

Volume 4

Issue 1

May

Wabedo Township News

Annual Meeting

There was lively discussions by the standing room only crowd at the Annual Meeting of Wabedo Township which was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2004.

The meeting began with the election of a moderator. Bill Bliss was elected to this position.

Items on the agenda included :

Treasurer's Report

Election Results

Donation Requests

Planning Commission Report

Survey Results

Website Update

Levies for: Road & Bridge, Fire Department, Ambulance, and General Fund

There are articles on some of these topics in this newsletter. Although the meeting was well attended there is always room for more. Next year's meeting date was set for the second Tuesday in March, 2005 at 8:00 p.m. at the Township Hall. **March 8, 2005.**

It is important for everyone to take an active role in their township government.

The State set the date for the township elections and annual meetings for the second Tuesday in March.

Meeting times

The Board of Supervisors meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Town Hall.

The Planning Commission meets the first Thursday of the month March through November.

Both meetings start at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall and all are welcome.

Thank you and farewell ... Welcome

Alicia Burgers has been the treasurer for Wabedo Township for the past fourteen years. She and her husband Doug have built a new home in Kego Township. The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her years of service and good work. We wish her well.

Welcome to Carole Houghton as the new treasurer! She and her husband Mark are building a new home on Heffron Lake.

Election Results

There were two positions on the ballot: clerk and one township supervisor.

Barbara Anderson was re-elected Clerk for another two years. There was also one write in candidate.

Patrick Butler was re-elected supervisors for a three year term. There was one write-in candidate.

Board of Supervisors

Chair: Bill Bliss 363-2335

Supervisors: Patrick Butler 363-2528

Ralph Schmidt 363-3326

Treasurer: Carole Houghton

Clerk: Barbara Anderson 363-2649

Cass County Newsletters are available at www.co.cass.mn.us or mail Cass County PO Box 3000 Walker, MN 56484

Road & Bridge

Chloride road stabilization and dust control is planned for Stoney Creek, Sioux Camp Road, and Glenmar Road

The new projects for 2004 are to regravell Sioux Camp and Hunter Lake Roads. Spot gravel South Little Boy, and Island View. Ditch and culvert on

Pikie Point. Brush Wabedo Springs and brush and clear Shangri-La and 1/2 mile on South Little Boy.

There are still some projects held over from 2003. Those projects include addressing the run off problem on the corner of South Little Boy Drive and Barga Lane. Culverts on Glenmar and Woodduck and perhaps on South Little Boy Drive.

Cass County Sheriff's Department Report for 2003

The Cass County Sheriff's Department sends a report each year to cities and townships in the county. The total calls for service received for the year 2002 in Cass County were 13,538 and in 2003 the total calls were 14,690. In Wabedo Township the service calls went from 99 in 2002 to 119 in 2003.

Here is a breakdown of some of the types of calls:

False alarms—25, Boat accident 1, DWI—42, Vehicle and deer- 4, Car accident—4, Sickness—13, Burglary alarm system—4, Burglary 9, Attempt to locate -3, Sudden death -4, Information -2, Public disturbance-2, Property damage—9, Weapons fired—2, Property damage-4, Theft-5

Website

The Township has a website <http://wabedo.govoffice.com>

This is a good way for the residents, landowners and friends to keep in touch with what is going on in Wabedo Township. Keep up to date on what is happening. Let us know if there is more information you would like included.

Newsletter by E-mail

The township also has an e-mail address:

wabedotn@uslink.net

Would you like to receive this newsletter by e-mail? If so, please send an e-mail to wabedotn@uslink.net stating your name and e-mail address.

Tax Levies

The tax levies payable in the year 2005 were set at the Annual Meeting by the people attending the meeting.

The Road & Bridge Levy was set at \$75,000. This is the same levy as 2002 and 2003. See article on road and bridges.

The Fire Department Levy was decreased to \$17,640 from \$18,076. As per our fire district agreement.

