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March 2024

FREDENBERG TOWNSHIP NEWS

A monthly newsletter
Editor: Ellen Hanson

Minutes appearing in the newsletter are approved by the Town Board. 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: 218-721-3991

Office Hours: 12 (noon) to 4:00 PM on Thursday or by appointment.

TOWN BOARD

- Jeff Blix, Supervisor 393-3011
- Clay Cich, Supervisor 590-5005
- Debra Pawlowicz, Vice Chair 428-4539
- Walter Rapp, Supervisor 721-3761
- Tim Wagner, Chair 428-9460
- Ellen Hanson, Clerk 721-3991
- Kim Wagner, Deputy Clerk 721-3991
- Chelsey Mahr, Treasurer 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

**Scholarship Opportunity
Minnesota Association of Townships**

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is proud to announce its 2024 Scholarship Program, which will award up to five \$2,000 scholarships to high school juniors. All students currently enrolled in 11th grade and attending a Minnesota public, private, or parochial school, or a home-study program, are eligible to apply for this program. Since its inception in 2001, the MAT Scholarship Program has had over 2,500 submissions and 97 winners.

Applicants should submit a written essay using critical thinking on the topic of promoting awareness of township government by June 1, 2024. Winners will be chosen by an independent panel of judges and will be notified in September 2024. They will also be invited to attend MAT’s annual conference in December 2024 in St. Cloud.

The 2024 essay question on promoting township government is, “Describe ways in which broadband internet access improves the lives of rural residents. What challenges exist in providing broadband internet in rural areas? And what policies should governments at all levels (federal, state, and local) adopt to ensure that regardless of geographic location all Americans have equal access to broadband internet?”

For more information and application details, please call the MAT offices at 1-800-228-0296 or visit [https:// www.mntownships.org/about/scholarship-program](https://www.mntownships.org/about/scholarship-program). A letter announcing this program has been sent to high schools, as well as newspapers, statewide. We encourage township officers to also forward this information to high school juniors.

The MAT Scholarship Program has made a real difference for our recipients and has also been an opportunity to learn about township government, which embodies the values of ‘grassroots government’ where local citizens directly participate. We encourage as many high school juniors as possible to apply, whether they are from rural areas or urban cities.

**South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation
District Sale**

The South St. Louis County Soil and Water Conservation District conducts a native tree sale each year. Trees and shrubs are sold in bundles of 25 at a cost of \$20 to \$50 per bundle. The seedlings good size and healthy. The sale starts in February and ends April 29, but don’t wait, as trees sell fast. Tree pickup is in May at various locations. More information can be found at: [https:// www.southstlouisswcd.org/annual-tree-and-shrub-sale/](https://www.southstlouisswcd.org/annual-tree-and-shrub-sale/).

APPROVED TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES for FEBRUARY 7, 2024

The regular Board meeting of the Town of Fredenberg, Minnesota, St. Louis County was held in the Fredenberg Town Hall on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM.

Board members present: Chair Tim Wagner, Vice Chair Deb Pawlowicz, Supervisor Jeff Blix, Supervisor Clay Cich, Supervisor Walter Rapp, Clerk Ellen Hanson, and Deputy Clerk Kim Wagner and Treasurer Chelsey Mahr.

Others in Attendance: There were 7 others in attendance.

Call to order the Regular meeting: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wagner at 7:00 PM.

Pledge of allegiance: All present stood and cited the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of the Agenda: There was a motion by Supervisor Blix to approve the agenda and seconded by Chair Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Open Forum: Randy Docauer requested a notice for Feb 27, 2024 caucus be put on the digital sign.

Matt McShane spoke to the youth baseball league ability to use the Fredenberg baseball field for practice. He will confirm if the town's field is needed.

Nick Voltzke (Sergeant with the Sheriff's Dept.) will be the town's contact and he will be providing crime statistics to the Board regularly. In 2023 there were 320 incidents in Fredenberg.

Approval of the Minutes

Regular meeting of January 3rd, 2024: There was a motion by Supervisor Blix to approve the January 3rd, 2024, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented and seconded by Chair Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Mahr stated she is balanced with the bank and presented the cash control report and the Schedule 1 report which has the investment totals. There was a motion by Chair Wagner to approve the treasurers report and seconded by Supervisor Blix. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Clerks Report: Clerk Hanson presented the Cash balance statement for Board review. She is balanced with the bank. The Board reviewed the claims list. There was a motion by Supervisor Blix to accept claims 10788-10804 for a total of \$14,951.93 and seconded by Supervisor Rapp. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Approval of election judges: Hanson presented for Board approval the list of certified election judges who may work the Presidential Nominating Primary (PNP). There was motion by Supervisor Rapp to approve the list of elections judges and seconded by Supervisor Blix. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously. Annual posting of regular board meetings was presented by Clerk Hanson. There was a motion by Supervisor Clay approving the regular monthly schedule of meetings and seconded by Supervisor Pawlowicz. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Correspondence: Clerk Hanson read the correspondence. There were 2 mail and 9 emails during the month.

