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April 2026

## 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 & Road Foreman 218-393-3011  
Clay Cich, Supervisor 218-590-5005  
Debra Pawlowicz, Vice Chair 218-428-4539  
Walter Rapp, Supervisor 218-721-3761  
Tim Wagner, Chair 218-428-9460  
Ellen Hanson, Clerk 218-721-3991  
Kim Wagner, Deputy Clerk 218-721-3991  
Chelsey Mahr, Treasurer 218-721-3991

### DISTRICT COMMISSIONER

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

### DEPARTMENTS

Chief, Linda Bergstrand 218-349-2668  
Recycling Center 218-721-3991  
Assessor, County 218-726-2304  
Town Hall 218-721-3991  
Email fredenbergtpw@gmail.com  
Website fredenberg.org

#### Township Roads Reporting

Jeff Blix is the Town Road Foreman, if there are any issues with roads, he should be contacted at 218-393-3011. Thank you.

## Important Information Regarding Assessment and Classification of Property

This may affect your 2027 property tax payments.

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeal and Equalization of the Fredenberg Township shall meet on May 13, 1-2 pm at Fredenberg Town Hall. The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether taxable property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor, and also to determine whether corrections need to be made.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office to discuss your concerns. If you are still not satisfied with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board shall review the valuation, classification, or both if necessary, and shall correct it as needed. Generally, an appearance before your local board of appeal and equalization is required by law before an appeal can be taken to your county board of appeal and equalization.

### Key Spring Ice Characteristics:

- Rapid Deterioration:** Ice conditions can change from solid to open water in just a few days.
  - Weakened Structure:** As temperatures rise, ice forms vertical, needle-like crystals (candling) that lose structural integrity.
  - Shoreline Danger:** Shoreline ice is usually the first to melt and break away, making entry and exit points dangerous.
  - White vs. Clear:** White ice (trapped air/snow) is only half as strong as clear, new ice, and during spring, all ice degrades to a lower load-bearing capacity.
  - Hidden Hazards:** Underwater springs, currents, and fish movement can create thin, unverified pockets of open water.
- Safety Recommendations:  
**Assume it is unsafe:** Spring ice is unpredictable and rarely uniform.  
**Double Thickness:** If traveling over old, white ice, double the Minnesota DNR recommended thicknesses.  
**Use Caution:** The Minnesota DNR strongly advises caution near rivers, bridges, and culverts.  
**Gear Up:** Wear a life jacket or flotation suit, and carry ice picks.

## APPROVED TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES for MARCH, 4 2026

The Town of Fredenberg, Minnesota, St. Louis County, held the regular Board meeting in the Fredenberg Town Hall on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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, Deputy Clerk Kim Wagner, and Treasurer Chelsey Mahr.

**Others in attendance:** Four others were in attendance.

**Call to order the regular meeting:** Chair Wagner called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** All present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of the Agenda:** Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the agenda, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

**Open Forum:** Walter Rapp handed out information on the Rice Lake Road project.

**Approval of the Minutes:** Regular meeting of February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Supervisor Pawlowicz motioned to approve the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously. Budget Levy meeting of February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026: Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, Board of Supervisors meeting minutes as presented, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Mahr stated she agreed with the bank balance. On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the ending balance in the checking account was \$230,006.76. The total of outstanding checks is \$13,148.75. The investment balance amounts to \$309,721.40. Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the financial reports, and Chair Wagner seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

**Clerk's Report:** Clerk Hanson balanced with the bank and provided the claims list report. The board reviewed the claims list. Claims numbered from 11125 to 11134 totaled \$5,904.88. Supervisor Blix motioned to approve the claims 111251-11134 for \$5,904.88 as presented, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously. The DNR was to reimburse the fire department \$19,188.50 for the Camp House Fire; however, the DNR sent the reimbursement to the town instead. The DNR has asked the town to issue a check back to them, so they can then reissue that sum to the fire department. Resolution to approve a notice of redemption: Clerk Hanson presented the resolution to approve the bond redemption. Supervisor Cich motioned to accept this resolution, and Supervisor Blix seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously. Resolution to approve Payoff bond: Clerk Hanson presented the resolution to approve the bond redemption. Supervisor Cich motioned to accept this resolution, and Supervisor Pawlowicz seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

**Correspondence:** The correspondence Clerk Hanson read included two pieces of mail, and six emails received during the month.

**Reports for February 2026:** Fredenberg Law Enforcement Statistics: There was no report at this time.

Roads/Bridges report: Supervisor Blix gave an update on the road work that occurred in February. Several trees were down on township roads. The general condition of the roads is quite good.

Fire Department report: Chief Bergstrand submitted her report earlier. The fire department handled snowmobile fires, burning trees on power lines, gas leaks, smoke alarms sounding, and medical emergencies. Twelve members completed EMT and EMR refresher courses and other local events. The Fire Department will hold its Pancake Breakfast on May 9<sup>th</sup> from 7 am until noon.

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

Parks/Recreation/Pavilion: According to Supervisor Rapp, everything is going well. The skating rink is closed for the season.

Community Center report: Deputy Clerk Wagner confirmed one rental in February.

Recycling report: Supervisor Pawlowicz reported the center is running well.

