



# Fredenberg Township News

*A pleasant blend of progress and tradition*



Issue 2

VOL XXXIII

FEBRUARY 2021

## 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

## 2021 FREDENBERG ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

AT 7:00 PM

### IN THE FREDENBERG TOWN HALL.

*The meeting will be called to order, a monitor chosen and the Residents present will be asked to vote on recessing the meeting until a later date when COVID restrictions are lifted or it can be held outdoors to accommodate a larger audience.*

*Date, time & place will be decided also.*

## February 3, 2021 TOWN BOARD ACTIONS

The monthly meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** at 7 pm by Chair Clay, board chair. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Jim Ray & Tim Wagner (via zoom). Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks & Pam Blekestad, treasurer also present. 70 individuals were present by zoom or in person/via FM transmitter and stood with the Board recited the Pledge of the Allegiance. Clay Cich made a motion to record the meeting tonight and make it part of the township record, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. The administrative policy was reviewed, and the board agreed a motion was sufficient to record. **3 YEAS:** Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz, Jim Ray. **2 NAYS** Walter Rapp, Tim Wagner. **MOTION PASSED.** Clerks recorded the meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Jim Ray made a motion to accept Jan. 6, 2021 meeting minutes with 1 correction, under Parks & Rec, add; The reason the skating rink shack is closed is due to COVID-19 restrictions, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Jim Ray made a motion to accept Jan. 6, 2021 meeting minutes for Reorganizational Meeting without correction, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. TREASURER'S REPORT:** as of 1/13/2021, reconciled checking account balance is \$373,022.24. Total funds are \$503,444.50, 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.** Pam Blekestad stated she did get a call back from Ehlers, clarification on refunding the Fire Hall bond, most cost saving may come from refinancing with a local bank, she still is trying to get clarification on financial benefit of paying off the Fire Hall Bond early.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** 31 total: 8 mail and 23 e-mails were received and reviewed by the Board. **REVIEW OF BILLS:** Mary Skafte/clerk stated that the ARDC check has been cut but not sent to them and waiting for Clay Cich to get clarification from them on billings. MSR payment is from electrician and is for three years billing. Jim Ray made motion to accept checks #10271 to #10284, totaling \$10,265.89, Clay Cich seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY. REPORTS:** Clerk – Local Board of Appeal & Equalization has been tentatively scheduled for Wed., May 19, 2021 at 1-2 pm. Diane Palmstein/clerk read an email received from Jason Hill/attorney