Reports: Roads report for January 2024: Supervisor Blix reported he has been busy with road work. There have been complaints about vehicles driving fast on Usiak Road. A squad will be patrolling the road more frequently. Amundson and Island Lake Roads have signs that indicate they are private roads. They are public roads and the signs have been removed. There were trees down on Bear Island Road and they have been removed. The roads are in general sloppy and may need move gravel.

Fire Department report for January 2024: Chief Bergstrand reported there were 6 calls in January. The Department is recruiting new members.

Cemetery report for January 2024: Supervisor Rapp reported the cemetery is closed.

Parks and Recreation and Pavilion for January 2024: Supervisor Blix stated there is no snow on the sledding hill or ice on the skating rink. Both have been closed due to the warm temperatures for the season.

Community Center report for January 2024: Clerk Hanson stated there were 2 rentals in January.

Recycling report for January 2024: Supervisor Pawlowicz reported the Recycling Center is operating well.

Other Meetings for January 2024: There were no other meetings in January.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Request to advertise for the 2024 road work: It was Board consensus to move forward with requesting quotes to review at the March meeting.

Request to advertise for the 2024 town mowing vendor: It was Board consensus to move forward with requesting quotes to review at the March meeting.

Clerk Hanson noted the Annual meeting of the Town will be on Tuesday, March 12 beginning at 6:00 PM.

The second monthly Board meeting is February 21st, 2024.

There was a motion by Supervisor Blix to not have a second meeting and seconded by Supervisor Rapp. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Adjourn: There was a motion by Supervisor Blix to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM and seconded by Chair Wagner. There was a roll call vote and all signified affirmatives. This motion was carried unanimously.

Retraction

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes § 548.06, the Town of Fredenberg has formally retracted the following statement from the January 3, 2024, Town Board of Supervisors minutes of the proceedings and the subsequent inclusion in the February 2024 Monthly Fredenberg Township News:

There were board members that felt there may be insurance fraud involved and others did not.

**Fredenberg Fire Department, Chief Linda Bergstrand
Town Board Report
February 2024**

Fire Department members responded to 3 calls in February which included one mutual aid structure fire in Gnesen. Members met with Minnesota Power for the annual update to the Emergency Action Plans for Island Lake and Fish Lake Dams.

Routine maintenance was performed on all vehicles, with new batteries installed in Engine 3.

This spring has the potential to be a very severe fire season due to the lack of precipitation this winter.

In conjunction with Josh Brinkman, St. Louis County Emergency Management and Gloria Erickson, St. Louis County Firewise coordinator, Fredenberg Fire Department will be hosting a Community Specific Wildfire Strategic Planning session on Tuesday, March 19th, 7 pm at the Community Center.

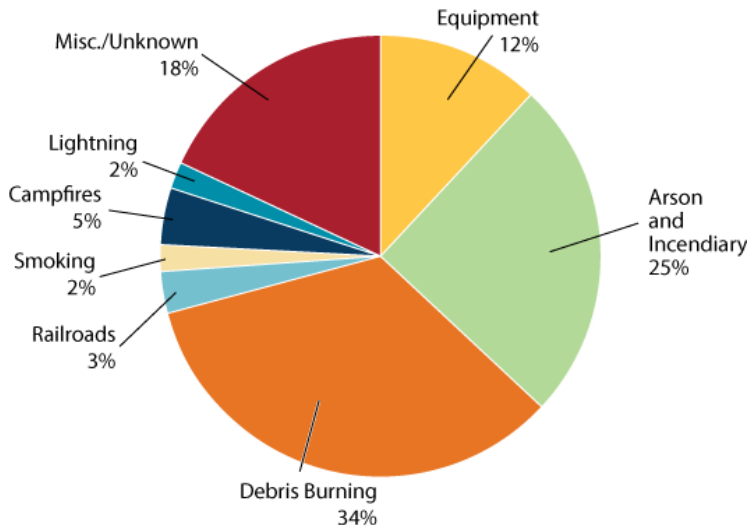
Purpose of Community Specific Wildfire Strategic Planning:

- Identify wildfire risk
- Prioritize concerns
- Develop actions plans to address these concerns
- What steps have already been taken by the community?

