



Fredenberg Township News



A pleasant blend of progress and tradition

Issue 1

VOL XXXIII

JANUARY 2021

FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP NEWS

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

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 Skaft, 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

JANUARY 6, 2021 TOWN BOARD ACTIONS

The monthly meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 7:01 pm by Chair Clay Cich. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, & Tim Wagner. Mary Skaft & Diane Palmstein/clerks & Pam Blekestad, treasurer also present. 22 individuals were present via zoom, the Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim Ray made a motion to accept Dec. 2, 2020 meeting minutes without correction, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray made a motion to accept Dec. 16, 2020 Budget/Salary meeting minutes without correction, Tim Wagner seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **TREASURER REPORT:** as of 12/10/ 2020, reconciled checking account balance is \$463,232.53. Total funds are \$615,677.61, 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 has called Ehlers and sent an email and is still waiting to hear back regarding refinancing of the Fire Dept. Bond. She will discuss paying down on bond also and check on any penalties associated. **CORRESPONDENCE:** 23 total: 3 mail and 20 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board. **REVIEW OF BILLS:** Mary Skaft/clerk informed the Board that the Top-Notch claim was for 3 months of plowing, ARDC final payment is pending from Dec., Clay Cich stated he had contacted them, but the charges were not clarified, and he will contact them again before it is paid. MN Locksmith & Advantage Air received checks covered under the CARES Act Funding but still holding payments to Vesel Construction, (Clay Cich stated the doors ordered have not arrived yet to install), Mary Skaft stated that our township checks expire after 90days, to comply with funding the checks needed to be approved by Nov. 15, 2020 deadline and need to be cashed by Feb. 10, 2021. Advantage Air Invoice includes charges for an air conditioner unit in addition to venting in bathrooms. Walter Rapp objected to payment for an air conditioner that was not approved by the Board. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to pay Advantage Air invoice for \$1,200.00 for the air conditioner, Jim Ray seconded. Deb Pawlowicz & Jim Ray – **2 YEAS** Walter Rapp & Tim Wagner – **2 NAYS** Clay Cich - **ABSTAIN. Motion was tabled.** Jim Ray made a motion to remove check #10225 for \$7,223.28 to ARDC, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray made a motion to pay checks #10239 to 10258, taking \$1,200 from check #10256, totaling \$136,960.40, Tim Wagner seconded. Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner – **3 YEAS** Clay Cich & Deb Pawlowicz – **2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.** **REPORTS:** Clerk – clerks requested supervisor reports for Annual Meeting be submitted by Feb. 10, 2021. Received and working on 2021 Recycle Grant, a resident reported that the rink attendant was smoking in the warming house, Jim Ray will address with him. Clerks asked if the Town hall will open in the near future as calls to use facility are

