
Florence Township

www.florencetwp.org • florencetwp1@yahoo.com

Goodhue County, MN • 2018 Annual Newsletter • March 2018

PO Box 97 • Frontenac, MN 55026

Your Township Government:

Florence Township is governed by five elected officials

Your Current Board is:

Mike Blair, *Chair*
mjblair3@embarqmail.com

Jim McIlrath, *Supervisor*
jimcilrath@embarqmail.com

Janet Bruce, *Supervisor*
janetbruce@embarqmail.com

Sue Eisenmenger, *Clerk*
smeisen@pressenter.com

Tom Gnotke, *Treasurer*
gnotke@embarqmail.com

AGENDA

The annual meeting is at 8:00P, Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 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 2017 Annual Meeting
5. Committee Reports:
 - Friends of Town Hall
 - Planning Commission
 - Parks Commission
 - Heritage Preservation
6. Present the Audit report for 2017
7. Present the proposed budget for 2019
8. Public comments and discussion
9. Announce the election results
10. Establish the time and date of the 2019 Annual Meeting
11. Adjourn meeting



This newsletter is being distributed to the residents of Florence Township in order to inform and prepare them for the Annual Meeting to be held Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 8:00P 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.

***The election will be held
Tuesday, March 13, 2018
at the Florence Township Hall.
The polls will be open from 4:00P until 8:00P.
The Annual Meeting will follow.
In case of inclement weather,
the meeting will be held
Tuesday, March 20.***

Two Positions are up for election this year:

- Supervisor for a three year term
- Clerk for a two year term

Candidates that have filed:

- Supervisor: Mike Blair
- Clerk: Sue Eisenmenger



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 651-385-3104. All building permits need to be approved by the Florence Township Planning Commission. They meet on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM. If you live in Old Frontenac

you must also receive approval from the Heritage Commission. They meet on the 2nd Tuesday at 6PM. The final approval is received by calling Sue Eisenmenger at 651-388-0097 to get on the town board agenda for their approval. The town board meets on the 3rd Monday at 6PM. Permit applications are found on the township website.

Florence Township of Supervisors 2017 Review

Accomplishments

Road, Streets & Parks: New dock at Lake Pepin Boat Ramp, Wakondiotia Old Pavilion torn down, dead trees & stumps removed, new fill and grass replanted, large amount of roadside brushing. New lawn mower purchased and kept the old one for standby. Two large culverts were repaired for safety reasons that were unscheduled previously. Signage in Old Frontenac was restored. The Town Hall was resided and trim will be repainted this spring.

Financial Management: The financial management and cost control are once again exceptional!! This allows the Township to take advantage of lower costs for repairs & improvements, unscheduled or budgeted. Weather still remains the unknown factor and our largest expense which is road maintenance. We will be presenting a large repaving project on territorial Road from Co. Rd. 5 to 332nd St. then on out to Highway 61 at the Annual Township Meeting. We are in a financial position to accomplish it this year as part of it was delayed last year. This is the largest repaving project to date.

Legal Matters: The Steamboat Landing legal challenge was awarded to Florence Township last year. It is now officially registered to the Township. The permanent land markers are installed. A plan by the Parks Commission will be presented and suggestions for its use and Wakonodiotia Park will be open for discussion at the Annual Township Meeting.

Local Clean Up: We are also working with Goodhue County on enforcing property owners and private business to comply with County and Florence Township ordinances on maintaining reasonable appearance and repair of their properties. The Planning Commission is drafting a new Property Maintenance Ordinance and working with Goodhue County on an enforcement plan to clean up the unmaintained properties. No one wants a junkyard or two feet of grass next door. Common sense and respect for neighbors says that unmaintained property looks ugly and devalues all property in the area. The Township and the county have and will send out notices for compliance. The County will be the enforcement when necessary.

New Proposed Projects:

- An Olympic class ski jump on Mt. Frontenac at the downhill ski area. No permit application has been submitted to date.
- Villa Maria to be restored and converted into a 5 Star hotel and restaurant. No permit application has been submitted to date.
- SolarStone Inc. has applied for a permit to build a 35 acre solar energy garden on Territorial Road at the location south of the Sportsman's Club on the Mathy gravel pit property. The permit is issued with a conditional addendum now controlled by Goodhue County. This project has been delayed to be completed in 2018.