Spring wildfire season is likely to be early this year. The time between snowmelt and vegetation green up is already a dangerous time of the year for wildfires, but it is even more so with many areas of the Township affected by the spruce budworm outbreak. According to the DNR, 90% of fires in Minnesota are caused by people. It is important to pay attention to weather, especially wind, when considering burning. Check statewide fire danger & burning restrictions for updated info at [https:// www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/firerating_restrictions.html).

Interesting facts

1. 4 of 10 wildfires are caused by debris fires burning out of control. Unattended debris often mistakenly believed to be extinguished, continues to be leading cause of wildfires.
2. Even though Arson and Incendiary fires accounted for just 18 percent of the wildfires that burned in 2018, more than half (55 percent) of all acres burned resulted from these fires.
3. Since 2013, fires started by vehicles have burned more acres (36 percent of total) than fires started by other equipment. When parking off highway, avoid dry, fine vegetation, such as grass, as hot exhaust can readily ignite it.
4. The DNR and rail operators have a long partnership of working together to reduce railroad caused wildfires. These fires often start in remote areas, delaying detection and response.



Information courtesy of the Minnesota DNR.

- What more needs to be done?
- What resources are available to support these efforts?
- What additional resources are needed to support these efforts?

Suggested community invitees: Community engagement is one of the most important aspects of creating a community specific wildfire protection plan. Each community in St. Louis County is unique. In order to achieve that community engagement, we suggest that key community members are present, including but not limited to: Fire Chief, Police Chief, Mayor, Township supervisor, Emergency responders, Tribal Council member/leadership, Public Works, Respected members of the community, Representation from community organizations (ex. Faith groups, environmental groups, cultural, etc.) What is a community wildfire protection plan?

A CWPP is a comprehensive plan developed by local citizens and state and federal agencies. These protection plans are based on the needs of the people in the community and can address issues such as wildfire response, hazard mitigation, community preparedness, structure protection or all of the above.



Fredenberg Art Weller Recycle Center News

The Center is sponsored by an annual grant from Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD).

Hours: Wednesdays: 5 to 8 PM and Saturdays: 9 AM to 1 PM

*****Please note: the Fredenberg Recycle Center will no longer accept free items.*****

Chesney Auto Salvage, 6250 Beaver River Road, will accept batteries and waste oil.

Please use WLSSD Household Hazardous Waste Facility and Product Reuse Center, 2626 Courtland St. (take the S 27th Ave W freeway exit), for other household hazardous waste and yard waste materials.

Below are a few rules to follow when using the Fredenberg Recycle Center.

1. The Center will only accept rinsed/cleaned & emptied cans, bottles & containers.
2. Styrofoam, in any form, is not recycled at this Center.
3. The Center does not accept household garbage of any kind and it is NOT to be dumped at the Center or the dumpster. Dumping garbage of any kind at the Center is illegal.
4. The Center does not accept any metal or plastic gas cans.
5. The Center does not repurpose any form of electronics. They can be brought to WLSSD Materials Recovery Center, 4587 Ridgeview Road, off the Rice Lake Road. For more information, check out the website at wlssd.com.
6. The Center does not accept take out containers, fruit/vegetable plastic containers or deli clam containers.
7. The outside dumpsters are for cardboard, newspaper/paper and glass/plastic/tin cans.

Please be respectful of the rules when using the Center. The Town may be charged for dumpsters/bins containing non-recyclables. Thank you very much for your cooperation.





Exercise Classes

Classes held at the Community Center/Town Hall

Instructors: Sandy Rock: \$4/class,
Sheila Wixo: \$5/class, Anita Anderson: \$5/class

**Sandy Rock classes are held through out the week.
Please call her at 218-320-2902 for information.**

Tuesday

Zumba Gold: Class ended

Wednesday

Yoga: Evenings 5:45 - 7:00 p.m. at Reservoir Riders Clubhouse.

Thursday

Zumba Class: **6-7 PM** Class ended Mar. 21, 2024
<https://ph.ce.eleyo.com/> and search Zumba

ALL CLASSES PAY AT DOOR except Zumba

Tips for management and disposal of invasive plants from the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District (WLSSD)

Contact: Lori Seele, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Coordinator, lori@stewardshipnetwork.org, 218/393-9581

Spring is on the way, and it's the best time to deal with troublesome invasive plant species in your yard. Regardless of which management method you use, experts recommend that you keep invasives where you find them. Moving invasive species risks the dispersal of seeds and other plant parts that could lead to new growth. Helpful information on how to manage individual species is available at:

Minnesota Department of Agriculture: [Guide to Removal and Disposal of Noxious Weeds in Minnesota](#)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: [Terrestrial Invasive Species | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Transporting invasive species is [prohibited](#) by the state of Minnesota, with limited exceptions— bringing the invasives to a [disposal site](#) is one of them. WLSSD's Yard Waste Compost Site is a disposal site for invasive plant species and trees infected with invasive pests like Emerald Ash Borer.