The Township is in the fifth year of a 10 year commitment to the Longville Ambulance Building District. The obligation is \$4,500 per year for the building.

The general levy was set at \$22,400. This is the same as last year.

Recap of budget and donations for past 4 years.

Levies	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
General Fund	\$10,000	\$15,000	\$22,400	\$22,400
Road & Bridge	\$58,000	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Ambulance	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,500	\$ 4,000
Fire District	\$16,610	\$16,256	\$19,076	\$17,640
Donations				
Ambulance	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,000
Lakes Area Dive Team			\$ 500	\$1,000
First Responders			\$2,900	\$2,900
Library	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Family Safety Network			\$ 1,00	\$1,000
Clinic	\$1,750	\$2,000	no requests	
Northland Area Family Center				\$1,500
Cass County Historical Society				\$ 100

Survey Results

SURVEY 2003

Last fall a survey was sent out to all the property owners in Wabedo Township. 834 surveys were sent out and 369 were returned. Thank you to all who participated. This survey was to help the Board determine the future of Wabedo Township, and looking at the possibility of the new town hall (community center).

Here are the results of the survey.

1. How long have you lived in or owned property in Wabedo Township? 369 responded

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Less than 5 years - 64 responses = 18% | 2. 5 – 10 years - 58 responses = 16% |
| 3. 11 – 19 years – 79 responses = 21% | 4. 20 or more years – 168 responses 46% |

2. Do you own or rent your current residence? 365 responses

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|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Own - 364 responses = 99.9% | 2. Rent - 1 responses = 0.1% |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|

3. What is your current residential status? 423 responses

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Year-around - 140 responses = 33% | 2. Seasonal – 7 responses = 54% |
| 3. Own parcel of land – 55 responses = 13% | 4. Public/non-profit organization – respond = .02% |

4. Approximately what year was this residence built? 333 responded

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. before 1939 - 39 responses = 12% | 2. 1940's- 23 responses = 7% |
| 3. 1950's = 21 responses = 6% | 4. 1960's - 28 responses = 8% |
| 5. 1970's - 66 responses = 20% | 6. 1980's – 68 responses = 20% |
| 6. 1990's – 58 responses = 17% | 8. 2000 to present – 30 responses = 9% |

5. Are you satisfied with the quality of life in Wabedo Township, as it presently exists? 349 responses

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. Very satisfied - 138 responses = 40% | 2. Satisfied – 172 responses = 49% |
| 3. No Opinion – 30 responses = 9% | 4. Dissatisfied - 7 responses = 2% |
| 5. Very dissatisfied – 2 = 1% | |

Comments:

- Our driveway has been a problem and no one wants to do anything about it.
- Wabedo Township should continue to take control in protecting its own lakeshores/wet land development – Cass County does not adequately protect our lake from unwise damaging developments.
- We need to protect our shore land from over development
- There are very few community activities
- Area is becoming to crowded and developed
- Our township is well run physically and financially.
- Love the lake and relaxing nature
- I'm generally satisfied although I feel that planning/zoning must be aggressively for formulated and enforced to maintain quality of life.
- Why clip the grasses and flowers along the roads? They have cut blackberry bushes just as the berries were ripening and cut down many flowers. Also yard lights kept on all night, all year, make star gazing very difficult.
- Clean air and friendly people
- I just wish there were more pan fish in Lake Wabedo

Survey continues

Survey 2003

Question 5 continued:

- The lake shores are too crowded; however, the lakes are beginning to look like twin city lakes. Too many buildings and too close.
- Would prefer further restrictions on jet skies and the use of dirt bikes and ATV's on township roads.
- More vandalism & trespassing now than in earlier years.
- No benefits for taxes paid

