



Fredenberg Township News

A pleasant blend of progress and tradition



Issue 12

VOL XXXII

December 2020

FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP NEWS

A monthly newsletter published
by the Fredenberg Town Board
Editor Diane Palmstein & Mary Skafte

This is not an official document and does not replace the requirements for the Board to post notices in posting. Minutes are not official until approved by the board at their meeting. All ordinances, policies and resolutions quoted herein and **monthly correspondence** is available for review in the Town Clerk's office. Anyone wishing to review them can leave a message and a time can be arranged for viewing. Copies can be obtained for the standard price as stated in the administrative policy.

Town Hall Office 721-3991
Office Hours: Every Tuesday
2 pm to 5:30pm

TOWN BOARD

Clay Cich, Chair	590-5005
Debra Pawlowicz, Supervisor	428-4539
Walter Rapp, Supervisor	721-3761
James Ray, Vice Chair & Road Foreman	721-5201
Tim Wagner, Supervisor	428-9460
Pam Blekestad, Treasurer	721-3991
Diane Palmstein, clerk	721-3991
Mary Skafte, deputy clerk	721-3991

DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

Keith Nelson (218)749-7108
300 S 5th Ave
Virginia, MN 55729
Nelsonk@stlouiscountymn.gov

DEPARTMENTS

Chief, Linda Bergstrand	349-2668
Recycling Center	721-3991
Assessor, County	726-2304
Town Hall	721-3991
Email	Fredenbergtpw@gmail.com
Website	Fredenberg.org

December 2, 2020 TOWN BOARD ACTIONS

The monthly meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 7 pm by Chair Clay Cich. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner. Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks present, Pam Blekestad, Treasurer also present. 26 individuals were present via zoom, the Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** November 10, 2020 meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Jim Ray made motion to accept with correction, under Open Forum, Nextdoor Fredenberg, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** November 12, 2020 Board of Canvass meeting minutes reviewed by the Board, Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to accept without correction, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **TREASURER'S REPORT:** as of 11/12/ 2020, reconciled checking account balance is \$329,565.04. Total funds are \$468,170.78, which includes 4 CDs totaling \$202,917.51. Clay Cich made a motion to accept treasury report, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Treasurer asked the Board to submit items outside normal budget for 2022 for the upcoming meeting. She is also contacting Ehlers regarding re-bonding potential savings for Fire Dept. Bond, to follow up with the recent notice received. **CORRESPONDENCE:** 22 total: 4 mail and 18 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board. **REVIEW OF BILLS:** Mary Skafte/clerk informed Board that claim to St. Louis County is from 2019 work done on Bear Island Road which they never invoiced us for. Clay Cich asked that the ARDC claim not be paid as the charges have not been explained or clarified and he will follow up before it is paid. Jim Ray made motion to accept checks #10216 to 10228, excluding #10225 totaling \$41,383.18, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **REPORTS:** **Clerk** – Elections have been certified and candidate finance reports are on our website. Complied with all deadlines for mailing/publications for Public Hearing on Road Improvement for Cook Lake Road. Mary Skafte/clerk provided report of moratorium costs as of Nov. 30, 2020: \$29,184.21. She stated at the 9/16/2020 Board Meeting that the Board decided that each supervisor contacting the outside attorney would send an accounting to the clerks so that costs can be tracked. This is not being done and she requested the Board comply. Walter Rapp also asked that on that accounting, the supervisor add what was discussed so the rest of the Board would remain informed. **Road Report** – There has been issues with township turnarounds: End of Birch Acres Road where the school bus and plows couldn't turn around, Jim Ray made a motion for the Board to allow the turnaround to be increased in size (landowner already gave permission), Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** North Sunset Ridge turnaround is 150ft before the actual end of the road, the township is obligated to fix it and the County will not back up plows to plow there. He has a call in MN Power to extend the right of way for making the turnaround larger. Jim Ray made a motion to complete the work

