-5558 or at jcbryant@kmwb.net See you on March 9th



Florence Township Supervisor's Year in Review

Aside from all the routine issues and projects Florence Township managed in 2009, some special endeavors were also tackled. In July, a seal coating project was completed on Staehli Park Road. In October, with assistance from the Goodhue County Sheriff, Florence Township started up a Neighborhood Watch program that meets once a month.

Despite our country's fragile economy, we were the recipients of both monetary and service contributions last year. Never before has our township been awarded so many donations for supplemental projects. The Frontenac Sportman's Club was kind enough to donate new bleachers to the Old Frontenac softball park and some much-needed improvements to our township boat ramp. The Treasure Island Community contributed funds that paid for a new asphalt overlay and shoulder on Ski Road. Additionally, they donated new computer equipment to the township that is

now used for record keeping and Power Point presentations. Monarch Paving also donated it's road crew to patch the Territorial Road. Along with the monetary gifts, we also received donated time and energy from several individuals. Some community members loaned their Frontenac artifacts and memorabilia to the Goodhue County Historical Museum for display. There have been numerous volunteers who worked on cutting the brush in the parks and clearing out the vistas overlooking the lake on Wood Avenue. The Town Hall gardens were all weeded by community members as well. To all of those who gave to our township out of the generosity of their hearts, the township supervisors thank you!

The success of 2009 has sparked several new ideas that will be looked at in the coming year. However, we cannot accomplish much without the community's active involvement. I would like to take this opportunity to

encourage all Florence Township residents to get involved with at least one of the opportunities available within our community. If you would like to have a voice in the way matters are handled, please consider attending a monthly meeting or becoming a member of a township committee. If you would be interested in volunteering your time and sweat, we still need help cleaning up the lake vistas, clearing brush from the parts, and weeding in the Town Hall garden. Our annual road tour will be held in April if you would like to ride along (the date has not yet been set). Please help us in our endeavors to continually improve Florence Township. If you have any questions regarding committee membership or volunteer opportunities, please call one of the Township board members. We would be happy to hear from you!

Joe Ellingson, *Chair*
Florence Township Board of Supervisors

Frontenac State Park News

Park visitation was up considerably in 2009. Total visitation was up 8,000 visitor-days. Overnight use was up a more modest 300 visitors. One factor that was noticeable in 2009 was the number of campers from the immediate area was up; probably making up most of the increase. Other factors contributing to the increase include the increasing popularity of the park's sledding hill and the nice weather for most of the summer. A new attraction to state parks, Geocaching, which is an electronic form of orienteering, also has increased use in many parks.

A major highlight in 2009 was the donation of 37 acres of land to the park from the Millicent T. Long Family Trust. Park staff processed a vacation of an undeveloped road R-O-W through the parcel and it will be surveyed so that it can be posted properly in 2010. Park crews have cleared most of the buckthorn and honeysuckle and other invasive species from the parcel and a .5 mile hike and ski trail has been

constructed through the parcel.

Frontenac was selected to be the featured park on the 2010 State park permit. The permit features the park's prime overlook with a bald eagle soaring overhead. The permit is very attractive. The State Park mug also features Frontenac and is very nicely done. A numbered, limited edition (250) version of the mug went on sale at the park December 1st. There are only 30 of these left. A second edition will be made due to the popularity of the mug. If anyone wants one of the limited edition versions, they should come purchase one soon. The mugs are \$15.98 with tax.

There were a few special events in the park this year including the candlelight ski event in January and Bruce Aulsebrook led many hikes on Saturdays from May into October. The Rochester Track Club sponsored their annual In Yan Teopa 10 mile Run in September. This event consistently draws about 70 runners.

Frontenac continued to educate visitors about the dangers of moving

firewood due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Six burns were conducted this year covering 316 acres. One hundred and forty three acres of invasive species were dealt with and 70 acres of the park, in two locations, were seeded with a mix of prairie grasses and forbs. The park conducted a two day special deer hunt November 21st and 22nd. The hunt was not as successful as hoped, but 43 deer were removed.

Projects completed at the park this included a wildlife observation blind near the east end of Frontenac Pond and a permanent interpretive sign on Bald Eagles, designed by a local person for her Master naturalist project, installed in the picnic area kiosk. Both of these project were funded by family memorial donations. The other project this year was self standing interpretive bronze plaque mounted on a platform constructed of native dolomite stone was installed this year at the park's main scenic overlook. The plaque interprets the geology of the Lake Pepin area.

Thank you to all the volunteers who make our township work so efficiently. We couldn't do it without you!



Florence Township Planning Commission

The Florence Township Planning Commission was enacted by the Florence Town Board in November of 1994. The Commission shall consist of nine members who are residents of the township, have a special interest in land use management, and are appointed by the Township Board. The Commission is a support group to assist the Board of Supervisors in regards to land use, and general planning for future needs and controls within the Township.

