### What’s Coming Up?

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The Advocates for the Knife River Watershed will be hosting two presentations at the Duluth Town Hall.

The first one is on Wednesday, March 25, hosting Dr. Lucinda Johnson, Natural Resources Research Institute, University of Minnesota, Duluth. She is a well-known researcher and speaker on the effect climate change may have on our watersheds, including upland storage, river sedi-mentation and cold water fish in-cluding brook trout. This will be focused on the Knife River area.

The second presentation is on Wednesday April 29, on the results of a two-year study by Dr. Karen Gran, steam geomorphologist, in the watershed to learn about beaver habitats and trout populations and the implications of beaver dam removal on stream characteristics. Also involved was Dr. Salli Dymond, forest ecohydrologist. Emma Burgeson and Hannah Behar, both part of the team, will be presenting the findings.

The doors for both presentations open at 6pm with the presentation starting at 6:30.

*Shary Zoff*

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### Duluth Township Arts and Heritage Group (DTAHG)

Our Town Hall offers space for people to gather to share experiences and memories. The Arts and Heritage group consists of community members who have been working on identifying ways in which the Town Hall can be resource center, display space, and gathering place and they welcome your input. The DTAHG has been hosting various history and arts programs. DTAHG is supported through grants and donations. Thank you to all who have shown interest in our efforts. We are busy planning another program for this fall. Stay tuned for more details.

If you have stories, historic artifacts, photographs, maps, paintings, quilts, fiber art and other items that reflect our many talents and heritage that you would be will to loan for inside display, please contact Jo Thompson (woodfarm1785@gmail.com) or Duane Madison at 525-5645. We do not have the capacity to store items, so please contact us to make arrangements for having items on display.

We meet on the Friday morning following the monthly board meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the Town Hall Community Room. All are welcome. The next scheduled meeting is March 13, 2020.

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### Be A Census Taker

The 2020 U.S. Census is seeking Census Takers. You can apply online at [2020census.gov/jobs](http://2020census.gov/jobs) or call 1-855JOB-2020.

Extra income, flexible hours, weekly pay, paid training

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**Thanks to all of the contributors to this issue**

Dorothy Aho, Valerie Brady, Ann Cox, Bob Engelson, Sue Lawson, Carolyn Marino, Don McTavish, Penny Morton, Beth Mullan, Shawn Padden, Jana Pastika, Shelly Person, John Schifsky, Carol Surine, Jo Thompson, Carla Tamburro, and Shary Zoff.
Clifton Volunteer Fire Department

Bob Engelson, Fire Chief

Clifton F.D. responded to 136 fire and emergency medical calls in 2019, a busy high volume year.

Newer member Nate Koski is currently attending firefighter certification training.

We are welcoming our newest member Tony Clifton to the department. Tony comes to us from Grand Rapids Fire Department with seven years’ experience and is certified FFI & II. He resides in Knife River.

911 fire signs are available at the Town Hall during office hours (see page 7). All residences in Duluth and Alden Townships who don’t already have a sign or have the older non-reflective signs can pick up theirs for FREE. Installation instructions and, if needed, posts and hardware are available.

2020 Fire Department Calendars will be delivered free to Duluth Township households. Call the Fire Auxiliary if you can help with deliveries.

If you are interested in helping the Fire Department in other ways, consider joining the Clifton Fire Dept Auxiliary. To volunteer or for more information contact Sue Lannon at 720-3987.

Volunteers interested in becoming a fire fighter and/or emergency medical responder should contact Chief Bob Engelson at 525-6819. All necessary training and equipment are provided.

Thanks to all who contributed and attended our 16th Annual Harvest Dinner benefit. We are very grateful for all the dessert, produce and door prize donations from the community. It is always a great event.

Police Department

Shawn Padden, Chief

Police Events. The Police responded to 115 events in January of 2020. The most common being Vacation Home/Business Checks (53), Property Damage Accidents (7), Civil Process (7), and Suspicious Activity (7).

Summary of 2019: Police responded to 1125 events in 2019. Most frequent were vacation home/business checks/ requested extra patrols (504), medical emergencies (69), property damage accidents (63), traffic violation citations/warnings (62), animal complaints (55), and Public Assists (39). There was 1 natural death in the Township and 2 suicide related events.

If you have information about any criminal activity in our community, please contact the Duluth Township Police Dept at: 218-525-5705 or mobile phone: 393-8407, or email through the Town web site contact list.