regarding a correspondence copied to Melissa Bell/study committee and the office response that to the email stated that no one on the study committee should receive or request anything from the attorney and that the town hall office and supervisors should receive it first. Mary Skafte informed the board that all financial documents required by the MN State Auditor have been submitted and received. All end of the year report, IRS and taxes have been completed. **Road Report** - nothing new. **Fire Dept.** - quiet month, 2 medical calls. Members participated in SCBA (self-contained breathing apparatus) training. Winter is here, please look over your driveway and to be sure they are wide enough and opened enough for emergency vehicles to access. Driveways should be cleared to at least 12 feet high and 12 feet wide for fire trucks and other emergency vehicles to access. Help can be delayed if we have to walk in to help you out because of not being able to drive to your residence. A flyer on electrical fire safety attached and will appear in the newsletter. **Cemetery** - closed **Parks & Rec** - skating rink is up and has good ice. New shovel purchase and Jim Ray thanked Pam Blekestad for her help. Deb Pawlowicz asked about opening of the warming shack, Jim Ray feels because of current COVID restrictions in place it should remain closed. **Community Center** - FM transmitter hooked up. Board discussed reopening of the Town Hall but decided against until COVID restrictions are done. **Recycle Center** - up and running, Austin Sonnenberg hired as a fill in. Tim Wagner reviewed the Recycle Cold Weather Policy; considering upcoming cold weather this weekend and policy states the center will close with wind chill temps below -40degrees. Deb will let clerks know by Friday so it may be posted at the center, Nextdoorfredenberg and web site. **Preparedness Plan Update**- Clay Cich hasn't been able to update, clerks will update plan with new equipment and other changes done because of CARES funding. **Other Meetings** - Walter Rapp, Mary Skafte and Diane Palmstein listened to MAT zoom meeting on Annual Meetings on January 27, 2021 at 11 am. **OPEN FORUM:** Kathy Pearson wanted more information on correspondence from St. Louis County on 1/28/21 and letter from Lynn Svercl, also asked if the study committee is working on the moratorium or zoning and what was the ARDC letter for. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to read all letters in correspondence, Clay Cich seconded. **YEAS: Clay Cich, Deb Pawlowicz NAYS: Walter Rapp, Jim Ray, Tim Wagner. MOTION FAILED.** The board asked the clerks to read the letter from St. Louis County Planning & Community Development 1/28/2021 and Lynn Svercl letter from 1/26/2021 (which were read aloud). Walter Rapp read resignation letter from Town Clerks: Mary Pat Skafte and Diane Palmstein. Jock Finner thanked the Fredenberg Fire Dept. for helping out his mother recently. He felt the skating shack should be opened and has called St. Louis County many times to report violations and non-compliance issues done by the gravel pit on West Pioneer Road without any success or action by them. Dan Svercl stated Mr. Finner needed to direct his issues to the correct department, which is the St. Louis County Sheriff Department, to file a complaint and that he (Dan Svercl) is applying for a gravel pit CUP at 5559 Taft Road for gravel extraction and a hot mix plant. **OLD BUSINESS: Township Road Improvement Grant for East Cook Lake, West Island & Wood Duck Drive:** Diane Palmstein/clerk read aloud the amendment to Resolution 2021-002 which states financial cost the township could incur with the Road Improvement Grant (engineering, right-of-way, inspection, and other non-eligible costs & eligible items in excess of the grant amount). Grant application was submitted on Feb. 2, 2021 and on the County Board Agenda in March 2021. Project includes 2.5 miles of paving, a dry hydrant, engineering, and a heli-pad, which will be completed by the township, Fredenberg is asking for a grant of \$650,000.00 to do the project. Jim Ray made a motion to accept the amendment to Resolution 2021-002, Deb Pawlowicz seconded. **5 YEAS. MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.** Dan Svercl was thanked for his help with this grant. **Township Moratorium on Gravel Pits:** Remains in effect. Oly Olson, resident, stated that over 90% of gravel taken out of Fredenberg, is taken out of the township. St. Louis County doesn't turn down any requests for pits. Katherine Harris, property owner, also wanted to know if the moratorium was legal and in effect and why an attorney wasn't more involved. Clay Cich stated that it is in effect and legal. Dan Svercl, resident, stated he has reviewed area permits and noted issues with reclamation. **Moratorium on Gravel Pits/ Extractive Uses Study Committee:** Board Supervisors received Committee Reports, Greg Flanagan and Melissa Bell presented the committee report and provided an overview of the information. The group started on Dec. 7, 2020 and finished their last meeting Feb. 3, 2021. Copies of this report will be available to review at the Town Hall office on Tuesdays, 2-5:30pm or by appointment 218-721-3991. Conclusions/Recommendations: Option 1: Re-entrust Fredenberg Township as the responsible party to do planning & zoning for extractive use/borrow pits. Option 2: Entrust St. Louis County to continue to oversee planning & zoning responsibility for extractive use/borrow pits in Fredenberg Township. Recommendation from the majority on the committee was to adopt an ordinance for Fredenberg to do planning & zoning for extractive use/borrow pits. Board discussion followed. Tim Wagner made a motion to request a resolution from Jason Hill, Kennedy & Graven Attorneys, terminating the interim ordinance on gravel pits in Fredenberg Township for the next Town Board meeting, Walter Rapp seconded. Clay Cich - **NAY** Deb Pawlowicz - **NAY** Walter Rapp - **YEA** Jim Ray - **YEA** Tim Wagner - **YEA. MOTION PASSED.** Clerks were directed to contact Jason Hill for the document. At this point in the board meeting, Clay Cich, supervisor left the meeting and the building. **NEW BUSINESS: Briana von Elbe & Jason Manning from the Minnoette:** presented their request to the Board to expand their liquor license to a regular off-sale liquor license. They have been working with St. Louis County and need a document from the township supporting this to present to St. Louis County. Jim Ray made a motion in support of the request for full off-sale liquor license for Briana von Elbe & Jason Manning from the Minnoette, Walter Rapp seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSENT. MOTION PASSED.** Briana von Elbe will check with the County for the proper format