necessary on the turnaround (if permission granted from MN Power), Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Fire Department-** Members responded to 8 calls, calls included mutual aid, medical calls, a tree on a powerline, automatic fire alarm calls and a personal injury accident. Please make sure your fire numbers are visible in case of emergency. If you need an address number call: 218-726-2920 or contact St. Louis County 911 Communications Center at 2030 N. Arlington Ave., Duluth. Home fire fatalities increase during the winter, please be fire smart. A flyer on holiday safety was submitted and will appear in the township newsletter, please read, stay safe, wear your mask. **Cemetery** – closed **Parks & Rec** – Board requested that a porta-potty be ordered for the sliding hill by clerks. Electrician only got 1 light in the skating rink before his lift malfunctioned, he will complete when possible. Deb Pawlowicz asked that clerks look into DNR grants, as applications opened in November. **Community Center-** Clay Cich informed the Board that all CARES projects will be completed by Dec. 31, 2020, Clay Cich made a motion to authorized contractors to fix venting in roof, costs approximately \$2,000.00., Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray checked the office outlets, and the circuits are okay for power bars. **Recycle Center** – Meeting on Dec. 10 with WLLSD. New outdoor light installed but no motion sensor yet. Things are going good. **Preparedness Plan Update-** Clerks informed the Board that our township plan needs to be updated with new improvements in the Community Center, Clay Cich will update. **Other Meetings** – none **OPEN FORUM:** Patty Monson-Geertz is opposed to paving project for East Cook Lake Road, cost is too high, stated there were other alternatives and asked the Board not to consider the project. Lynn Svercl wanted a copy of township financials from this meeting, clerks informed her where on website to find. Bruce Anderson submitted his application for the study committee late today, but clerks informed him it was included and in mailboxes of supervisors. Patty Wheeler continued to ask for respect and civility at meetings. Liz Blix asked the Board to review the Code of Conduct and Pledge of Civility, comply with and sign. **OLD BUSINESS: East Cook Lake Road Paving Request/Public Hearing:** on Dec. 8, 2020 at 7pm: Board clarified that this is a Public Hearing for a Road Improvement project, not an assessment hearing. Deb. Pawlowicz made motion to change the meeting to a zoom meeting and it will be posted on the web site/marque/posting boards, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits:** no new information presented. Jim Ray stated he was disappointed in the lack of concern from St. Louis Cty, which influenced his decision to support the moratorium. He is concerned that the committee will present zoning language that would be restrictive enough to ban/prevent any new pits in our township. He has reviewed and researched information gathered on the Fish Lake Rd pit and respects the opinion of both sides. The end decision is to focus on zoning for pits in the entire township, explore the whole issue and its impact on Fredenberg, including already incurred costs, anticipated ones and enforcement. As a supervisor, he has to decide the Township's role regarding if he supports adopting any zoning. Clay Cich stated his intention is not to stop all gravel pits but protect our community. Deb Pawlowicz stated she is advocating for residents' concerns. **Study Committee Applications:** Applications received through the office were reviewed by the Board, clerks provided 3 more that were received after the packets were sent today. Walter Rapp questioned if all members needed to be resident but felt it could be left up to the committee. Mary Skafte/clerk pointed out that an applicant pointed out that verbiage in other uses should mean only extractive uses. Tim Wagner questioned if a supervisor should be on the committee when they will be voting and making the final decision. Deb Pawlowicz stated that the committee would like to request that they hire a tech to run the zoom meeting at a cost of \$20/hour and record them. Jim Ray made a motion to pay to have outside tech run the zoom meeting, Clay Cich seconded. Clay Cich – yea Deb Pawlowicz – yea Walter Rapp – nay Jim Ray – yea Tim Wagner – nay. **MOTION PASSED. NEW BUSINESS: Town Hall Garden Club Request:** Jody Watt/member informed the Board of \$261.97 spent for 2020 on the gardens at the Community Center. She wanted to recognize and thank: Lakehead Trucking and Greg Kaneski for their generous donations and Rice Lake Garden Center, Boyd, for his generous donations. Their plans are to improve the lower level beds and bench area next year and requested \$400 from the township in 2021. She will submit in writing a request to the Board. **Resolution 2020-017, Designation of Township Polling Place:** Resolution was reviewed by the Board, Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to accept Resolution 2020-017 Designating a Township Polling Place, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Request for Liquor License Approval for Jason & Briana Manning, new owner of the Minno-Ette:** new owners were present and introduced themselves. Clay Cich made a motion to approve liquor license for the Minno-Ette, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Rink Attendant Position:** no one has been able to get in contact with previous rink attendant, the Board requested that the position be advertised in the newsletter and marque. Clay Cich made a motion to increase hourly pay to \$15/hour, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **OTHER MEETINGS:** East Cook Lake Road Public Hearing on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020 at 7pm in the Fredenberg Town Hall via zoom, information will be posted on website and posting boards. Fredenberg Annual Budget Meeting, Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2020 at 7pm, Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to make the Budget meeting a zoom meeting, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **ADJOURNMENT:** Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

**FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP IS LOOKING FOR A
SKATING RINK ATTENDANT
FOR THE UPCOMING WINTER**

Hours are flexible. Includes: rink flooding & maintenance, snow clearing.
Please contact the Town Hall office at 218-721-3991 or Fredenbergtp@gmail.com
for more information.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

*Information regarding the Study Committee for
the Gravel Pits/Extractive Use Ordinance
and their meetings can be found on:
Fredenberg.org
under
Township information
Study Committee for Extractive Use Ordinance*

RECYCLE NEWS

The outside dumpsters are for cardboard,
newspaper/paper and glass/plastic/tin cans.
There are no longer bins for recycling
inside the garage.