Emergency Generators. The Township has an emergency backup generator at the Town Hall and at Fire Hall 1 on Ryan Road. The Town Hall and Fire Hall 1 are designated in our Township Emergency Plan as our Emergency Operation Center (EOC) and Backup Center (see the web site for the Plan).

Our current Emergency Management Co-Directors are Ann Cox and Sherry Rovig (EMD’s). There is an Emergency Planning Group that meets to review emergency plans. The current focus is on reducing wildfire threats due to the spruce budworm damage (the FIREWISE cleanup and chipping program) and getting reflective 911 signs distributed and properly installed (sign pick-up is handled by Co-EMD Ann Cox during office hours). Grants have been received for much of this work, thanks to Co-EMD Sherry Rovig and others.

Contact the Town Hall if you are interested in volunteering for the Emergency Planning Group.

Spring is on the way - Really! The Old Farmer’s Almanac predicts that March will have some mild sunny days but there will be a little more snow. April is predicted to also be cooler than usual with lots of rain (or snow). As all that snow begins to melt and the spring rains come, the water runs to our ditches and streams and carries with it all the salt, dirt and animal waste that have built up over the winter. These pollutants cause harm to fish and the other critters that live in our streams (have you seen the otters playing at Korkki this year?). But we can all help reduce these effects. We can use less salt; many of us use far more salt than we need (see the January Newsletter). As the snow melts off our sidewalks and driveways, we can sweep up the salt and dump it in the trash or even save it for future reuse. While it sounds a bit silly out in the country, picking up pet waste on our roads and around ditches will keep it out of the streams (and the fish will appreciate our efforts). If there are uncovered dirt piles leftover from fall, covering them as soon as the snow melts off can keep that dirt in place and out of ditches and streams. We all need clean water.
Known locally as the Korkki trail, the 12 kilometer classic ski trail, part of which is on the Hugo and Alma Korkki family homestead, was created by Charlie Banks, a legendary figure among Nordic ski enthusiasts. He was dedicated to the sport of cross country skiing and, before the sport grew in popularity, he would drive kids he was coaching out to his trail, train and coach them, then feed them and bring them home. Prior to 1992, in addition to students from Central training on the trail, Charlie hosted a number of ski events, most notably races in the 60’s and 70’s which attracted international racers.

In 1992 Charlie decided to open the trail to the public. His decision was the result of several developments, not the least of which might have been the premature passing of his wife Dorothy. A public trail needed more attention and Charlie, who had more time, turned to friends who happily offered assistance. Charlie also knew the trail needed to be adapted to meet the needs of the public whose needs were different from those of racers.

In addition skate skiing (like ice skating, skier pushes off with the edge of one angled ski, shifting body weight to the other ski and driving forward, then reversing he process) was increasing in popularity and Charley wanted to nurture and preserve the classical technique (linear kick and glide motion, arms and legs swinging in opposition to one another). The Korkki trail, to which he had dedicated so much energy and enthusiasm was his legacy, the narrow lane four to five feet wide, a white ribbon rising and falling, unspooling, leading a skier on and reinforcing what, for many is a principle attraction of classic skiing, the feeling of oneness with the surrounding woods.

Opening the trail to the public offered another significant advantage: the potential for financial support as well assistance with trail maintenance. The grooming equipment and snow machines were worn out. Further, construction projects were possible. Mark Helmer, a close friend of Charlie’s who worked with him for the first six years after the trail went public, had a vision of a little warming house. He proposed his idea to Charley who agreed on the sale of some of the Korkki land. They built the well-used, rustic chalet with its welcome, wood burning stove on a part of that land.

In 1994 Korkki Nordic was established as a Minnesota non-profit corporation operated as a membership-based club with a board of directors. New members continue to be welcome, and membership supports the Korkki mission as spelled out on its website – trail maintenance, grooming and operating expenses as well as efforts to support ski programs at area schools. There has never been a charge to use the trail; skiers heading out pass a box on pole at the trail head with a small sign inviting donations to support trail maintenance. Initially the board continued Charlie’s work of fostering interest in cross country skiing and growing the Nordic community by donating $300 to Nordic programs at local schools (Mesabi East, Cloquet, Duluth schools). But in 2017 but the board decided to bundle all those individual donations into a single donation to the Grand Avenue Project which includes a state of the art Nordic Center. Directors believe their donation has more potential for encouraging and supporting Nordic skiing interest.