Volunteers Needed:

A special thank you to all the volunteers who have been working on all the commissions and committees. **We need volunteers!** We want to remind people that the community is theirs, and their Grass Roots government starts with volunteers and then to move onto the elected positions. People willing to work in local government is nationally at an all-time low. We are inviting suggestions, ideas, and success models. Please attend the Annual meeting on March 13th, 2018 **vote** first, and remain at 8:00 to share your thoughts.

Special Note of Clarification:

The lilac hedge and flower garden on Highway 61 (in front of the gas station) was removed by the Township. Several years ago, a grant was given to the Township by the State of Minnesota, to plant this area with the condition that the Township maintained it. It was maintained for several years by volunteers. The maintenance ended because of no more volunteers and it turned into a mess. The State required us to either maintain it or remove it. Due to the cost of getting it good shape, and maintain it, the Township decided to remove it. The new owner of the gas station was not responsible for its removal. It was entirely the Township's decision.

Jim McIlrath, *Board Supervisor*

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

Christ Episcopal Church Old Frontenac

The congregation of Christ Episcopal Church, Old Frontenac invites the community to join us in celebrating our 150th anniversary this year on September 30, 2018 at Christ Church for a special church service.

Construction of Christ Church Old Frontenac was commissioned by Nathaniel McLean and the church was constructed by Henry Huneke. It was completed and was consecrated by Bishop Whipple in October of 1868. Christ Church is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

In 2011, Christ Church endeavored to undertake a complete restoration of the building which was showing its age and in serious need of a grand scale restoration. Restoration included a new roof of cedar shingles to match the original roof. The siding was replaced, all the stain glass windows refurbished, foundation repaired, and modern day air conditioning and insulation was installed to protect the structure.

An antique chandelier from 1800's Old Frontenac was refurbished and installed in the narthex.

Restoration of this historic site was made possible by the contributions of church members and many community members and others who donated generously. Many participated in the church's numerous fund raising activities including: garage sales, Christmas wreath sales, construction and sale of bat houses, prints of the church, hand painted Christmas ornaments, and historical bookmarks. The congregation of Christ Church is also planning an open house this year (tbd) to celebrate the restoration and the remarkable history of this lovely church. It will also be an opportunity for Christ Church to thank all those who contributed in any way to the success of this project and to celebrate this beautiful, newly restored, historic treasure.

www.christchurcholdfrontenac.org

Living History Day in Old Frontenac - 2019

Come step back in History, Saturday, September 21, 2019. Yes, 2019- we are planning ahead. We are planning a living history day in Old Frontenac. We will have history tours of important places and homes in the area. There will be hands on activities such as how to make soap and wash clothing, candle making, jelly making, and how it was to cook in the 1880's. A Civil War reenactment is planned, and a dedication in the cemetery to General Garrard.

Please save the day and encourage friends and family to a wonderful day of history and celebration. We welcome all volunteers for this fun event, please email linda.mohn@icloud.com or call Linda Buysse at 612 558 3818.



Frontenac Cemetery Association

In 2017, the Frontenac Cemetery Association cleared buckthorn and other invasive brush around the edges of the old section of the cemetery as well as cleared and seeded grass in the northeast corner of the cemetery.

Board members also began developing an online database to

clarify existing burial plot maps. The work will assist future generations in knowing details of how the cemetery is laid out.

In addition, a stone cleaning and restoration committee was created to coordinate a spring stone cleaning workshop. The workshop will kick off a volunteer effort to clean historic stones in advance of

a September 2019 village celebration of Frontenac's 160th anniversary. To participate in the stone cleaning workshop and/or volunteer to help clean stones, contact Jamie Lorentzen (lorentzenjamie@gmail.com). All are welcome to join in.

Association board members plan to begin meeting biannually instead of annually. Spring meeting date TBD.



Florence Township Community Center

For Information and to Schedule an Event contact Robin Mesenburg 651-388-6666



Old Frontenac.

- Examining the boundaries of the Old Frontenac Historic District.

The HPC meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 6 PM at the Florence Town Hall and is open to all.