HOURS

for the Center weekly are:

Wednesdays 5 pm to 8 pm
Saturdays 9 am to 1 pm



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**Arrowhead Area
Agency on Aging**

IN REMEMBRANCE OF JIM ARMSTRONG

Fredenber Township and residents extend their sympathy to the Armstrong Family following the recent death of Jim Armstrong, Jim was a long time member of this community and very, very active throughout his life. He was a founding member of the Fredenberg Volunteer Fire Department, Town Board Supervisor, Township Clerk and played his accordion at many, many community events including the yearly SANTA Breakfast and volunteered his time throughout his life in the township. He was a strong advocate for Fredenberg and his many contributions will not be forgotten.

Winter Holiday Fire Safety



Did you know?

Nearly half of holiday decoration fires happen because decorations are placed too close to a heat source.

It's fun to decorate for the winter holidays, but holiday decorations can increase your risk for a home fire. As you deck the halls this season, be fire smart.

- ✓ Inspect holiday lights each year before you put them up. Throw away light strands with frayed or pinched wires.
- ✓ Water your Christmas tree every day. A dry tree is dangerous because it can catch on fire easily.
- ✓ Consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles.
- ✓ If you do use lit candles, make sure they are in stable holders and place them where they cannot be knocked down easily.

For more information and free fire-safety resources, visit
www.usfa.fema.gov





2020 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT (CBC)

Hi All:

The Fredenberg CBC will be held this year on: Saturday, December 26. Most of you already have your prearranged areas but there may be openings and as always areas to snowshoe, ski and walk.

I'll be working on designating areas once I hear from you all on whether you can participate this year. Let me know as soon as you can. You can also watch from your home feeders too! Thanks again for your help. I always look forward to this.

CONTACT: Frank at 218-591-0174



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The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we live and interact. For many, this can mean a loss of support and social connections that has serious negative mental and physical health consequences.

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Arrowhead Area
Agency on Aging

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NO ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY BEING HELD IN THE
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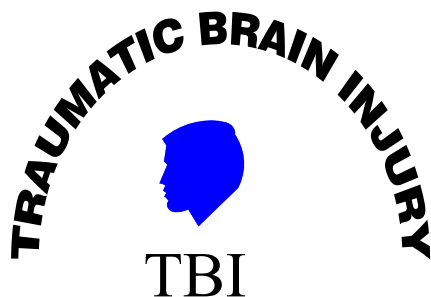
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low us on Facebook at:
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We post all of our events, food menus and
drink specials. We will have a
Halloween Costume Contest on
Saturday, Oct. 31st
Between 5:00 - 10 pm.
Stop by in costume and enter.
Must be present to win.



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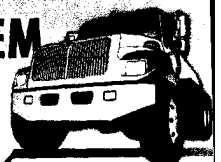
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RECYCLE CENTER NEWS UPDATE

The Fredenberg Art Weller Recycle Center is a very busy place this time of year. Here are a few reminders when using the Center.

We can only accept rinsed/cleaned & emptied cans, bottles & containers.

We CANNOT accept Styrofoam in ANY FORM.

We DO NOT accept household garbage of any kind and it is NOT to be placed at the Recycle Center or the dumpster.

We do not accept any metal or plastic gas cans

We NO LONGER repurpose any form of electronics, these must be brought to the Rice Lake Road WLSSD Center.

Dumping of garbage of any kind at the Center is
ILLEGAL !!!!

We DO NOT ACCEPT take out containers, fruit/veg. plastic containers & deli clam containers.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

***ANYONE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING
TO HELP PREP THE TOWNSHIP SKATING
RINK FOR THE SEASON????***

***PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE 218-721-3991
OR Fredenbergtp@gmail.com
ASAP***

Skating is a great form of exercise for all ages
and you can safely socially distance outside.
PLEASE help keep our rink open this winter

**NEXT FREDENBERG
TOWN BOARD MEETING
ANNUAL BUDGET & SALARY MTG.
Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 7:00PM
VIA ZOOM
See Fredenberg.org
for sign in information**

**TOWN BOARD MEETING followed
by the Township Reorganizational Mtg.
Wednesday, January 6, 2021
In the Fredenberg Town Hall
(location tentative or zoom)**