coming in. Deb Pawlowicz didn't feel it should open until Town Board Meetings are in person and that was the consensus of the Board. **Road Report** – Birch Acres turn around has been made larger. North Sunset Ridge Road turnaround has not been completed. Jim Ray contacted St. Louis County for an easement which was denied, and he spoke with Steve Overom/township attorney, who stated that the township is not obligated to do the work. Deb Pawlowicz asked about setting up a dedicated road fund for future needs on paved road as discussed at Budget meeting. Jim Ray wants to present this information at the Township Annual Meeting and will prepare information to present. **Fire Department-** December was a quiet month, responded to 5 medical calls including 2 mutual aid calls. Dept. flooded the skating rink 2 x applying 2500 gallons each time. Medical responders received their first COVID vaccine through St. Louis County Dept. Members are attending virtual trainings, meetings & performing truck/hall maintenance each month. **Cemetery** – closed **Parks & Rec** – rink is flooded & skatable. Lights on rink are completed. Jim Ray discussed equipment needs. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to purchase an adequate push shovel for the rink, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Community Center-** Jim Ray made a motion to approved air conditioner unit for the townhall, Deb. Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Deb Pawlowicz discussed need for Zoom account for the township, currently using account of a clerk and paying for one for the study committee, Clay Cich made a motion to set up a township zoom account, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz, Jim Ray – **3 YEAS** Walter Rapp & Tim Wagner – **2 NAYS. MOTION PASSED.** Clerks will set up an account. **Recycle Center** – busy with the holidays. Fran Williams submitted her resignation as of Dec. 31, 2020, Brianna Wagner will be taking over her Wednesday shift in addition to Saturday. Thanks to Fran for her dedicated service. **Preparedness Plan Update-** Clay Cich didn't have an opportunity to complete. **Other Meetings** – none **OPEN FORUM:** Dan Svercl stated that the property addressed in correspondence regarding biosolids is located at 5640 Taft Road, owned by Dan Kaneski, farmed by Brad Hansen. Inquired if the study committee was doing the same thing that ARDC would. Jeff Blix asked who gave Melissa Bell permission to contact attorneys for the township per her email in correspondence and in minutes of study committee meeting, she clarified that she had not, but Clay Cich had and she was only forwarding the email to the township. He asked the Board to be civil to each other and residents, when Deb Pawlowicz spoke, he asked her to shut up & give him his 3 minutes. Bonnie Anderson stated she was the appointed minute taker for the study committee and has not written that Melissa Bell contacted attorney. Deb Pawlowicz asked Jeff Blix for an apology. Patty Wheeler asked again for civility to everyone at meetings. Oly Olson inquired about finances of the township as our checking account balances are significant and what was the plan for the future in the township. Bruce Anderson inquired about how a dedicated road fund differs from the Road & Bridge Fund in the budget. Jim Ray clarified that a dedicated fund for future paved road needs/repaving... would be a line item in the accounting of the township and the Road & Bridge Fund is used in a specific year for township roads & bridges. Mark McShane agreed with the plan for a dedicated fund for future paved roads, finding it fiscally wise as costs can be high. Pete Emerson thanked the Board for their support and continued work on paving East Cook Lake Road and beyond and pursuing the Road Grant. **OLD BUSINESS: East Cook Lake Road Paving Request:** Jim Ray discussed high costs anticipated from Bollig Engineering to complete the project and that it was impractical, financially high for residents and proceeding further was not feasible. The Road Grant opportunity for this will be discussed in New Business. **Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits:** no new information **NEW BUSINESS: Study Committee on Gravel Pit Ordinance & Zoning:** Melissa Bell provided an update, stating the committee continues to review data and compile a report for the Board. **Annual Contract between the Township & Fredenberg Volunteer Fire Dept.:** The Annual contract was presented and reviewed. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to approve the Fredenberg Fire Dept. contract, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Township Hazardous Waste Day:** Deb Pawlowicz stated she had contacted WLLSD and scheduled to have Township Hazardous Waste Day on Saturday, June 5, 2021 from 11:30am to 2:30pm at the Townhall Parking Lot. She did not set up a Township Shredding day this year but would if there was interest. **Grant for Township Road Improvement for East Cook Lake, West Island Lake & Wood Duck Drive:** Clay Cich has been researching through the State of MN a road improvement grant program, which was just offered for towns with a population of 5,000 residents or less. He has contacted various governmental agencies to gather information. Fredenberg would qualify to apply for this grant money, about \$600,000.00 to \$700,000.00 to pave East Cook Lake Road to the township line. He contacted SEH Engineering and they would write the grant with the expectation that they could contract for the work. Diane Palmstein/clerk clarified the error in numbering and attachments on the resolutions the Board reviewed. The Board reviewed Resolution 2021-001, Approving Contract for Professional Services with SEH, Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-001, Jim Ray seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** The Board reviewed Resolution 2021-002, In Support of an Application for the Local Road Improvement (LRIP) Grant, Clay Cich made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-002, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **Grant Program for Playgrounds from MN DNR:** Clay Cich researched the grant, accepting the grant comes with stipulations regarding what the township can use the property for in the future, which is very binding. He made a motion to move forward with spending up o \$30,000.00 to improve the current township community center recreation area. Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED**

UNANIMOUSLY. OTHER MEETINGS: none ADJOURNMENT: Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

