Thanks to our Town Attorney, Tim Strom  
Supervisor Dave Mount, Board Chair

Turning the calendar from 2016 to 2017 marked another, different kind of milestone for Duluth Township, as it saw the retirement of long serving Town Attorney, Tim Strom. Tim, also a resident of the Township, served as Town Attorney since 1989, providing expert legal advice on a wide variety of Township matters, from planning and zoning, to roads, finance, and open meeting law, among many others.

Among the many complicated processes completed under Tim’s guidance, perhaps the most notable was the acquisition of the former North Shore Elementary School property on Ryan Road to serve as the Town’s community center, which was a key piece of the creation of the North Shore Community School as a charter school.

Something many people aren’t aware of is that Tim is considered state-wide expert in township law, and was often consulted by lawyers for the Minnesota Association of Townships — we were very fortunate to have access to such expert legal support. He also provided legal service to the Town at a “hometown rate,” offering a substantial discount to the Town and often attending meetings or taking calls at no charge at all.

Those of us that have served on the Town Board loved to tease Tim for introducing legal complications that could make even the simplest action seem challenging, but this thoughtful approach has been very successful at keeping the Town Board on the right side of the rules.

From everyone in the Town, a huge thanks to Tim for his dedication and many contributions, and much happiness in your retirement.

Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue
Ann Cox, Mary Anne Daniel, Bob Engelson, Linda Hollinday, Kathy Johnson, Sue Lawson, Kristi Lounsberry, Carolyn Marino, Janet McTavish, Noah Mittlefeldt, Dave Mount, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Sherry Rovig, Travis Stolp, Carol Surine, Carla Tamburro, Jo Thompson, Rose Vastila and web master Wendy Gustofson
Police Department
Shawn Padden, Chief

For medical & police emergencies call: 911.
Sign up for email police alerts and other urgent or informative notifications at the Township site. www.duluthtownship.org.

Police Events in 2016. Among the 1129 official police events last year, requested vacation home/business checks topped the list at 452 (plus 17 extra patrol requests) with next most frequent: 117 traffic citations and warnings (plus 41 attempts to locate careless drivers and 13 suspicious vehicles checked). There were 62 civil process servings, 52 public or motorist assists (plus 25 check welfare calls and 17 to check hazards), 47 medical emergencies (plus 4 suicide attempts/threats/acts), 36 animal complaints, 34 property damage accidents and 26 burglar alarm checks (2 burglaries and 1 arrest). The full list is on our web site and appears in the Annual Meeting packet.

This is the year that the current leased squad vehicle will be replaced. Funds have been escrowed for this purpose.

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Department at: 218-525-5705 or mobile phone: 393-8407, or email to: DuluthTwpPolice@duluthtownship.org.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recorded Police Events</th>
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The Homesteaders
Rose Vastila

March 1st, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, Potluck, anniversary cake and bingo.
April 5th, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwich and bars, Program: Glen Laspi Acoustic guitar and songs.
May 3rd, Wednesday, 12:30pm Town Hall, sandwich and bars. Program from Round River Farm, Lise and David Abazs will present “Community Supported Agriculture" Everyone is welcome.
For information contact Rose Vastila at 834-5281.

Volunteering: A recent article by Mike Cook notes that 92% of Minnesota’s estimated 21,000 fire fighters are volunteers and 93% of Minnesota’s 780 fire departments, like ours, are volunteer. It’s a great tradition and essential service provided by local residents! (see: Jan 26, 2017 article on Mn House of Representatives Public Information Service web site)

To volunteer as a fire fighter or emergency medical responder, call Chief Bob Engelson, 525-6819. Training and turnout gear are provided.

Fire Hall 1 Bay Update: The Fire Department is planning to add a single stall for a current fire vehicle (4 vehicles and 3 doors!) at Hall 1. A committee of fire fighters with construction experience has been going over concept plans provided by Wayne Dahlberg with an eye to keeping costs down. The Fire Dept has set aside $60,000 from savings on past budgets for the project (we have been fortunate in having fewer major mechanical problems and in receiving training grants this past year). Our proposed 2018 budget to be presented at the March 14th Annual Meeting requests $25,000 to add to the building fund. We hope that the project can start soon since 24 yr old roofing needs to be replaced. Coordinating maintenance and construction projects would help with costs.