During this past year, the Commission has been looking at ways to strengthen the Township Zoning Ordinance to provide added protection for the sensitive landscape

features of the Township – mainly; wetlands, bluffs (both top and bottom), streams, and steep slopes. By adding additional requirements, the permitting process would require set back restrictions, site evaluations, and certain suggested management practices to protect the sensitive feature before, during, and after any development were to occur. The Commission has also been working with the Goodhue County Land Use Management staff to evaluate ways of having regulations that would be compatible with current and future ordinances.

The Commission is now in the process of updating the Township Comprehensive Plan. The Plan was

written in 2003 and outlined the goals, visions and desires of the residents to protect, preserve and management the natural resources, evaluate the services provided by the Township, provide adequate regulations of land use management, maintain the historic integrity of the Township, to encourage economic growth through sensible development, and to preserve and enhance the quality of life and recreation available to the residents.

The residents of the Township will be asked to participate at public meetings, surveys, and other ways of involvement as the update process takes place during this coming year.

Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission

The **Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission** is responsible for overseeing preservation of historic structures and parks throughout the entire Township including the Frontenac Historic District. The Frontenac Historic District was one of the first Historic Districts created by the State of Minnesota in 1971.

Historic preservation is the practice of protecting and preserving sites, structures or districts which reflect elements of local or national cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological or architectural history. Preservation has many diverse purposes and rewards, including the strengthening of local economies, stabilization of property values, the fostering of civic beauty and community pride, and the appreciation of local and national history.

Historic resources are defined as districts, sites, structures, objects or buildings that are greater than seventy-five years in age, and are significant in local, state or national history, architecture, archeology,

engineering, or culture. History encompasses all cultures, economic classes, and social, political and private activities that form the background to the present.

Florence Township has much to be proud of. We are recognized nationally for having one of the best preserved Historic Districts in the United States. From our historic homes and sprawling lots, to the wild and natural park lands, we are fortunate to be surrounded by such rare beauty. With continued efforts and pride in our unique community, all of us can ensure these treasures will be around for many generations to come.

The commission meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall. Anyone making changes to their property or public lands in the Historic District should submit a Design Review Application to the Commission a minimum of one week prior to the scheduled meeting. The Design Review Application as well as guidelines can be found in the Resident Resource Guide or on the Florence Township Website.



Christ Church - 1970

Christ Episcopal Church was built at the corner of Westervelt & McLean in 1867. It was designed & funded by Nathaniel McLean and built by German & Swiss craftsmen led by Henry Huneke. The interior is an excellent example of 1860's craft with original windows and art. You are welcome to tour the church and the surrounding cemetery. Services are held every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.

Christ Church - 1870

Set 01 - # 07

Goodhue County History Center

presents its newest township exhibit

Florence Township



View the exhibit at the Goodhue County History Center
1166 Oak Street, Red Wing
For more information, call (651) 388-6024

On Display through June 2010



Florence Township
 PO Box 97
 Frontenac, MN 55026

2010 Proposed Budget

	2009 Budget	2009 Actual	2010 Budget	2011 Proposed
Road & Bridge Fund				
Road Grading & Repair	\$60,000	\$60,021	\$60,000	\$62,000
Snow plowing	45,000	48,705	50,000	50,000
Rock/Gravel	25,000	21,482	20,000	22,500
Blacktop	15,000	3,523	15,000	15,000
Chloride	20,000	9,990	20,000	11,000
Brushing	5,000	4,930	2,000	2,000
Special & Reserve	30,000	30,751	30,000	30,000
Mowing	4,000	4,685	4,000	4,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>204,000</i>	<i>184,087</i>	<i>201,000</i>	<i>196,500</i>
Gas & Gravel Taxes	(20,000)	(21,363)	(22,000)	(22,000)
<i>Subtotal Roads & Bridge Fund</i>	<i>\$184,000</i>	<i>\$162,724</i>	<i>\$179,000</i>	<i>\$174,500</i>
 General Fund				
Salaries & Education	16,000	14,182	16,000	16,000
Town Hall	5,000	2,423	3,000	4,000
Parks	7,000	5,741	5,000	6,000
Community Center (Net)	3,000	2,275	2,000	3,000
Planning	2,500	0	1,500	250
Heritage	2,000	542	1,000	1,000
General Government	10,000	11,254	12,000	14,000
Emergency Services Fund				
Fire Contract	30,000	39,345	40,000	40,000
Ambulance	12,000	10,445	12,000	12,000
<i>Subtotal General/Emergency Svcs. Fund</i> .	<i>87,500</i>	<i>86,207</i>	<i>92,500</i>	<i>96,250</i>
TOTAL	\$271,500	\$248,931	\$271,500	\$270,750