At the Yard Waste Compost Site, invasive debris is shredded with other yard waste materials, mixed with food waste, and added to our composting system that can reach temperatures of 131-165° F for months at a time, even during the winter. WLSSD follows state requirements to destroy seeds, pathogens, and Emerald Ash Borer.

Knotweed is too fibrous to be composted and can propagate from just a small portion of its stem finding fertile ground. WLSSD requests that these species stay where they have been treated; consider using a tarp as a ground barrier to prevent re-rooting.

If you decide to bring invasive debris to the Yard Waste Compost Site, first let the material dry out as long as possible and remove any remaining berries or seed-bearing parts. Be sure the load is securely enclosed with a tarp and protected from wind inside a truck bed, trailer, or vehicle. Upon arrival, notify the attendant and follow instructions for placing the load based on the type of invasive material. WLSSD charges \$10/yard for brush and logs, but all other plant materials are free to drop off. WLSSD's Yard Waste Compost Site is located at the end of Courtland Street in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Duluth and is open seasonally. Visit wlssd.com for more information.

We Invite the whole family & your friends!

**Share Holy Week with us at
Waters of Life Lutheran Church!**

That first Easter morning the world changed forever. The tomb was empty – Jesus' death and resurrection was a miraculous event that has amazing implications for us even today. Forgiveness, hope and the gift of eternal life are all possible because of His sacrifice for each of us. It is a cause for a celebration! Come and See- the possibilities of a new paradigm, and something the world still struggles to make sense of - the counter-cultural extravagant love of our God for YOU and All of us!

Holy Week Activities

Palm Sunday Worship - March 24th at 10:00 AM

Maundy Thursday Seder Meal - March 28th at 5:30 PM

Good Friday Service - March 29th at 5:30 PM

Easter Sunday March 31st

Easter Breakfast 8:30- 9:30

Worship @ 10 AM

Easter Egg Hunt

Waters of Life Lutheran Church & Bubbling Brook Child-Care Center

All Are Welcome Here

6221 Rice Lake Rd Duluth, MN 55803

WOL 218-721-4476 BBCCC 218-721-4469

[Waters of Life Lutheran Church **](#)**



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 2 bedroom year round cabin rentals
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 Seasonal RV rental spaces
 Visit us at www.facebook.com/EaglesNestResortDuluth
Eaglesnestduluth.com
 Have an event you would like us to host?
 Call Rachel at 612-250-7457 or 218-721-4147

Estate planning should not be stressful!
 Gunnar Johnson at Overom Law is here to help.
 with creating an estate plan that is right for you.
 Call Gunnar today at 218-625-8461 to schedule your free
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Overom Law

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Fredenberg Cemetery

When planning your estate, you may want to consider the township cemetery as a final resting spot. There are beautiful plots available to purchase that will contain caskets and urns. If you are interested in purchasing a plot or more, please contact the town office at 218-721-3991. Rates are reasonable.

Town hall/Community Center Rentals

The Town Hall / Community Center is available to rent for township residents, non-residents, and events. The rental rates are very reasonable. There is a full kitchen with stove and refrigerator. The rental agreement can be found at the town's website: Fredenberg.org. Please call ahead for date and time availability at 218-721-3991 or email at fredenbergtwp@gmail.com. A \$100 refundable damage deposit is required.

Advertising Rates

Business Card Size: \$10 per month
 Full page: \$80 per month

Half page: \$40 per month
 Insert: \$80 per month

Send your ad request to Clerk, fredenbergtwp@gmail.com or call 218-721-3991, by the last day of month for printing.

Over 500 Fredenberg residents receive the newsletter every month. The newsletter is available on the Fredenberg.org web site.

Town of Fredenberg
5104 Fish Lake Road
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Fredenberg Town Board Meetings

Regular Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the month, 7 PM at the Town Hall.

Meetings are in-person and held in the Board room, second floor.

The next 2024 scheduled meetings are:

April 3
May 1



Fredenberg Community Center

The Center is open to the public and available to rent.

For information on rentals and fees, please contact the Town Clerk at 218-721-3991 or email at Fredenbergtwp@gmail.com.