Officers were elected: Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Pello, President Jason Bruckelmyer, Secretary Sherry Rovig, Treasurer Ann Cox, 1st Captain Dan Rosenlund, 2nd Captain Dale Tikka, 3rd Captain Devon Cahoon. Thanks for your service.

FREE SMOKE ALARMS
Sherry Rovig

Clifton Volunteer Fire Department and the American Red Cross have teamed up to help you, your family, and community stay safe. Fill out a request form (below) and mail or drop it off at the Town Hall to sign up for your free smoke alarm installation. You will be contacted to set up an appointment.

If your home does not have working smoke alarms or the existing alarms are older than 5 years, volunteers will come to your home and safely install the units.

If a fire starts in your home, you may have as little as two minutes to escape. Smoke alarms save lives!

HOME FIRE SAFETY CAMPAIGN --SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM SIGN UP

NAME: ________________________________
ADDRESS: ________________________________
PHONE: ________________________________
BEST TIMES TO REACH YOU: ________________________________
EMAIL: __________________________________________

Send request to: Clifton Fire Dept. 6092 Homestead Rd., Duluth, MN 55804
Spring into Art
A Celebration of our Township’s Arts
Jo Thompson

On Saturday, March 18th from 6 to 9:30pm the Duluth Township Art and Heritage Group invites you to attend our first celebration of Arts in our Township. The celebration will be at the Town Hall and the schedule for the evening includes:

• 6-7pm — Hands on Needle Felting Workshop by Cindy Hale (please contact Jo Thompson (woodfarm1785@gmail.com if you are interested in this free workshop, so that there are enough supplies on hand).
• 7-9:30pm — Art exhibits. A variety of art including quilts, pottery, baskets, fiber art, and other items on display.
• 7:30-9:00pm — Musician and Writer/Poet program. Township musicians will be performing and writers will be reading selections from their writings.

Refreshments will be served and all are welcome to attend. There is still room for art work to be displayed. If you have any items of your artwork that you would like to contribute for display, please contact Jo Thompson (woodfarm1785@gmail.com) or Duane Madison at 525-5645.

Planning Construction Projects?
Jo Thompson

Our Township’s Comprehensive Plan identifies a vision that streams and creeks that flow into the lake have high water quality. We do this by developing land with respect to the natural resources and by limiting the effects of storm water and non-point pollution.

As spring approaches and plans for construction projects begin, please keep in mind that what you do on the land can affect what goes into ditches and ultimately into our streams.

Most land disturbances result in sediment coming off of sites and into streams, which can have a negative effect on fish and other organisms. Construction projects include not only buildings, but also other land disturbance activities such as excavation and placing of fill. All projects should use practices that protect waterways downstream and establish protective vegetative cover after the project is complete.

Large projects may need to incorporate additional protective measures. Projects that disturb 5000 square feet or more (or those that fill and excavate 100 cubic yards of soil or more) require a Land Disturbance Permit that can be obtained from the Township. If your project is one acre or more, it will require a Construction Stormwater Permit from the State of Minnesota and a Post Construction Stormwater Management Plan. Obviously, keeping your project under 1 acre will be to your benefit!

For more information, see the Township’s “Stormwater, Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance” on the Township website or contact the Planning Director.

Duluth Township Community Center
Skating Rink Rules & Hours
Supervisor Travis Stolp

Skating Rink Hours (when there is ice!)
Monday-Friday 6 until 9; Saturdays noon until 8.

• No foul language.
• No fighting.
• Respect other people and their belongings.
• No hockey sticks on the pleasure rink.
• No children under ten that are left unsupervised.
• Please park in designated areas.
• Have fun!

Please remember that rink attendants are all volunteers and we need them to keep volunteering. The rink will not be open if there is no adult supervision. If anybody is interested in volunteering for rink supervision or flooding, please give me a call (525-0576).