Charley Banks died in 1998. According to Mark Helmer, Charley started the fire in the nearby sauna and was returning to the chalet when he “tipped over.” But the trail lives on, drawing Nordic skiers of all levels of expertise. Arguably, it is embodiment of his love of the sport to which he devoted so much energy and enthusiasm. Area schools train and hold meets at Korkki. Locals fill the parking lot on weekends, excited skiers gliding into the first turn and disappearing into the woods. They don’t have to do the full twelve kilometers; there are loops of varying length and crossovers which offer the relief of a quicker return should the hills and turns prove too challenging. Skiers come across signs along the route such as “Dorothy’s Loop” named for Dorothy Banks, Charlie’s wife, who did not like skiing hills; the 1 kilometer loop has no hills. Other names are of skiers who experienced some near-calamity at that point in the trail. The names give the trail an intensely personal feel. Perhaps the most memorable occurs close to end. It is not the name of a person. The sign says “Iso Maki” which means “big hill” in Finnish. If a skier manages to stay upright down that mad, rushing descent, they glide out thankful to whoever is the Norse God of skiers. And to Charlie who made that excitement possible.
Regular Community Meetings
AA meets 7pm on Tuesdays at French River Lutheran Church on Ryan Road.
To list community meetings, notify the Newsletter editor.

Candlelight Ski Fundraiser at Korkki Nordice: Friday, March 6th from 6-8pm
$15.00/person, $45.00 Family Cap. Proceeds benefit North Shore Community School Endowment Fund.
Ski the 1.5 kilometer Dorothy Loop, Gather ’round the campfire, Eat delicious Soup and Bread provided by The New Scenic Cafe. Included: While supplies last, a clay bowl of your choice, handmade by our fifth and sixth grade students (one per family). More information available on our website.

Open House Monday, March 9th, 5:00-7:00
North Shore Community School is a nature-based public charter school serving students in pre-K through 6th grade in the Duluth and Two Harbors area. We are having an Open House on Monday, March 9, from 5:00-7:00 for incoming kindergartners and new families. NSCS is accepting applications for preschool and K-6th grade for the 2020-2021 school year. At this time, we do not have a waiting list. Applications for the upcoming school year can be found through visiting our website: https://northshorecommunityschool.org/enrollment-forms/. Help spread the word about our amazing school and all we have to offer!

Gentle Yoga
Chairs Yoga 3:15 and Gentle Yoga 4:30
Wednesdays at French River Lutheran Church
A wellness class for beginners
$6 per chair class, $13 per mat class.
kshamppractice@gmail.com

From the Editor
Thanks again to all those who contributed to the newsletter, and of course to Don McTavish for all the materials and info to make my first newsletter go smoothly. I look forward to the next one, and learning more about our community.

This newsletter is jammed full of info and events. So much so, that I couldn't fit as much information about 2019 as Don did about 2018. I think that says a lot about the vibrant and active community we have. Thanks again, everyone.
Until next time.
French River Readers Book Club  
Carol Surine  
The next meeting of the French River Readers will be held Thursday, March 19th, at 7:30 PM in the Fireside Room of French River Lutheran Church.  
The book we'll discuss is the first book in the Holland Taylor series, Penance, by Minnesota author David Housewright. Our host is Patty Burke.  
For information call Carol Surine, 525-4426 or email: CarolSurine@gmail.com

Elections to put on your Calendar for 2020  
Ann Cox, Clerk  
March 3, President Nominating Primary (replaces caucuses)  
March 10, Town Board election, Annual Town Meeting.  
August 11, State and Federal Primary elections  
November 3, General Election  
(All are held on Tuesdays, 7am to 8pm, Town Hall)

A Note To Snowmobilers  
A reminder that land underneath powerlines is private and not to be entered without permission from the owner. This land is not open to the public. There has been an increase in activity on private land, due to the snowfall this year, and landowners are raising concerns. Thank you for your cooperation.

Our Comprehensive Land Use Plan Update  
Public Hearing April 16, 2020 at 6:30 PM at the Duluth Town Hall  
Seeking Comments on the Proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan  
Planning Director Sue Lawson  
Thank you to all who have participated in the community planning process to update the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP). A special thanks to the Community Steering Group who has been meeting monthly over the last fourteen months to create this Proposed CLUP.

As part of our commitment to a community-based process and in accordance with statutory requirements there will be a Public Hearing on the Proposed CLUP on April 16, 2020. At that time, the Planning Commission will take public comment. The Proposed CLUP will be available starting March 2, 2020 on the Town Website at www.duluthtownship.org. There will also be a copy of the Proposed CLUP at the Town Hall and available during Town Hall office hours.