6. What attracted you to Wabedo Township?

- Beautiful clear lakes with fish (6)
- We had been coming to Kee-Nee-Moo-Sha off and on since 1949. The lakes – relaxed pace
- Nice lake, clarity, low population, friendly people, air quality, small town atmosphere
- Lake quality, low taxes, person & property security
- Area outdoor opportunities
- Beauty & familiar with area (3)
- The ability and location to be self sufficient and to not rely upon the government and their attitude!
- Natural resources, i.e. lakes, stream, large tracts of woodlands, etc. Relative lack of dense population.
- We were looking for lake shore property with low population density and found it here. Lots of wildlife and woods.
- Nice people (3)
- Parents purchased a resort almost 50 years ago. It was beautiful – quiet, restful and a pleasant place to live. Now – it's too crowded, too busy in the summer with too much going on to make money. More relaxing to say out of Longville on Wednesdays & weekends and travel to peaceful, quiet & relaxing areas.
- My uncle was teaching in Pine River. Show developed Wabedo Springs and they cooperated in building three cabins on Wabedo in 1926, the first year I was here.
- Been going up to family cabin for years. Decided to have our own land and build someday.
- Land was available when we were looking to purchase. (3)
- Wanted to be on lake in northern Minnesota because of quality of lake water.
- Hunting, fishing, peace, tranquility, nature, good neighbors. “God’s country”.
- Serenity, water quality of the lakes, trees
- Site of cabin, spring fed lake, good fishing, and a place to relax
- It was a place to relax and fish away from the city. A good place to spend summers.
- Came up fishing in 1965 and ended up buying a place.
- Peaceful & quite living and we like the wild life.
- Sand beach, near Longville
- Wabedo Lake less crowded compared to Brainerd area.
- My grandfather built our cabin in the 1920’s. He would be very unhappy with the “civilization”. As for me I want the area to be protected from over-development so it can be a retreat for my children and grandchildren.
- My family has lived in or owned land in the township since the 1920’s.

Question 6 continued:

- Becoming since 1947— a long time - all my life
- Lakes and open forest land.
- Friends. The lake lot we found.
- Good fishing lake, cabin to fit our needs as well as good neighbors.
- Lakes Wabedo (4) Woman (4) Little Boy (4)
- Woods and water (2)
- Nature— 4 •Family—9 • Inherited property (4) • Business opportunities

7. Do you believe the quality of your drinking water is at risk? 346 responded

1. Definitely at risk - 12 responses = 3% 2. Probably at risk – 49 responses = 14%
3. OK at this time - 139 responses = 40% 4. May become at risk - 44 responses = 13%
5. Not at risk at all – 100 responses = 29%

- Drinking water quality is terribly important
- No opinion we drink bottled water
- Water was tested 2 years ago
- Had water tested in 2002
- Don't know really well long way from septic system 50 or 60'
- We have a Market America water purifier on the dinking water system.
- Not every body has a lot of money I feel that you will push people out our township
- Central purchase agreement with water testing lab where residents could have personal water supply checked periodically at a reduced price – often a central site where results could be gathered. Bottom line – monitor drinking water objectively.
- Not really their business (3)

8. Drinking water quality is dependent on septic functioning properly. Should Wabedo Township create an inspection program for septic systems and require failing systems to be brought into compliance when they are found? 397 responses

1. Definitely should - 150 responded = 38% 2. Probably should – 101 responses = 25%
3. May or may not - 58 responses = 15% 4. Probably not – 35 responses = 9%
5. Definitely not - 53 responses = 13%

- There are septic systems on Mule Lake that are 30+ years old and some are not functioning wells they need to be checked out immediately!!! Residents need to show proof of updated systems in compliance ASAP!!
- Not the township's business – this is a county or state issue (4)
- Should be under “grandfather” law – only when system fail completely
- Already provided by the county (8)
- Or combined with other townships
- Spend money wisely
- Depends on county/state activity

Survey 2003

9. Are there services that you would like to have provided by the Township that are not currently provided? 312 responded

1. Yes - 61 responded = 20%

2. No - 246 responses = 80%

If yes, what service would you request?