JOBS WANTED
For our Township Youth

An effort to match up residents who have work suitable for our youth with youth in the Township who want a job.

Seeking Jobs

• Collin Bruckelmyer, age 13 looking for work Yard work, gardening, anything! Call 525-1780.
• Mason Stolp, age 14 years, looking for work Mowing, shoveling, yard work, cleaning, general labor. Call Mason at 525-0576.
• Mature, hard working, experienced 15 year old looking for work (yard work, cleaning, mowing, pretty much any chores). Just call Bridger at 525-0090.
• Cameron Nelson, age 13, lawn mowing, snow shoveling, general yard work, general labor. Call Cameron at 525-0208.
• Young man, age 11 looking for work, including lawn mowing and general yard work. Experienced. If interested, please call Konrad, at 830-9514.

Advertise for free: For Township youth who are seeking work and Township residents who need help with various jobs suitable for youth (babysitting, lawn, garden, maintenance, snow shoveling, house cleaning, etc.). Leave your ad & contact information at the Town Hall (messages: 525-5705).

Deadline for the next (May) Newsletter is April 23rd.
Summary of Town Board Meetings
(Official minutes by Town Clerk Ann Cox are available at the Town Hall and on our Township web site: www.duluthtownship.org).

December 8th regular meeting. Supervisors Barb Crow, Dave Edblom, Wendy Gustofson, Dave Mount and Travis Stolp attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Janet Johansen.

Main Actions: November 10th and 22nd meeting minutes were approved. A required joint powers agreement was renewed between our Police Dept and the State of Minnesota, permitting use of applicable criminal justice data communications networks.

An amendment to the Joint Use Agreement (between ABC Inc, NSCS Board and the Town Board — see the website) which was approved at the November 22nd meeting pending Attorney review, was adopted (4/1). The amendment pays ABC Inc $80,000 for future community use of the new addition and for potential emergency use. There was considerable discussion. Dave Mount read a statement outlining for the record, background information and concerns about the need for the amendment and the community benefit for the expenditures. The statement is presented in full in Board minutes on the Township web site.

Reports: Treasurer reported an ending balance of $694,373.17 after deposits of $158,206.59 and expenses of $55,296.52. Our new treasurer, Melinda Peulen will be added to bank accounts in place of Janet Johansen who retired. Police: Joint Powers agreement approved. Fire: Wayne Dahlberg will present fire hall addition concept plan at the next meeting if accepted by the Fire Dept. Legal: Attorney Tim Strom reviewed the proposed amendment (see action above). Roads: Roger Beck provided a written statement on the Beck Road issue (see minutes on web site). Town Hall: Long term Hall rental charges will match those charged for the Community Center/NSCS. Up to $2000 approved to light the recycle area. The one-year inspection of the new addition will be scheduled with Dan Holm and Melissa Graaftas after the new year.

January 12th regular meeting. All Supervisors attended plus Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Melinda Peulen.

Main Actions: The Board approved a public hearing on rezoning the former Clover Valley School property to FAM3 (like surrounding property), on Feb. 23rd at 7pm. A motion was passed (4/0) for the Township to pay up to $36,000 to connect/repair the school generator. Reports: Treasurer: ending balance of $589,900.33 after deposits of $3,452.55 and expenses of $107,925.39. Fire: Wayne Dahlberg presented his conceptual plans for the fire hall addition. A special meeting to discuss steps to proceed on fire hall planning was set for February 13th. Planning: presented their rezoning plan for the Clover Valley School property (see action above). There was one complaint about light glare at the Clover Valley Road greenhouse (required to be moved by May).

Legal: Hanft Fride Attorney Scott Witty was introduced. His specialty is Town Law. Attorney Tim Strom has retired. No decision has been made on a new attorney. Joint Use Committee: The signed amendment to the Joint Use Agreement and a check for $80,000 for use of the additional structure were given to Phil Strom of ABC, Inc., owner of the school property. Town Hall: Election judge list was approved. Revised replacement cost of the Town Hall was passed. Personnel: The regular noxious weed inspection for employee (excluding Police who have a contract and Town Board and Planning Commission stipends) was approved. New Business: Required noxious weed inspection duties will be undertaken by the Road Supervisor.

Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.

Regular Town Board meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Town Hall. (special meetings are posted at the Town Hall).

Total Township Assessed Value
Data provided by the St Louis County Appraiser

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Land</th>
<th>Structures</th>
<th>Twp Total</th>
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<td>$140,871,900</td>
<td>$231,795,600</td>
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<tr>
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<td>$80,375,200</td>
<td>$120,316,600</td>
<td>$200,691,800</td>
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Artwork provided by a fifth grade student at NSCS. Thank you!

NSCS Student Haiku Poetry

A Winter Morning
The cold is biting, My toes are starting to numb, It’s time to head back.

Winter
Chickadee’s chirping Stillness closing around me Frosty winds blow through.

Dad
Chainsaw ripping sound Tree awake robbed of their sleep Snore-er sleeps so sweet.

The first two poems are by 5th grade students at NSCS. The “Dad” Haiku is by a 2nd grader.

Thank you for your creative work.
January 26th regular meeting. Commissioners Jerry Hauge, John Schifsky, Liz Strehmayer, Jo Thompson, Paul Voge and Larry Zanko attended plus Planning Director Sue Lawson and Secretary Beth Mullan.

Topics Considered: Rezoning Clover Valley School site—A public hearing is slated for Feb 23rd at 7pm. Neighbors within a half mile will be notified.

Commercial Greenhouse on Clover Valley Road—built without permits and required to be removed by May. A complaint about bright lights at night was received. Some conditions on their operation apparently have not been met and neighbors requests to meet with the owners have been rebuffed. The Commission will verify issues and give notice and consider sanctions.

SMU-8 Review—The area around Greenwood Road has many properties undersized and non-conforming. The Commission is reviewing some of the zoning provisions to recognize existing conditions and reduce the need to rely as much on variance procedures in this area in the future. Clint Little has helped with computer mapping and will meet with Sue, John and Beth to go over data before the next Commission meeting. Members have contributed many hours of effort gathering data on the area to serve as a basis for revision proposals.

Short Term Rentals—A question about creating a short term rental space in a second building on a lot was discussed. Two residential buildings (except a subordinate family dwelling) must meet all setback and acreage requirements for a dwelling and be situated so that the property could be legally divided (see Ordinance short term rental provisions on the Town web site or at the Town Hall).

2018 Proposed Budget—The proposed budget to be submitted for the Annual Town Meeting has been steady over the last few years, in part due to permit and hearing fees which offset administration and notice costs (see insert). There were 5 variance hearings and 1 conditional use hearing in 2016.

Communication Agreement—The norms (see poster in the Town Hall and cards available at meetings) were discussed. Their purpose is to provide a respectful and safe place for people to speak up in Town meetings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use Permits</th>
<th>Beth Mullan</th>
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<tr>
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Regular Planning Commission meetings are held on the fourth Thursday at 7pm in the Town Hall.

Special hearings are also posted at the Town Hall. Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.

In March, a big focus at NSCS is Fine Arts. There are many activities that go on throughout the month.

On March 4th, several NSCS students will be performing with the Lake Superior Youth Chorus Honor Choir. The Lyric Opera of the North will be performing “Rusalka: A Mermaid Tale.” for all students here at school on March 15th. Also, some students will be going on a field trip to watch the Minnesota Ballet perform, along with a visit to the Duluth Art Institute and Tweed Museum.

On March 30th, a Fine Arts Night will be held at NSCS from 6:30-8:00. The community is invited to attend this special evening featuring many musical performances by students, along with an Art display showing the works of all K-6 graders.

Artwork provided by a NSCS kindergarten student

Thank you!

See the Township web site for the color version.

Planning Commission Opening

Duluth Township Planning and Zoning Commission has an opening for a regular 3-year term.

The P&Z Commission is a 7-member board that guides the implementation of the Township’s Zoning Ordinance and Comprehensive Plan. No special qualifications are necessary to serve, other than an interest in the Township’s future and willingness to serve. The Commission members serve 3-year terms and cannot serve more than two consecutive terms. The Commission holds regular monthly meetings on the 4th Thursday of each month with occasional special meetings as the need arises. Commission members receive a per-meeting stipend.