for the Board to approve and get it to the clerks so it can be addressed at the next meeting. **Fredenberg Annual Township Meeting March 9, 2021:** MAT held a zoom teleconference regarding Township Annual Meetings, Walter Rapp, Mary Pat Skafte & Diane Palmstein were present. MAT recommended a procedure and paperwork to hold the meeting as required by MN Statute on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7 pm and have moderator make a motion to recess the meeting until it can safely be held outdoors because of current COVID pandemic restrictions/limitations and have residents present vote on the motion. The Board reviewed the recommended verbiage from MAT to use in the motion. Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to recommend that the 2021 Fredenberg Annual Meeting be held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 7pm in the Fredenberg Town Hall and a motion be presented and voted on by township residents to recess the meeting to a later date, time, place, Walter Rapp seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSENT. MOTION PASSED. Second meeting of the month in February:** will be held on February 17, 2021 at 7pm as posted. **Advertise for open position of town clerk:** Clerks requested to advertise for Fredenberg Town Clerk position in the Duluth News Tribune and the Fredenberg Newsletter. . It was recommended that the completed applications be submitted by February 28, 2021 so at the March 3, 2021 meeting the board can review applications, set up interview process and hire by April meeting. \*\*\*Addendum to minutes: clerks were able to meet the Duluth News Tribune deadline to place ads for this weekend, we spoke with Jim Ray and the ad was place until February 17, 2021 at 5pm so the board could review applications, set up interview process at that meeting and be able to present applicant at March 3, 2021 meeting. **OTHER MEETINGS:** none **ADJOURNMENT:** Jim Ray made a motion to adjourn meeting, Tim Wagner seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSENT MOTION PASSED** Meeting adjourned at 10:45 pm.

**ANNUAL BOARD OF AUDIT FOR TOWNSHIP: Feb. 3, 2021, 10:45 pm —Fredenberg Town Hall, via zoom call or FM transmitter from parking lot.** The meeting was CALLED TO ORDER at 10:45 pm by Co- Chair, Jim Ray. Also, present were: Deb Pawlowicz, Walter Rapp, Tim Wagner, absent: Clay Cich. Mary Skafte & Diane Palmstein/clerks present, Pam Blekestad, Treasurer was present. 1 individual was present via zoom. The Pledge of the Allegiance was done with the regular board meeting earlier. **NEW BUSINESS:** a. Clerks present Township receipts and disbursements ledgers for 2020, Board reviewed and requested: **CLAIMS:** 77402, 77365, 77362, 77398 were requested & provided, along with original receipts and check receipt. **DISBURSEMENTS:** 10020, 9874, 9878, 9880 were requested & provided, deposit slips were complete and matched ledger. Tim Wagner was present via zoom and pictures of requested claims & disbursements were sent to him to view. The board members reviewed documents and no issues/concerns were noted by them. Checkbook is reconciled monthly by Treasurer and report on budget presented monthly at meeting. Pam Blekestad, treasurer, provided Treasurer's Year End Financial Report 2020, which included Funds & Balances, Checking account and money market balances and Township statement of indebtedness for Fire Hall Bond = \$430,000.00 and COI (road assessments) = \$121,819.20. **ADJOURNMENT:** Deb Pawlowicz made a motion to adjourn meeting, Walter Rapp seconded. **4 YEAS 1 ABSENT. MOTION PASSED.** Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.

**FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP  
HAS A JOB OPENING FOR TOWN CLERK  
Hours include: office hours and meeting hours  
TO APPLY — PLEASE CONTACT  
Fredenberg Town Hall Office at 218-721-3391  
Or [Fredenbergtp@gmail.com](mailto:Fredenbergtp@gmail.com)  
for information and an application.  
Applications also available on [Fredenberg.org](http://Fredenberg.org) home page  
Please submit completed applications no later than  
Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 5:00 pm.**

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



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### MIXED PAPER

- Paper of any color
- Pressboard boxes
- Junk mail
- Magazines
- Newspapers and advertisements
- Shredded paper (must be contained in a paper bag)



### CORRUGATED CARDBOARD

- Cardboard with a wavy layer between two pieces of thick paper
- No waxed cardboard



### MIXED CONTAINERS

- Rinse all food containers
- Plastic bottles, tubs, jugs, jars, and lids
- Glass bottles and jars
- Steel and aluminum cans
- No film or foam including Styrofoam and plastic bags
- No plastic cups, plates, or utensils
- No buckets
- No motor oil or antifreeze containers
- No take-out, deli, or clamshell containers
- No window glass, ceramics, or drinking glasses
- No scrap metal



### FILM PLASTICS

- Film must be clean and dry
- Grocery and retail bags
- Newspaper bags
- Bread bags
- Produce bags
- Paper product packaging wrap
- Pallet and case wrap
- No black plastic bags
- No bubble wrap

Mixed paper and mixed containers (metal, glass or plastic) now go in the same dumpster. **Acceptance of plastic containers** is no longer based on the number on the bottom of the item, but by cleanliness, by the shapes that work well with mechanical sorting, and demand for the plastic type. There are restrictions on what we can accept.

Flattened cardboard should still be kept separate.

**Aluminum cans left at the Recycle Center go with the recycling contractor as part of WLSSD's contract for services. Cans intended to benefit the Fire Dept. must be delivered to the collection site at the Fire Dept.**



# Electrical Fire Safety



Follow these electrical safety tips to help keep your home fire-safe.



## Appliances

- Always plug major appliances, like refrigerators, stoves, washers and dryers, directly into a wall outlet.
- Never use an extension cord with a major appliance — it can easily overheat and start a fire.
- Always plug small appliances directly into a wall outlet.
- Unplug small appliances when you are not using them.
- Keep lamps, light fixtures and light bulbs away from anything that can burn.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Check electrical cords on appliances often. Replace cracked, damaged and loose electrical cords. Do not try to repair them.



## Outlets

- Do not overload wall outlets.
- Insert plugs fully into sockets.
- Never force a three-prong cord into a two-slot outlet.
- Install tamper-resistant electrical outlets if you have young children.



## Extension Cords, Power Strips and Surge Protectors

- Replace worn, old or damaged extension cords right away.
- Use extension cords for temporary purposes only.
- Avoid putting cords where they can be damaged or pinched, like under a carpet or rug.
- Do not overload power strips.
- Use power strips that have internal overload protection.

**Make sure all electrical work in your home is done by a qualified electrician!**

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach)

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Please stop by & check out our daily food &  
drink specials written on our chalk board.

#### The Fish Lake Classic Snowmobile Challenge & Back to the 90's

will take place on February 20th.

Breakfast will be available at 9 am & an 18  
mile group ride will follow along with pull ropes  
at 11am & **live music will start at 7 pm.**

**ATTENTION GOLFER:** Golf on the ice will  
take place on **Saturday, March 6th.** Registra-  
tions can be called in or made in person.

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reservations as well.

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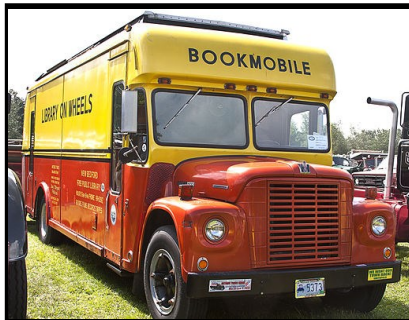
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**ARROWHEAD LIBRARY SYSTEM BOOKMOBILE**  
(February date cancelled because it falls on President's Day)

Will be visiting  
Fredenberg Town Hall/Community Center Parking Lot  
MONDAYS: March 8 & 29, 2021  
From: 12:30pm to 1:30pm

**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**

**NEXT FREDENBERG  
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 2021 at 7:00 pm  
See [Fredenberg.org](http://Fredenberg.org) for meeting details  
(location & viewing options)

Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 7:00pm  
See [Fredenberg.org](http://Fredenberg.org) for meeting details  
(location & viewing options)