2021 TOWNSHIP REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Township Annual Reorganization meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 9:15 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. 9 individuals were present. **SELECT A TOWN CHAIR & VICE CHAIR:** Deb Pawlowicz nominated Clay Cich as Board Chair, Jim Ray seconded. **4 YEAS ABSTAINED Clay Cich.** Deb Pawlowicz nominated Jim Ray as Vice Chair, Walter Rapp seconded. **4 YEAS, ABSTAINED-Jim Ray.** 2021 Board Chair: Clay Cich Vice Chair: Jim Ray. **ADOPT A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS:** The Board will continue to schedule 2 meetings a month, the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to accept schedule as printed, Walter Rapp seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **DESIGNATE AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER & POSTING PLACES:** Duluth News Tribune will remain the official newspaper and the community center and recycle center posting boards will remain posting places. **DESIGNATE A TOWN BANK:** Wells Fargo and National Bank of Commerce will remain banks. **PRICE OF CEMETERY LOTS:** price list will remain the same, no changes. **NEWSLETTER:** ProPrint will remain processor for newsletter, no change. **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY:** **Roads:** Jim Ray **Fire Department:** Tim Wagner **Cemetery:** Walter Rapp **Park/Rec:** Jim Ray **Community Center:** Clay Cich **Recycle Center:** Deb Pawlowicz. **TOWNSHIP ATTORNEY:** Steve Overom/Overom Law and Kennedy/Graven. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to add Kennedy/Graven firm, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** **FACILITY RENTAL FEES (TOWN HALL AND OLD FIRE HALL):** will remain the same, no changes. **ADJOURNMENT:** Clay Cich made a motion to adjourn meeting, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Meet-

THANK YOU TO FRAN WILLIAMS !!!

Fran has been a dedicated employee at the Recycle Center for the past three years and as of Dec. 31, 2020 is retiring from her position as Fredenberg Recycle Attendant. She has always cheerfully greeted patrons, always smiling when you arrive there and willing to help you safely recycle. She braved some very cold and bitter winter days and hot summer ones. Not only will the patrons of the recycle center miss her but the furry friends of those patrons will also, as she always had a special treat for her furry friends.

Fredenberg Township cannot thank you enough, Fran. You will be missed !!!!

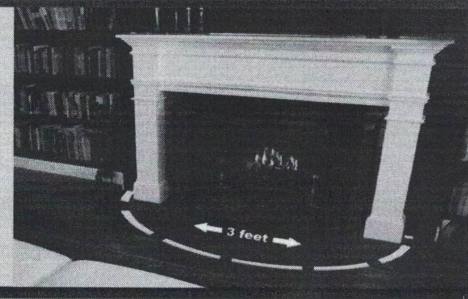
PROPOSED LEVY & BUDGET FOR 2022 TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2021 TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING FOR APPROVAL.

2022 BUDGET PLAN:

FUND	PROPOSED LEVY FY 2022	PROPOSED BUDGET FY 2022
General Fund	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Township Buildings	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Fire Department	\$ 99,000.00	\$ 99,000.00
Cemetery	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00
Parks & Rec	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Road & Bridge	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
Bond Repayment	\$ 60,700.00	\$ 60,700.00
	\$391,100.00	\$411,100.00

Recycle Center is under a grant from the WLSSD

Heating Your Home Safely



Did you know?

Home fires occur more in the winter months than any other time of the year.

Follow these heating tips to help prevent winter fires and to stay safe this winter season:

- ✓ Keep anything that can burn at least 3 feet from all heat sources including fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators, space heaters or candles.
- ✓ Never use an oven to heat your home.
- ✓ Turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- ✓ Maintain heating equipment and chimneys by having them cleaned and inspected each year by a professional.

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



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

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

FREDENBERG COMMUNITY BIRD COUNT

Fredenberg CBC was conducted on Dec. 26, 2020. The bird activity was good most of the day, 11 parties with 22 observers drove, skied, snow shod and walked for the entire day. There were 8 feeder reports. 30 folks helped identify 35 species of 2949 individual birds within a count circle. Among the 35 species, 12 either broke or tied the previous high counts (Canada Goose, Northern Goshawk, Blackbacked Woodpecker, Canada Jay, Common Raven, White-breasted Nuthatch, Bohemian Waxwing, Evening Grosbeak, Great Gray/Great Horned Owls, Common Grackle & House Sparrow). Species not seen this year: Morning Dove, Barred Owl, Red Crossbill & Dark-eyed Junco. Thanks to all who ventured out and enjoyed the day counting birds. Courtesy of Frank & Kate Nicoletti