Florence Township Historic Preservation Commission

The Heritage Preservation Commission (the HPC) dates to 1974 when the town board created the Old Frontenac Heritage Preservation Commission. At that time the domain of the HPC was restricted to the village of Old Frontenac. In 2006 the HPC was expanded to be a township wide commission and became the Florence Township Heritage Preservation Commission. The township has two entities on the National Park Service Register of Historic Places, the Old Frontenac

Historic District and the Florence Town Hall. More information regarding the HPC can be found on the Florence Township web site. Recent and current HPC projects are:

- Refurbishing the exterior of the Florence Town Hall.
- Refurbishing the historic district signs at the entrances to Old Frontenac.
- Replacing faded or damaged street signs in Old Frontenac.
- Addressing 'demolition by neglect' of historic property in

Florence Township Budget History

	Actual Figures				Budgetary Figures			
	2015	2016	2017		2018	2017	2016	2015
				Proposed 2019				
General Fund								
Salaries & Education	\$14,943	\$14,780	\$15,201	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$16,000	\$16,000	\$16,000
Town Hall	2,640	2,952	2,648	2,975	3,250	3,450	3,050	3,000
Town Hall Improvements	0	0	24,586	0	15,000	15,000	15,000	8,000
Parks	6,795	10,579	16,158	11,165	10,345	7,615	8,700	12,000
Park Improvements	8,220	0	1,553	15,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	13,000
Community Center (Net)	125	241	2,758	1,840	1,400	1,100	1,800	1,500
Planning	0	845	115	500	500	0	1,000	2,500
Heritage	0	0	800	500	0	0	500	500
General Government	51,927	35,119	17,287	22,425	29,675	31,525	34,035	17,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>84,650</i>	<i>64,516</i>	<i>81,106</i>	<i>70,405</i>	<i>82,670</i>	<i>79,690</i>	<i>85,085</i>	<i>73,500</i>
Road & Bridge Fund								
Road Grading & Repair	42,066	71,178	49,479	50,000	45,000	40,000	40,000	45,000
Snowplowing	28,242	33,963	39,298	45,000	50,000	60,000	65,000	50,000
Rock/Gravel	31,540	31,910	35,453	40,000	35,000	35,000	30,000	35,000
Blacktop	0	108,052	0	150,000	100,000	75,000	75,000	50,000
Chloride	7,350	4,350	6,243	7,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	8,000
Brushing	14,516	6,774	3,713	6,000	6,000	8,000	5,000	5,000
Special Projects & Reserve	16,273	30,473	6,516	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Federal Sign Reflectivity Pr	738	1,247	787	1,000	1,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Road Ditch Mowing	2,940	3,815	3,600	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Street Lighting	576	517	565	600	600	700	800	800
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>144,241</i>	<i>292,279</i>	<i>145,654</i>	<i>333,600</i>	<i>276,600</i>	<i>258,700</i>	<i>255,800</i>	<i>228,800</i>
Gas & Gravel Tax Revenue	(40,463)	(37,829)	(35,612)	(40,000)	(38,500)	(35,000)	(30,000)	(28,000)
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>103,778</i>	<i>254,450</i>	<i>110,042</i>	<i>293,600</i>	<i>238,100</i>	<i>223,700</i>	<i>225,800</i>	<i>200,800</i>
Emergency Services Fund								
Fire contract	25,493	24,479	26,056	20,000	10,000	21,500	31,500	25,000
Ambulance Contract	9,460	0	0	0	0	0	9,000	13,000
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>34,953</i>	<i>24,479</i>	<i>26,056</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>21,500</i>	<i>40,500</i>	<i>38,000</i>
TOTAL	\$223,381	\$343,445	\$217,204	\$384,005	\$330,770	\$324,890	\$351,385	\$312,300



Florence Township
PO Box 97
Frontenac, MN 55026

Friends of the Florence Town Hall



Erected 1875

History happens every day. History is shaped by current events, not only the past.

We cherish the memories of our beloved Friends Bill Laidlaw and Ken Oliver who helped establish Friends of the Florence Town Hall.

History Fairs sponsored by Friends in recent years have been highly successful. Each Fair has affirmed the preservation and continued use of the Town Hall by this community.

To be featured at the Spring History Fair on April 21, 2018, Lorry Wendland, resident of Old Frontenac, will present her new

books “19th Century Frontenac, Minnesota – The Rest of the Story” and “Genealogy of a Village – 19th Century Frontenac, Minnesota.” Wendland will do a visual presentation, Q & A, and have books available.

The Spring History Fair will also host former residents who have researched their family neighborhoods. Story boards of those neighborhoods will be added to the Town Hall display stand which now has 10 new pages. You too can add your neighborhood to the display. With ever occurring changes to our township, these stories need to be known.

You are welcome to join Friends of the Florence Town Hall as we meet on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. The History Center is also open at that time with Friends available to open the collections and answer questions.

If gardening is your interest, help us maintain the Florence Strupe Memorial Garden and the Miller Memorial Pergola. Volunteers are appreciated as the perennials need tending all summer long.