If you cannot make it to the Public Hearing there are still several ways that you can get your comments included as part of the Public Hearing. You may send them via U.S. mail to the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Rd., Duluth, MN 55804, Via email to town- clerk@lakenet.com, or drop them off at the Town Hall during office hours. Comments on the Proposed CLUP will be accepted until the close of public comments at the Public Hearing on April 16th.

The Planning Commission will take comments, consider them, and compile a report (including a Recommended CLUP) to the Town Board. The Town Board makes the final decision regarding the adoption of the CLUP. They will consider the adoption of the Recommended CLUP at their May 14, 2020 Board Meeting.

We hope that you will continue your involvement in updating our Comprehensive Land Use Plan and provide comments at the Public Hearing.
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)

**January 9th regular meeting.** Supervisors Rolf Carlson (chair), Michael Kahl, John Schifsky and Corlis West attended along with the Town Clerk Ann Cox and Treasurer Mel Peulen.

**Reports:**
- **Treasurer:** Deposits of $45,160.25, expenses of $45,780.41.04 for an ending balance of $405,554.38.
- **Police:** Lots of accidents due to weather. Rev is on the move again.
- **Fire:** 133 calls for 2019. Purchasing signs for Hall #2 and Town Hall to replace faded and peeling signs. PERA acknowledged receipt of the retirement change document.
- **Storm Water:** RSPT survey will be on township website. Board signed on to Jo and Val’s 28 page permit for MS4.
- **Materials Management:** Corlis attended WSSD meeting mentioning the consolidation of recycled materials into just two categories. Paper, Newspaper, plastic, glass, and tin will eventually go into a single bin. Cardboard will have its own. Calm style plastic containers and shredded paper are not accepted.
- **Communication:** It was agreed that a plaque honoring Don McTavish and newsletter editors of the past will be put up in the town hall.

Regular **Town Board meetings** are held on the second Thursday at 6:30pm in the Town Hall. (special meetings are posted at the Town Hall.) 
*Residents are encouraged to attend these public meetings.*

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Summary of Planning Commission Meetings
(Official minutes by Planning Secretary Beth Mullan are available on our Township web site www.duluthtownship.org)

**August 22nd regular meeting.** Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer (chair), Pam West, Angela Wilson, and Larry Zanko attended along with the Planning Director Sue Lawson, and Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Mike Kahl.

An appeal of a decision by the Planning Director about a conditional use for a short term rental on an under sized lot on the shore. The owners have a separate property near but not contiguous with the proposed short term rental house. The Commission set the appeal notification area of 1/4 mile of the property. The hearing was slated for the September meeting but was postponed to the October meeting.

A question was raised about a possible repair shop for autos, pickups, and some larger vehicles and trailers at Lismore and McQuade roads. It was decided the use would come under Highway Commercial Use.

The Comprehensive Land Use Community Steering Group finalized and approved the draft version for the vision for the 2030 CLUP.

**September 26th regular meeting.** Commissioners Wayne Dahlberg, Dave Edblom, Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer (chair), Pam West, Angela Wilson, and Larry Zanko attended along with the Planning Director Sue Lawson, Secretary Beth Mullan and Board Liaison Mike Kahl.

Owners of a short term rental on West Knife River are applying for a conditional use permit. The notification area was set at the usual 1/4 mile.

The Planning Director, Sue Lawson reported on short term rental policy and how it applies in various situations, progress on the Steering Group’s work toward a Comprehensive Land Use Plan update.
Duluth Township Information 2020

Duluth Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804
Phone (218) 525-5705
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)
Rolf Carlson (2017-2020) 525-0375  Board Chair
Primary contact for Cemetery, Personnel
Alternate for: NS Mgmt Board, Intergov. Relations
Michael Kahl (2019-2022) 525-1594
Primary contact for Planning & Zoning
Alternate for: Bus. Mgmt, NSMB, Introgov Rel, Roads
Penny Morton (2018-2021) 525-5443  Board Vice Chair
Primary contact for: Business Mgmt, CCtr, NS Endow
Alternate for: Personnel, NS Mgmt Bd, Intergov Rel.
John Shifsky (2019-2022) 525-9363
Primary contact for Arts&Heritage, Communications, Public Safety
Alternate for: Cemetery, Intergov Rel, NS Mgmt Bd.
Corlis West (2017-2020) 525-7715
Primary contact for Materials Mgmt, Roads, Town Hall
Alternate for: Intergov Rel, NS Management Board

Town Clerk: Ann K. Cox 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Treasurer: Mel Peulen 525-5705 (Town Hall)
Attorney: Scott Witty 722-4766 (office)
Cemetery Sexton: Molly Tillotson 218-525-6933