The Town Board will interview applicants and appoint the new member. Are you interested? Please submit a letter of interest including relevant past experience to: Duluth Township, Attn: P&Z Commission Vacancy, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth MN 55804.
**Snow Plowing**
Call Larry Nesgoda to arrange for snow plowing. Phones: 218-393-2863 or 525-1305.

**Community Youth Groups**
- **Clifton 4-H Club**: call Stacia Donovan, 728-2483
- **Cub Scouts**: call David Hooey, 525-6617
- **Boy Scouts**: call Chris Roningen, 525-5308
- **Girl Scouts**: call Tracy Mandelin, 525-4148

(Note: If other community service groups should be listed, please contact the Town Hall.)

**Early Learning Sticks Like Glue!**
Kathy Johnson
Looking ahead to the 2017-2018 school year, a survey recently went home to NSCS parents regarding the future of our Early Childhood Program at the school.

We are looking at options to meet the needs of our area families.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Johnson at: 525-0663 ext 106 or 834-5429.

You can take our survey on our website electronically at: www.northshorecommunityschool.org

**LOOKING FOR A HOME TO RENT?**
or,
**LOOKING FOR A RENTER FOR YOUR NICE HOME?**
Call Apartment & Home Advisors – we can help!
We specialize in properties of distinction and we help “take the stress out of moving”.
Call Susie Lannon at 218-720-3987

**Country Kids Day Care, 525-1073**
Infants to School Age, Licensed
Bus to NSCS & Lakewood Schools
Accepting Full and Part Time

**D/NSSD Notes**
Supervisor Wendy Gustofson
Billing and accounting for the Sewer District is being handled by JMR Financial Group.

The District now has a post office box for mailing. That address is: P.O. Box 16103, Duluth, MN 55816.

**French River Readers Book Club**
Carol Surine
The book for March is *Yes, Chief by Marcus Samuels-son*.
The next meeting is Thursday, March 16th at 7:30pm in the Fireside Room at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road. Kay Libby will host.
The book for April is *The Legacy by Mark Munger*.
Barb Jackson will be host.
May is tentatively *Locally Laid by Lucie B. Amundsen*. Jo Thompson is rumored to be the host!
For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email: CarolSurine@gmail.com
Duluth Township Information 2017
Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705 (voice message).
Email: See note below on using our Township web site. www.duluthtownship.org

Town Office Hours: Tues. & Wed. 9am-noon
Thurs 2-6pm, Fri 9-11am
Planning Office Hours: No posted hours
Call the Town Hall for an appointment: 525-5705
Supervisors: (see web site for email contacts)
Barb Crow (2016-2019) 525-0489
Primary contact for Public Safety, Cemetery.
Alternate for Business Management, Personnel
Dave Edblom (2014-2017) Vice Chair 525-1276
Primary contact for Planning
Co-Primary for Joint Use Committee, Town Hall.
Primary contact for Communications, D/NSSD and Materials Mgmt, and Intergovernmental Relations.
Dave Mount (2016-2019) Chair 525-7961
Primary contact for Business Mgmt, and Personnel,
Co-Primary for Town Hall, Alternate for: Roads.
Travis Stolp (2016-2018) 525-0576
Primary contact for Roads, Recreation/Rental
Co-Primary for Joint Use Committee
Town Clerk: Ann K. Cox 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Treasurer: Mel Peulen 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Attorney: Scott Witty
Cemetery Sexton: Molly Tillotson 218-525-6933
Planning Director: Sue Lawson messages: 525-5705
Planning and Zoning Secretary: Beth Mullan
Planning and Zoning Commission:
Wayne Dahlberg, Jerry Hauge. Liz Strohmayer,
John Schifsky, Jo Thompson vice chair,
Paul Voge, chair, Larry Zanko.

