

Florence Township

www.florencetwp.org • florencetwp1@yahoo.com

Goodhue County, MN • 2020 Annual Newsletter • March 2020

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

Ben Boege, *Supervisor*
boegebe@hearthnhome.com

Janet Bruce, *Supervisor*
janetbruce@embarqmail.com

Sue Eisenmenger, *Clerk*
florencetwp1@yahoo.com

Tom Gnotke, *Treasurer*
gnotke@embarqmail.com

AGENDA

The annual meeting is at 8:00P, Tuesday, March 10, 2020 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 2019 Annual Meeting
5. Committee Reports:
 - Friends of Town Hall
 - Planning Commission
 - Parks Commission
 - Heritage Preservation
6. Present the Audit report for 2019
7. Present the proposed budget for 2021
8. Public comments and discussion
9. Announce the election results
10. Establish the time and date of the 2020 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 10, 2020 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 10, 2020
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 17.***

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: Janet Bruce and Joe Ellingson
- Clerk: Sue Eisenmenger



Florence Township is currently in need of additional members to replace retiring members on both the Planning Commission and the Heritage Commission. If you are interested in assisting with your local government, it's time to get involved! Please send a letter to the Board of Supervisors stating your desire to join either the Planning or Heritage Commission at PO Box 97, Frontenac, MN 55026

Florence Township Board

Hello Florence Township Citizens,

Florence Township had a very busy 2019! The 160th anniversary of Old Frontenac was celebrated in late September. Multiple events and gatherings highlighted the history of our area. It was a great way to bring together residents of the township and surrounding areas. Thanks to all the volunteers who put in long hours and the Heritage Commission for making the event a success!

Mother Nature was a force to be reckoned with throughout the Township in 2019. The year began with record snowfalls that significantly impacted the annual budget. Spring came, bringing Mississippi River flooding that continued into the summer. Luhman’s Construction, the Township contractor, kept busy keeping the roads clear and serviceable year round, and cleaning up flood debris throughout the summer.

Several large construction projects were completed this year. The largest project was the re-paving and shouldering of Territorial Road and a portion of

Lakeview Drive at a cost of \$250,000. Ludlow Street was paved and a bridge on West Florence Trail was replaced. Paving projects will continue throughout the township in future years. Historically, the paving budget is set around \$150,000/year. It is important to note paving projects are expensive; we save up for multiple years before taking on these significant projects.

Ensuring the preservation of the natural beauty and resources of Florence Township is important. To ensure this priority is maintained, the Township continues to partner with MSA for planning and zoning consultation. MSA works directly with the Planning Commission and Town Board to administer zoning regulations and ensure building permits are compliant with Township ordinances. If you need to obtain a building permit, be prepared to have a complete project description and site plan, including setbacks, to present to the Planning Commission. Permit

review may take up to 60 days after all required documentation is submitted to the Planning Commission. Plan accordingly. Refer to www.florencetwp.org for more information.

There are many points of business that happen in the township beyond the Annual meeting. The Town Board and all Commissions meet monthly. All Township citizens are encouraged to attend meetings or join a Commission to help guide Township policy, plan projects and support events. Meeting dates and times can be found on the Township website:

www.florencetwp.org. Your participation and constructive input is valued as we work together to continue making Florence Township a great place to live!

Thank you,
The Florence Township Board
Mike Blair, Supervisor
Jan Bruce, Supervisor
Ben Boege, Supervisor
Sue Eisenmenger, Secretary
Tom Gnotke, Treasurer

.....
**Florence Township
Community Center**

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



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

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 reviewed 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.

Planning Commission



The planning commission is an advisory committee that addresses issues related to zoning in the township. Along with tasks such as reviewing building and other permits to ensure that they meet the requirements of our zoning ordinance, some of our duties include welcoming new businesses, foreseeing the planning needs related to zoning in the township, and staying current on zoning in Goodhue County.

2019 brought an immense workload and many changes for the Planning Commission. Some of our tasks included reviewing dozens of building permits and two interim use permits, vacating Green street in old Frontenac, updating our permit fee schedule, and disbanding the Land Use Subcommittee. Early in the year we encountered some unusual and complex issues and subsequently hired a consulting firm, MSA

Services, to assist. MSA worked closely with us throughout the year, attended meetings, provided training to our commission and to the township board, and developed a mapping application that we now use for zoning reviews. MSA proved to be an invaluable resource. Thanks to MSA, our commission garnered skills and knowledge that enable us to do our job more thoughtfully and professionally; the township will continue to benefit from this investment.

As we move through the new year, the planning commission hopes to hire a zoning administrator and appoint a zoning liaison, improve the application process for our landowners and residents, clarify the language in the zoning ordinance, review and then adopt or reject Goodhue County ordinance amendments, as well as continue to provide the

board with expertise and recommendations on various zoning-related issues as they arise.

Finally, the planning commission welcomed two new members in 2019- -Mark McCaughtry and Kristen Eide-Tollefson--and bid farewell to two other longtime members--Pat Savage and Jody McIlrath. Thank you to all current volunteers and to those who have volunteered in past years. Florence would not be this beautiful, vibrant place if not for those who give their time to work on behalf of the township. And by the way, we are in need of new members! You do not need a background in planning or zoning. If you live in Florence, can attend our monthly meeting on the second Monday of each month, and are willing to learn, please contact the planning commission or board of supervisors to find out how to join our team.