Planning Director: Sue Lawson  messages: 525-5705
Planning and Zoning Secretary: Beth Mullian
Planning and Zoning Commission:
Wayne Dahlberg (vice chair), Dave Edblom,
Jerry Hauge, Liz Strohmayer (chair), Pam West,
Angela Wilson and Larry Zanko

Peace Officers: Chief Shawn Padden, Officer Paul Johnson
Emergencies 911. Messages 525-5705 or 393-8407
Emergency Management Co-Directors:
Sherry Rovig, Ann Cox. Messages: 218-525-5705

Clifton Volunteer Fire/EMS Department:
Email: cliftonfiredpartment@gmail.com
Chief Bob Engelson, Assistant Chief Rob Peldo,
President Jason Bruckelmyer

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.

Website Manager: Supervisor Barb Crow.
Community Center Rental Coordinator: Jim Salls 600-9015
Town Hall rentals: contact the Town Clerk, 525-5705.

To Email Township Officials and Departments
See Township web site, www.duluthtownship.org/contacts for a dropdown list of personnel and departments you can use to send emails. Note that a copy of all email goes to the Town Hall for Township records. If the person does not have email access, your communication is sent to the Town Hall to be picked up. Department information is also on our web site.

Township Recycling Center
Carolyn Marino
Nov.-March: Tues. 7-11am, 2-6pm,
Thurs. 2-6pm & Sat. 8-noon.
At the Town Hall, on Homestead Road
April-Oct: Tues 7-11, 3-7pm, Thurs 3-7pm, Sat 8-12.

Household plastic bags accepted in ORANGE bin only.
Please do not put black plastic bags, tarps, or black feed bags in the plastic bag recycle bin.

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.
Recycle only during recycling hours. No household garbage.

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

March 2020
3, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
4, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader's, Town Hall
7, Sat, 9-10am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
10, Tue, 8:15 pm Annual Town Meeting, Town Hall
12, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall.
13, Fri, 9:30am Arts and Heritage meeting, Town Hall
17, Tue, 7pm Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
17, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept training, Hall #1
25, Wed, 6:30pm Advocates for the Knife River Watershed, Town Hall
26, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

April 2020
1, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader's meet, Town Hall
4, Sat, 9-10am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
7, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Road
9, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
16, Thu, 6:30pm CLUP Open House, Town Hall
21, Tue, 7pm Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
23, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall
24, Fri Deadline for Newsletter contributions.

May 2020
2, Sat, 9-10am Coffee and Local History, Town Hall
5, Tue, 7pm Volunteer Fire Dept: business meeting, Fire Hall #1, Ryan Rd
6, Wed, 12:30pm Homesteader's, Town Hall
14, Thu, 6:30pm TOWN BOARD, Town Hall
19, Tue, 7pm Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District meeting, French River Lutheran Church
28, Thu, 7pm Planning Commission, Town Hall

Town Hall Community Room is open during Town office hours and during recycling. Other times by arrangement.
Inside This Issue
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- Election information.

Duluth Township Newsletter
6092 Homestead Road
Duluth, MN 55804

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 by using the contact list on our web site (www.duluthtownship.org). Extra copies are also available in the Town Hall.

1126 Newsletters are mailed to Duluth Township homes, businesses and on request. Copies are available at the Town Hall. Please send comments and suggestions to volunteer Newsletter editor, Don McTavish at the Town Hall, 6092 Homestead Road, Duluth, MN 55804 or use the mailbox at the Town Hall or email on the web site. Our Newsletter is printed locally by Bob Sundstrom, BB&K Printing, and mailed for us by the folks at UDAC.

For a color version of this Newsletter — Township website: duluthtownship.org

Town Election — Tuesday, March 10th — Be sure to VOTE!

Polls are open from 7am to 8pm at our Town Hall. Absentee ballots are available at the Town Hall during office hours.

What Happens at our Annual Town Meeting
Township Day, Tuesday, March 10th

Two Duluth Township Supervisor positions are up for election. Polls are open 7am-8pm at the Town Hall. Our Annual Town Meeting begins at 8:15pm.

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 at 8:15pm after the polls close. 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—2019 activities and expenses, the previously approved 2020 budget and the proposed 2021 Township budget.

Those attending this meeting vote on our levy for 2021...a year away because our figures have to be included with County and School District figures for tax statements you receive in 2021. In 2020 we are operating on the budget adopted at our 2019 Town Meeting.

Last year's minutes, official bank and posting places are voted on. The proposed 2021 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.