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden,
Officer Steve Peterson.
Emergencies 911. Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407
Clifton Volunteer Fire/EMS Department:
Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Peldo,
President Jason Bruckelmyer
Emergency Management Director: Mary Anne Daniel

Burning Permits are available online at mndnr.gov/permits or
the Town Hall (office hours), or from Fire Wardens:
Jeff & Carolyn Marino (525-6431), Jay Zink 525-5589
or DNR in Two Harbors, 1568 Hwy 2, 834-1418.
Community Center Rental Coordinator: Jim Salls 600-9015
Town Hall rentals: contact the Town Clerk, 525-5705.
Website manager: Supervisor Wendy Gustofson.

To Email Township Officials and Departments
Our Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts, has a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that a copy of all emails automatically goes to the Town Hall for Township records.

Note: If the person does not have email access, your communication is sent to the Town Hall where it is picked up.
Many Departments have a web page. (see our web site).

Township Recycling Center
At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
Staffed by Carolyn Marino, Roger Beck and Volunteers
April-Oct: Tuesday 7-11am & 3-7pm,
Thurs. 3-7pm, Saturday 8-12.
November through March Tues. 7-11am,
2-6pm, Thurs. 2-6pm, & Sat. 8-noon.
(Recycle drop off only during recycling hours
and no household garbage, please.)

Aluminum cans should be recycled with plastics/metal cans.
Curb recycling pickup service is available south of the freeway.
Surveillance cameras have been installed around the Town Hall
because of vandalism and dumping household garbage.

Township Calendar
See calendar updates on www.duluthtownship.org.
Our Official Calendar is posted at the Town Hall.

MARCH 2017
1, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader's, Town Hall
7, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting,
Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
9, Thu, 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall

TOWNSHIP DAY!
14, Tue, VOTE—Town Hall, polls open 7am—8pm
14, Tue, 8:15pm ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

18, Sat, Township Art and Heritage Event, Town Hall
(see article page 3)
21, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall #1
21, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
30, Thu, 6:30pm Fine Arts Night, NSCS all invited (p5).

APRIL 2017
4, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting
Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
5, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader's, Town Hall
13, Thu, 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
18, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training Hall #1
18, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23, Sun, Deadline for the May Newsletter
27, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

MAY 2017
2, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting,
Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
3, Wed, 12:30 Homesteader's meet, Town Hall
11, Thu, 7pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
16, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: training, Hall #1
16, Tue, 7am Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District
meeting, French River Lutheran Church
25, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
29, Mon. 11am Township Memorial Day Ceremony,
At our Palmers Lakeview Cemetery

To vote or check for election results, please visit our Township website at www.duluthtownship.org.
If your name or address are in error or you know of someone who is not receiving a Newsletter, please send a note to the Newsletter Editor at the Town Hall (email: editor@duluthtownship.org). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

102 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send your comments and suggestions to the volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the NewsBox on the Town Hall porch. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by the folks at UDAC.

"Volunteering is the price for living in a good Township" (Ken Hendrickson)

Participate and Guide the Township in which you live!
You can do it by:

- **Voting** in our Township Supervisor Election – March 14th, 7am-8pm
- **Attending** the **Annual Town Meeting** that sets our local levy - Mar. 14th
- **Attending Town Board and Planning meetings** to show support and see how Township business is conducted.
- **Volunteer** for Township Board or Commission positions as they become available, shed-keeper, Fire/EMS, community room host…
- **Participate** in planning meetings.
- **Share your views and ideas** for the Township’s future.
- **Support your representatives**...much of their effort is volunteered. *(even though there may be an “honorarium” for some positions)*
- **Write** about a local historical event or share a good Newsletter masthead.
### Tax Levy Budgets and Expenses — 2012 to 2018