Frontenac State Park Association

The Frontenac State Park Association welcomes new members. It's easy and fun to get involved. And you get to choose how active you want to be.

The State Legislature established Frontenac State Park in 1957. Concerned citizens of the area formed the Frontenac State Park Association in the early 1950's to establish a park so future generations could enjoy the natural beauty and learn of the area's thrilling history and its cultures.

The Park Association worked tirelessly within the community and at the State Capitol to insure the area would be preserved for all times. Business and community leaders helped raise funds and donated land to help create the park. The Association has worked for over 60 years, continuing to raise money and support for park improvements.

The Park Association hosts events for everyone season. A Winter Candlelight Event kicks off

the year in February. Spring activities include Bluebird Nesting surveys. The Park Association hosts the Park Summer Open House in June. Park Association members plan Fall Color activities.

To help plan these events and take part in the fun of creating activities, please consider joining the Park Association. The yearly cost is \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families. The benefits? Protecting and improving our Park into the future is priceless!

Yes! I want to join! \$25 Individual \$30 Family Other donation

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Send to: Frontenac State Park Association, 213 N. Park, Lake City, MN 55041

Florence Township Budget History

	Actual Figures				Budgetary Figures			
	2017	2018	2019	Proposed	2020	2019	2018	2017
				2021				
General Fund								
Salaries & Education	\$15,201	\$16,139	\$14,876	\$16,000	\$16,500	\$16,000	\$17,500	\$16,000
Town Hall	2,648	5,009	3,890	3,875	3,200	2,975	3,250	3,450
Town Hall Improvements	24,586	0	6,710	0	0	0	15,000	15,000
Parks	16,158	15,010	15,769	14,895	12,882	11,165	10,345	7,615
Park Improvements	1,553	0	5,375	15,000	15,000	15,000	5,000	5,000
Community Center (Net)	2,758	3,554	1,318	2,265	2,110	1,840	1,400	1,100
Planning	115	125	17,394	10,200	9,000	500	500	0
Heritage	800	577	326	750	750	500	0	0
General Government	17,287	23,292	17,670	24,380	23,435	22,425	29,675	31,525
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>81,106</i>	<i>63,706</i>	<i>83,328</i>	<i>87,365</i>	<i>82,877</i>	<i>70,405</i>	<i>82,670</i>	<i>79,690</i>
Road & Bridge Fund								
Road Grading & Repair	49,479	36,922	65,108	50,000	50,000	50,000	45,000	40,000
Snowplowing	39,298	63,261	99,371	70,000	50,000	45,000	50,000	60,000
Rock/Gravel	35,453	34,716	29,649	40,000	35,000	40,000	35,000	35,000
Blacktop	0	0	278,501	150,000	150,000	150,000	100,000	75,000
Sealcoating	0	0	0	20,000	0	0	0	0
Chloride	6,243	4,628	6,928	7,000	7,000	7,000	5,000	5,000
Brushing	3,713	21,914	15,604	15,000	15,000	6,000	6,000	8,000
Special Proejcts & Reserve	6,516	32,540	0	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Federal Sign Reflectivity Pr	787	768	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,000
Road Ditch Mowing	3,600	4,048	4,770	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,000
Flood	0	0	2,156	0	0	0	0	0
Street Lighting	565	822	781	850	850	600	600	700
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>145,654</i>	<i>199,619</i>	<i>502,868</i>	<i>388,850</i>	<i>342,850</i>	<i>333,600</i>	<i>276,600</i>	<i>258,700</i>
Gas & Gravel Tax Revenue	(35,612)	(39,890)	(40,337)	(41,000)	(40,000)	(40,000)	(38,500)	(35,000)
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>110,042</i>	<i>159,729</i>	<i>462,531</i>	<i>347,850</i>	<i>302,850</i>	<i>293,600</i>	<i>238,100</i>	<i>223,700</i>
Emergency Services Fund								
Fire contract	26,056	25,386	27,340	27,500	25,000	20,000	10,000	21,500
Ambulance Contract	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>26,056</i>	<i>25,386</i>	<i>27,340</i>	<i>27,500</i>	<i>25,000</i>	<i>20,000</i>	<i>10,000</i>	<i>21,500</i>
TOTAL	\$217,204	\$248,821	\$573,199	\$462,715	\$410,727	\$384,005	\$330,770	\$324,890



Florence Township
PO Box 97
Frontenac, MN 55026

Friends of the Florence Town Hall



Erected 1875

Friends will host a History Fair on October 10, 2020. Our focus at the fair will be Florence Township Heritage.

The display stand collection of Florence Township neighborhoods has space for more stories and pictures. Please help. Make this more representative of our diverse township with your stories and pictures.

The History Center acquired a large 1877 Florence Township map that will be on display at the October History Fair. Visitors will be able to view and photograph the interesting notations on the map border. Perhaps visitors can suggest a means for permanent display of this map.

Thanks to Florence Township Supervisors, the Heritage Commission and all Friends who work to maintain and beautify the oldest continuously used Town Hall in Minnesota.