SPECIES COUNT:

Canada Goose: 1
Ruffed Grouse: 19
Bald Eagle: 12
Black-backed Woodpecker: 4
Pileated Woodpecker: 18
Blue Jay: 99
Black-capped Chickadee: 1,464
American Goldfinch: 2
Common Grackle: 1

Common Goldeneye: 40
Rock Dove: 50
Great Gray Owl: 2
Downy Woodpecker: 113
Northern Shrike: 5
American Crow: 99
Boreal Chickadee: 1
White-winged Crossbill: 11
House Sparrow: 50

Wild Turkey: 5
Northern Goshawk: 5
Great Horned Owl: 2
Hairy Woodpecker: 57
Canada Jay: 6
Common Raven: 156
Pine Siskin: 20
Cardinal: 1



A Caring Community

Headwaters established the Phone Pal Program in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are excited to announce that we received a grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) for Coronavirus Relief Funds to expand our operation of the Phone Pal Program for the month of December. Many individuals, especially those who are elderly, have experienced a lengthy period of isolation from other people because of COVID-19. Our program matches older adults with people who want to make a difference, one person at a time. This is not a professional service.



How Does It Work?

Participants will be asked what days and times are best for phone calls. They will also be asked if they have special interests or other preferences in a phone pal. The phone pal program includes availability for evenings and weekends. Once a phone pal is assigned to an interested participant, they will continue to be the phone pal for the participant for subsequent calls. This will provide continuity and the opportunity for the phone pal relationship to be successful. All information discussed during the phone call will be kept confidential.

The Gift of Your Time

Many of us are experiencing the loss of the usual traditions and activities associated with the holiday season. The Headwater's Phone Pal Program gives the gift of time and compassion to people who are elderly and impacted by COVID-19. The value of a phone call is a wonderful reminder that one is part of a caring community.



If you are interested in participating in the phone call program or in being a Phone Pal, please contact Ashley Emry, Program Director
aemry@orionassoc.net
763-450-6767

If you have any concerns or complaints, please contact Dr. Roshan Khatri, Executive Administrator
rkhatrig@headwatersrelief.org
612-400-6429

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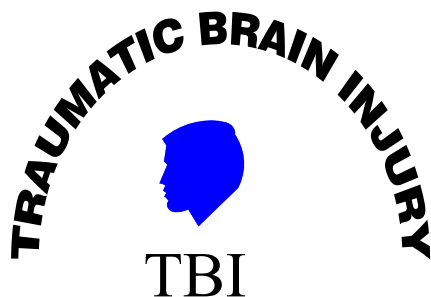
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by our wonderful staff. You can also fol-
low us on Facebook at:
[https://www.facebook.com/
Eaglesnestresortduluth](https://www.facebook.com/Eaglesnestresortduluth).

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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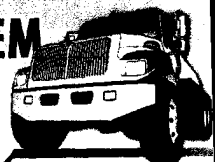
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**RECYCLE CENTER
NEWS UPDATE**

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

1. We can only accept rinsed/cleaned & emptied cans, bottles & containers.
2. We CANNOT accept Styrofoam in ANY FORM.
3. We DO NOT accept household garbage of any kind and it is NOT to be placed at the Recycle Center or the dumpster.
4. We do not accept any metal or plastic gas cans
5. We NO LONGER repurpose any form of electronics, these must be brought to the Rice Lake Road WLSSD Center.
6. Dumping of garbage of any kind at the Center is ILLEGAL !!!!
7. We DO NOT ACCEPT take out containers, fruit/veg. plastic containers & deli clam containers.

Thanks to everyone for your cooperation.

**CURRENTLY THE
FREDENBERG COMMUNITY
CENTER IS CLOSED
NO ACTIVITIES CURRENTLY
BEING HELD IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTER**

**NEXT FREDENBERG TOWN BOARD
MEETING**

**Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2021
Via zoom at 7:00pm
(see Fredenberg.org for info)**

**FEBRUARY TOWN BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2020 at 7:00pm
Followed immediately
by the Township Board of Audit Meeting
(see Fredenberg.org for location information)**