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Department (2)</td>
<td>44,287</td>
<td>45,784</td>
<td>93,328</td>
<td>54,774</td>
<td>30,645</td>
<td>64,910</td>
<td><strong>67,800</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Township</td>
<td>145,671</td>
<td>116,212</td>
<td>98,073</td>
<td>91,198 (3)</td>
<td>86,797</td>
<td>113,620</td>
<td><strong>107,040</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Zoning (1)</td>
<td>22,217</td>
<td>22,994</td>
<td>22,744</td>
<td>22,660</td>
<td>29,265</td>
<td>23,128</td>
<td><strong>23,853</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cemetery</td>
<td>8,943</td>
<td>5,689</td>
<td>7,198</td>
<td>19,069</td>
<td>5,950</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td><strong>7,500</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road &amp; Bridge</td>
<td>144,437</td>
<td>102,086</td>
<td>92,790</td>
<td>54,959</td>
<td>78,225</td>
<td>85,000</td>
<td><strong>85,000</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Ed/Rec. combined</td>
<td>15,079</td>
<td>15,239</td>
<td>15,174</td>
<td>16,620</td>
<td>1,879</td>
<td></td>
<td>(See General Township)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong> (1)</td>
<td>$424,730</td>
<td>$378,954</td>
<td>$380,220</td>
<td>$313,575</td>
<td>$287,866</td>
<td>$352,018</td>
<td><strong>$350,563</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Listed Below are approved and the proposed Tax Levy Budgets**
These exclude income from non-levy sources such as permit fees, various grants, funds from WLSSD for recycling expenses, Taconite Relief, Community Center and other non-levy sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Approximate average annual cost per household (3)</th>
<th>$514</th>
<th>$448</th>
<th>$473</th>
<th>$455</th>
<th>$455</th>
<th>$465</th>
<th><strong>$463</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(depends on assessed property value.)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Footnotes:**
(1) Note that the actual expenditures include expenses that may be partially covered by fees (e.g. permits), grants (e.g. FEMA road grant and Alden Township’s contract for fire coverage, grant for fire equipment), or carry-over funds. Budgeted levy amounts are reduced by expected income from fees. Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar.
(2) Some Departments designate funds for special projects: Road emergencies ($35,000), Fire and Police to update Hall #1 and aging vehicles. These funds are included in the year end balances shown in our Clerk’s report at the Annual Meeting.
(3) General Township expenses for comparison. In addition, $220,310 in saved Township funds were used toward the Town Hall addition.
(4) The budget amount we approve may be reduced, when levied, by State or County aid to local governments.
(5) The average annual cost per household uses the Census estimate of the number of occupied households for comparisons. The 2010 U.S. Census counted 750 occupied homes in Duluth Township and the Minnesota Demographer estimated that there were 757 occupied households in 2015, a figure used for 2016 comparisons since later estimates are not yet available. (There are about 90 additional part time, vacation or vacant households in the Township). The Newsletter is currently mailed to 870 households.

### Township Expenses and Budget

The table above shows actual expenses for 2012 through 2016, the budget for 2017 (which was adopted at last year’s Annual Town Meeting), and the proposed budget for 2018. In some cases, actual expenses include income from various sources other than the tax levy, such as permit fees and grants. Part of the carry-over is for escrow (e.g. fire hall addition and police vehicle replacement) and emergency funds (e.g. roads and MAT recommended Township reserve).

**The proposed 2018 budget decreased slightly (by $1,455) from 2017.**

Detailed information will be distributed at the Annual Town Meeting where each budget will be presented.

Your total property tax includes County and State levied budgets, and special assessments (e.g. school district, sewer), in addition to the Township levy, less any homestead credit or State aid for local governments.

The 2018 budget will be voted on at the upcoming March 14th Annual Town Meeting. Plan to attend!

### Community Center Fund Expenditures in 2016

The Town Board has approved $134,399.95 in Township funds in 2016 and through mid-January 2017, for projects at the Community Center/North Shore Community School site. Among these are $80,000 to allow for Town resident access to their new addition and for potential use as an emergency site, $4,845 to remodel LED lighting in the school, $1,372.85 for staffing the school library during the summer, $1,069.20 for emergency lighting in the school, $10,112.90 for wireless internet service, $36,000 for generator repair, and $1,000 for skating rink lights and heating for 2016/2017 (see the March 2016 Newsletter for a list of earlier approved projects). These are non-levied funds.

Proposals for projects such as these are made through an agreed-upon JUC (Joint Use Committee) process which helps determine the percentage of a project that is of value to the broader community, the legal criterion the Township needs to follow. The Township also pays for lighting the hockey and pleasure rinks and heating the warming house.
Rolf Carlson

My name is Rolf Carlson. I live on Alseth Road and I’ve lived in Duluth Township for about 16-17 years.