- Garbage collection (8)
 - Off highway mail, off highway road plowing
 - Cable TV (2)
 - A “spending reduction” program
 - Enhanced emergency services, professional planning/zoning consultants
 - Centralized security systems
 - Police protection (4)
 - Please do not create a bureaucracy/mini-governmental nightmare which requires personnel, funding, supervision and administration.
 - Zoning board
 - More education on protecting the environment esp. the lakes, rivers, streams and also the wildlife esp. the loons – for example – brochures, in services, videos, examples of types of soaps, shampoos, cleaning products to use etc.
 - Township supported ambulance service – it’s not right that they need donations to provide the service.
 - Continued calcium chloride on County Rd 120
 - Repair road approaches where they are washing out on C road Blacktop on Shangri-La Dr. and other township roads – are becoming muddy when wet – not properly maintained
 - Better gravel road maintenance
 - Chloride on gravel on Shangri-la. I’m 1st place south of Kego, have them continue on for ¼ mile more
 - Repair road approaches where they are washing out on C road
 - Plow out South Little Boy Dr NE
 - Update bridge of Lake Wabedo County Road
 - Pine Crest Trail receives all services as township roads
 - Gravel roads treated for dust, all. Not just selected roads. around lakes
 - Apply calcium chloride to gravel roads around lakes
 - Road maintenance poorly maintained county road. (Maybe negotiate fund transfer from county?)
 - Black top roads
 - Improved road maintenance drainage -- drainage – brushing overhangs – washboards
 - Road maintenance - or more of it
 - Road dust control
 - Tar Sioux Camp road!
 - Chloride our road in summer month or when dust is a problem.
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- I'm already paying for road maintenance which is not being done. (2)
 - I live on Lake View Lane. My neighbors tell me there has never been any maintenance on our road since it was constructed. (There hasn't been a snowplow or grader since I've been there). I believe the township should maintain it or abandon it and we would maintain it as a private drive
 - Eliminate planning commission
 - Thank goodness we have a planning commission!
 - Don't we pay enough already
 - Would depend on service (6)
 - It should come out of the property taxes we already pay
 - Should delivered as part of township services already billed for
 - Already are – to far away paying to utilize
 - Taxes are exorbitant now
 - As supported by R.E.Taxes
 - I have updated my septic system & inspected
 - Pay for own testing
 - Community center for swimming, lake outs, and meeting
 - Senior Center
 - Septic are county business, NOT township. Do not add another layer of government.
 - No, but would like the recycling drop off station to better maintained and more frequently emptied
 - Parks, nice parks, bike paths and motor cycle trail area (marked ditches)
 - No, Other than septic compliance
 - Tennis courts/ recreation area community bldg.
 - All around fishing, hunting, town for groceries, hardware, restaurants
 - What services does township provide?
 - Undecided at this time (4)
 - I would like my taxes to be lower
 - Planning & zoning monitoring – septic system monitoring
 - Test water quality - black top Sarajac Road
 - Septic inspections
 - Grew up in Remer. My wife from Delaware preferred the Longville area, so we bough a vacation place on Woman Lake
 - Everything seems okay now. I don't know what I would want
 - Septic testing
 - Why don't you have a "free garbage" spring clean up & fall clean up – let us haul out garbage for free twice a year? IT would help keep the garbage out of the woods.
 - What services are already provided? Could you send us something
 - No more money being spent on nonsense
 - A community center
 - A community center with room for exercise (not equipment but room for walking & exercise classes) & room for get together.
 - Would the school have use for a pool if we built one? (they would pay for the service of course)
-

Survey 2003

Other comments:

- If open to others, a fee should be assessed. (16)
- We are not in favor of building a community center. There are numerous facilities already available.
- Question 12 – We don't feel this is any of their business – 55% of this township is probably owned by county, state & won't be built on – ever. Way too much time on their hands – find a hobby.
- Question 8, not really their business
- We support a larger town hall, but not a community center with health fitness equipment – just a basic building as shown in the newsletter.
- Obviously, you all have made up your mind to spend more money!
- Why can't anyone associated with the government or public service entity even thank about reducing the amount they spend? This country is headed towards socialism via the DFL.
- I have not had a pay raise in 3 years! Yet my property taxes continue to sky rocket. When are you going to get a clue?
- There are septic systems on Mule Lake that are 30+ years old and some are not functioning well at all. They need to be checked out immediately!! Residents need to show proof of updated systems in compliance ASAP
- A moratorium should be placed on development in Wabedo Township.
- The township needs a dance venue. Don't put in carpet.
- Only if surrounding township/cities/residents help!
- If the building is a reasonable undertaking a small tax increase is okay.
- Community Centers should be run & operated by the private sector
- This possible increase is unnecessary. If anything money should be spent on the school system.
- If the center can generate revenue for the township
- This should definitely not be built we already have too much government
- There are private businesses with meeting areas. I don't feel the township government is big enough to justify a building.
- Taxes are too high for the services we get
- Not at this time, I'm too strapped
- I would move
- If a need is proven
- We already have ample facilities (churches, restaurants, etc) which are being under utilized
- It should support itself.
- Beauty of lakes – good fishing – nearby family
- Taxes are too high. Revenue needed should come from other reductions
- Only if suitable fees would in time cover the cost of the new building
- Rather not
- If there is a demonstrated need. Probably should be on area wide facility to avoid duplicating services.
- Absolutely
- Family owned property
- Budget current taxes
- Depends on the plan
- Absolutely not

- Survey 2003

- 12 years ago we attended a meeting at Wabedo Township and were made to feel that our input was not wanted. It was a month meeting.
 - I bought my cabin in June 1990 for a place to go with my family on vacation, since then my taxes have gone crazy, I retire in 1998, I have no increase in wages, please try to keep my taxes down.
 - In this time of budget deficits and a sluggish economy, think of alternatives. Perhaps a community center in Longville for the area, costs should be cities and township. Conduct meeting in churches, schools instead. Until economy improves, look for way to conserve – not spent.
 - We don't need a "community center" in my opinion. Wabedo Township is too sparse. Use our money for land preservation or lake safety
 - Taxes are high enough already and increasing uncontrollably
 - No new town hall (5)
 - You didn't ask if I ever wanted to build a new community center. If you did, I would have said no
 - Combine with other communities and jointly plan for events and facility vs. Wabedo providing for other communities
 - Depends on how much they are (tax increase) (4)
 - Only if other township/cities/residents would pitch in
 - As seasonal already paying premium taxes with less use & benefit
 - Excellent vehicle for soliciting input concerning "life in Wabedo" & peoples thoughts and feelings. Look forward to the results and would be interested in the survey numbers – number distributed and returned
 - A community center should be a community center not a township center wait & see what is to be done with the elementary school when the "Remer" school board takes away our school
 - Build a township hall
 - Community center not needed
 - There are adequate non-government facilities available. It is not job of our township to compete with local businesses.
 - No need
 - Available churches & schools suffice
 - If Wabedo pays for it. Then they should have to rent it.
 - Rent Patrick's – it's cheaper
 - No to all – Churches, school is sufficient
 - As long as we don't pay for expansion
 - Not sure one is needed
 - Does each township really need its own hall? They are used so little, that it would be more cost effective for 2 or 3 township to pool resources for 1 good hall.
 - Assumes its being build
 - Whose community center for who concern: population & taxes cannot support one
 - Yes, if financial support is given.
 - Comments: I attended the township meeting and I think the coverage in the newsletter regarding the community center was biased. At the meeting a presentation was given regarding the building plan & projected cost. In your newsletter, the plan was shown but, as I recall, it did not contain dimensions and only the price per square foot was given so it was impossible for us tax-payers to compute the total cost. This is biased reporting. So my question – will the results of this survey also be biased?
-

Planning Commission

It has been a busy year for the planning commission

On this page you will see the activities that the commissioners have dealt with through out the year. Zoning applications, variance applications, shore and alterations and conditional use permits are what we deal with every year. The plats are new to us. What a learning experience!