**Other monthly meetings:** There were no other meetings in February.

**Unfinished Business:** Fire/EMS Services contract for 2026: Clerk Hanson reported that the town attorney approved the contract that is in the board packets. Fire Chief Bergstrand stated she will bring the contract to the fire members for review.

**New Business:** Second monthly meeting: Supervisor Blix motioned to cancel the second monthly meeting, and Supervisor Cich seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

**Adjourn:** Supervisor Blix motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 pm, and Supervisor Rapp seconded the motion. The members took a roll-call vote, and they approved the motion unanimously.

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### Fredenberg Fire Department, Linda Bergstrand, Chief Town Board Report for March 2026

In March, members handled five calls: four medical and one smoke investigation.

Fredenberg Fire received six new cold water rescue suits through a joint project from the MN State Fire Marshal's department and Minnesota DNR. We were able to conduct a water rescue training exercise on Fish Lake shortly after we received the suits. Meetings attended during March included the St. Louis County Chief's Association, St. Louis County 911 user board and a Fire-wise wildland urban interface structural firefighting meeting held in Brimson.

During this time of the year as the spring ice is becoming more prevalent please keep your pets and yourselves away from the lakes. It is very common for people and pets to fall through the ice each spring.

Spring ice in Minnesota is highly treacherous, turning from strong, clear ice to weak, porous honeycomb or candled ice during thaws. It melts fastest near shorelines due to warmer run-off and submerged vegetation, often becoming detached from land. Even thick, old spring ice is weaker and less safe than thin, new fall ice.

\*\*\*See "Key Spring Ice Characteristics" on the first page\*\*\*

**PLEASE DO NOT PUT SIGNS ON TOWNSHIP PROPERTY.** They will be taken down and disposed of in the trash. Thank you.

# TRUE CRIMES

## Fredenberg Crime Statistics, March 2026 Patrol Sergeant Nick Voltzke St. Louis County Sheriff's Office

In the Township, there were 23 incidents and no arrests.

3/5/26 18:04	DIST-DISTURBANCE	ADV-ADVISED
3/7/26 3:04	SUSPA-SUSP ACTIVITY	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
3/7/26 18:21	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
3/7/26 18:29	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
3/8/26 1:58	CKBIZ-BUSINESS CHECK	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/9/26 10:32	OUTW-ONVIEW OUT WITH	ADV-ADVISED
3/10/26 19:16	CE-COMM ENGAGEMENT	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/13/26 21:15	VDAMP-VEH EXTERIOR DAMAGE	AST-ASSISTANCE RENDERED
3/14/26 15:58	CKWEL-CHECK WELFARE	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/14/26 21:53	SUICA-ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	CLR-CLEARED
3/15/26 13:48	POR-PREDATORY OFFEND	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
3/17/26 15:47	PI-PERSONAL INJ	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
3/18/26 0:13	CKBIZ-BUSINESS CHECK	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/19/26 16:24	THREATS-THREATS	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
3/22/26 9:33	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
3/22/26 21:43	ATL-ATTEMPT TO LOCATE	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/28/26 8:28	EXPAT-EXTRA PATROL	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/28/26 8:42	EXPAT-EXTRA PATROL	MOR-MATTER OF RECORD
3/28/26 13:24	VPROWL-VEH PROWL/ENTRY	RPT-REPORT TAKEN
3/29/26 12:05	PSYCH-PSYCH PROBLEM	CLR-CLEARED
3/29/26 16:35	T - TRAFFIC STOP	REP-WARNED OR REPRIMANDED
3/29/26 22:48	911 DISCONNECT - HANG UP	CAN-CANCEL
3/30/26 17:26	SUSPA-SUSP ACTIVITY	RPT-REPORT TAKEN

### Did you know?

Firefighters can't help if they can't find you.

Your safety in an emergency depends on responders' ability to find you quickly.

Saving lives and property can come down to a matter of seconds.

Emergency vehicles need to be able to see your address day or night.

### ADDRESS SAFETY TIPS

- House numbers should be visible from the street.
- If your house is set back, affix numbers to a mailbox or post that can be seen from the public road.
- Trim any greenery and remove decorations that may block clear view of your address.
- If possible, post your address near a porch light, or at least use reflective numbers.
- House numbers should be at least 4 inches tall.

Fredenberg Volunteer Fire  
Department  
6367 Lavaque Road  
Duluth, MN 55803



## **Fredenberg Art Weller Recycle Center News**

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

**Hours:** Wednesdays: 5-8 pm and Saturdays: 9 am-1 pm. **Closed when the district schools are closed.**

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

Please use Resource Renew 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](http://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 and the STAFF when using the Center. The Town may be charged for dumpsters/bins containing non-recyclables. Thank you very much for your cooperation.**

## **Town Hall/Community Center Rentals**

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

### **Newsletter 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](mailto: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](http://Fredenberg.org) website.



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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 scheduled meetings are:

**May 6, 2026**

**May 13, 2026 LBAE at 1 pm**

**May 20, 2026 Second meeting**

### **Fredenberg Community Center**

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

For information on rentals and fees, please contact the Office at 218-721-3991, email at [Fredenbergtwp@gmail.com](mailto:Fredenbergtwp@gmail.com) or go to the website at [Fredenberg.org](http://Fredenberg.org).