I’m a graduate of Braham High School and Gustavus Adolphus College and have an MA and PhD from the University of Chicago (Political Science). I’ve been an active member of French River Lutheran Church for years, including serving on the Church Council and as president of the Council for several years. I’ve helped out with Township events like the Come on Home Party and the Memorial Day activities at the Cemetery for years. If you were at last year’s Town Meeting, I’m the guy who ended up as the moderator.

In general, I agree with the long-standing consensus that seeks to maintain the mainly rural character of Duluth Township. In terms of long term plans, I’m very interested in the plans and proposals that have been put forward regarding the development of a trail network in the Township. I think that the school is the Township’s greatest resource and I’m hopeful that the work in the Township. I think that the school is the

put forward regarding the development of a trail network in the Township. I’m very interested in the plans and proposals that have been put forward regarding the development of a trail network in the Township. I think that the school is the Township’s greatest resource and I’m hopeful that the school will continue to find ways to ensure that both the school and the Township can flourish.

The best way to reach me is probably by email at: ncarlsonmn@earthlink.net, or you can call my home phone (I still have a land line!) at 525-0375.

Corlis West

I have lived in the Township for over 30 years. During that time I served on the Town Board from 1998 to 2004.

I feel it is imperative that Township funds be spent in a responsible manner, and hope to work to that end if elected.

I would also like to see that residents who live on Township roads have input on road maintenance decisions and how the road budget is spent.

What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting

Township Day, Tuesday, March 14th

For those who may not have attended a Town meeting, here’s a bit of background. We gather in our Town Hall on Homestead Road after the polls close (8:15pm). Our Town Clerk, by law, calls the meeting to order and we nominate and elect a resident to lead the meeting.

Our Town Clerk, Ann Cox, provides a packet, including minutes from last year’s meeting plus summary information provided by various Township departments—2016 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2017 budget and the proposed 2018 Township budget (see the other side of this insert).

Those attending this meeting vote on our budget for 2018...a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2018. In 2017 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2016 Town Meeting.

Last year’s minutes, official bank and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2018 budget, with any adopted amendments and recommendations is discussed and the overall budget is approved. Other Township business is raised and discussed and results of the Supervisor election are announced at the end of the meeting.

The Town Meeting is a good place to meet your neighbors and to discuss important Township issues. This meeting is grass-roots democracy that depends upon the participation, respect and good ideas of all of our citizens.

Your State Representatives

Minnesota House 3B: Mary Murphy 651-296-2676
Rep.Mary.Murphy@house.mn

Minnesota Senate 3: Tom Bakk 651-296-8881
(see Senate web site to send email)

U.S. House 8: Rick Nolan 218-464-5095
(see Nolan’s web site to send email messages)

U.S. Senate: Amy Klobuchar 612-727-5220
(see Klobuchar’s web site to send email messages)

U.S. Senate: Al Franken 651-221-1016
(see Franken’s web site to send email messages)

Snowmobiles

Kristi Lounsberry, Interim Director NSCS

Please do not use snowmobiles on school grounds when school is in session, and no snowmobiles on sidewalks at any time.

Please keep the FIRE LANE at NSCS free of vehicles. Snowmobiles should park in skating rink parking lot.

Township Roads

There are 11.47 miles of Township roads, including: Aho (.5), Alseth (1.1), Beck (.25), N. Bergquist (.3), Clover Valley (1.3), Culas (.2), Dammon (.3), East Lismore (.4), Englund (.25), Gamble (.2), Greenwood (.12), Henry Hill (.25), Jackson/N Ryan (.4), Mace (.3), Nordling (.12mi), Olson (.5), Pine Tree (.1), Riemer (.15), Schoenberg (.3), Shilhon (.45), Spruce Court (.1), Swanson (.25), Torgeson (.8), Walter Johnson (.5), and E. & W. Wildwood (1.25).

Other roads in the Township are County, State or private roads. For questions about County roads, call the County Tool House at 525-7000.