Using the Comprehensive Plan as our guide we were able to make sure the plats conformed to it. There were several meetings with the residents of Wabedo Township in attendance giving their opinions and the developer listening and discussing his plan. Compromises were made and the two plats were approved.

It was with great regret that we accepted the resignation of Harold Harper. He resigned for health reasons and his input and experience will be missed. The opening was advertised in the paper and six people applied. After reviewing the job description two people withdrew their names. The Board of Supervisors interviewed the four candidates. What an exciting challenge for the Board to select one person from four candidates. Marilynne Davis was appointed to the planning commission. Davis joined the planning commission just in time to start work on updating the Comprehensive Plan.

The commissioners are working with Bridget Chard on the Comprehensive Plan. She wrote the original plan.

The commissioners have completed the research part of the project and Chard is writing the plan. We plan to have open hearings in the summer; and we hope for adoption of the plan in early fall.

Updates are available on the Website:
<http://wabedo.govoffice.com>.

Craig Anderson

Planning Commission Members

Craig Anderson, Chair

Ken Sausman, Vice Chair

Sue Gehrman, Secretary

Bud Anderson, Commissioner—seasonal

Jack Abrahamson, Commissioner—seasonal

Marilynn Davis, Commissioner—seasonal

2003 Activity in Wabedo Township

Report from the Annual Meeting

Zoning Applications—46

- 15 Houses (12 included septic system work)
- 11 Garages
- 8 Septic system work
- 6 Additions to houses
- 4 Other
- 2 Decks

Variances Applications—11

- 5 Closer lake setbacks (4 approved, 1 withdrawn)
- 2 Bluff setbacks (1 approved, 1 denied)
- 2 Non-conforming lots (1 approved, 1 denied)
- 2 Other (approved)

Shore land Alterations—11

- 5 Ice ridges
- 2 Rip Rap
- 2 Retaining walls
- 2 More than 50 cubic yards of fill

Conditional Use Permits –2

- 1 Movement of more than 50 cubic yards of dirt (approved)
- 1 Convert resort to PUD (withdrawn)

Plats –2

- Mule Lake Estates
- Taylor Timbers on Little Boy Lake

WABEDO TOWNSHIP NEWS

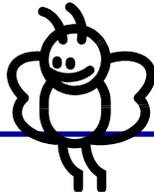
1535 Bergen Lane NE
Longville, MN 56655

Phone: 218-363-2915

Website: <http://wabedo.govoffice.com>

E-mail: wabedotn@uslink.net

A great place to live!



Website

The Wabedo Township website is up and doing well.

<http://wabedo.govoffice.com>. Do not use the www.

At the website you can read the agenda and minutes of the Board of Supervisors and the Planning Commission. Read about road projects and special notices.

There are about 100 hits per month at this time.

The Board of Supervisors believes that this is an excellent way to communicate with the residents of Wabedo Township on a regular basis.

When you have time check it out.

If you would like to receive the newsletter through the website or by e-mail, please sign up on the website or send an e-mail to wabedotn@uslink.net. This means you will not receive a copy in the mail. This will help cut down costs.

From the Longville Fire Department

Throughout the past year many of our firefighters have noticed an increase in the number of driveways that our department may not be able to get our fire trucks down.

Our trucks vary in size from a regular pickup truck to our main pump truck that is 10 feet wide, by 9 feet high and 34 feet long. This truck requires 2-3 times as much room to turn as a regular pickup truck.

Narrow driveways, heavy brush and trees along the edge cause problems for the truck to make the turns and curves. It also makes it difficult to see on coming traffic. Power lines may be hooked and taken down causing an extra hazard.

We are asking for your help in making sure we can get all of our firefighting equipment to where it may be needed. We would like to have a minimum width on all driveways of 12 feet. A minimum overhead clearance of 10 feet. If possible, turns or curves in driveways to be NOT MORE than a 45 degree angle. Please make all effort possible to help us with this request.