

Volume 5

Issue 1

June

# Wabedo Township News

## Annual Meeting Continued until August 1st

There were lively discussions by the standing room only crowd at the Annual Meeting of Wabedo Township which was held on Tuesday, March 14, 2006.

The Ambulance Joint Powers Board was discussed. See the article by Bill Bliss on the future of the ambulance service.

The levies were set for the ambulance, fire, road & bridge and general. There were several requests for donations. These will be addressed on August 1st when the meeting will be continued.

Due to the uncertainty of the future of the ambulance service in our area and how the ambulance service would be funded the Annual meeting was continued until August 1st at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall to discuss the levies and donation requests.

Township elections were discussed. See the article on page 6



## Election Judges Needed

Last year at the annual meeting the residents decided that the election hours for a State or Federal Election will be 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Therefore we need more election judges. There is special training throughout the summer. The pay is \$8.50 per hour.

We need judges to register new voters, sign in registeedr voters, hand out ballots, help voters with the voting machine, count ballots at the end of the day.

If you are interested in becoming an election judge or want more information either contact your political party or Barbara Anderson, township clerk. .

### Board of Supervisors

## 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.

Ralph Schmidt was re-elected supervisor for a three year term. There was one write-in candidate.

Chair: Bill Bliss	363-2335
Vice Chair Patrick Butler	363-2528
Road & Bridge Ralph Schmidt	363-3326
Treasurer: Carole Houghton	363-2286
Clerk: Barbara Anderson	363-2649

Cass County Newsletters are available at [www.co.cass.mn.us](http://www.co.cass.mn.us) or mail Cass County PO Box 3000 Walker, MN 56484

# Often Asked Septic System Questions

by Bill Gehrman, MPCA licensed Designer & Inspector

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## Why do I need a mound? I want a gravity system.

Soils and water table determine the kind of treatment system you'll need.

1. Heavy soils (silty clay, sandy clay, clay) require mounds\*
2. High water tables is another example of why a mound treatment system is needed\*
3. Three feet of separation is needed from the bottom of treatment area to high water table\*\*

## I don't want a pump.

1. Most systems installed today require a pump. Ex. Mounds, pressure beds, pressure trenches.
2. With proper tank maintenance (timely pumping of solids and sludge) a pump will last for many years.

## What can go into my septic system? Should I put additives in my tank to (clean) my system?

1. The only thing going into your system should go through you first.
2. Fats, oils and grease are hard on your system. Scrape your dishes and pans into the garbage before washing them.
3. You DO NOT NEED additives in your tank; spend your money pumping your tank regularly, every 3-5 years on average, more often if you use a garbage disposal.

- References: <http://septic.umn.edu/homeowner/factsheets/Additives.html>  
<http://www.montana.edu/wastewater/septic.htm>  
[http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/owtc/html/owtc\\_sepadd.html](http://www.uri.edu/ce/wq/owtc/html/owtc_sepadd.html)

## My system works fine; I haven't had any problems why do I need a new one?

Most people asking this question had their septic system installed before the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency rule changes in 1996, and don't have the required vertical separation for treating effluent (liquid waste minus the solids and scum). Other failing systems include drywells, cesspools and seepage pits. Because your water is "going away" doesn't mean proper treatment is occurring.

Reference: <http://septic.umn.edu/Homeowner/FactSheets/understanding.html>

## More useful links:

[Http://septic.umn.edu/Homeowner/newsreleases/freezingseptics.html](http://septic.umn.edu/Homeowner/newsreleases/freezingseptics.html)

[Http://septic.umn.edu/Homeowner/seasonalcare/index.html](http://septic.umn.edu/Homeowner/seasonalcare/index.html)

## Remember to fix your leaky faucets—they can hydraulically overload your septic treatment area.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Rules Chapter 7080

1-800-657-3864

Re\* 7080.0170    \*\*7080.0060 subp.3



# Ambulance Service, Changing for the Future

By Bill Bliss

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In the 1970's, Wabedo Township was served by a volunteer ambulance service located in Pine River. When an emergency arose, 45 minutes to one hour was the normal response time. The question of could we have a better emergency response system was asked.

A group of seven area residents agreed to take training to answer ambulance calls. Penny jars were placed in area businesses, asking for donations to buy an ambulance. By the mid 1970's a volunteer ambulance crew had been trained and an ambulance purchased. Individual emergency radios were purchased for the crew members, and ambulance response time improved.

The ambulance was garaged in the old library building, located by the boat ramp in Longville. That building was quickly outgrown.

In the early 1980's, things begin to change in Longville. The city built a new building, housing the city offices, library and a one stall garage for the ambulance service. Also at that time, the city took over the state granted license of the ambulance to provide necessary insurance coverage that the volunteers were unable to obtain.

In 1995 the city, because of the number ambulance runs and length of time for an emergency run, purchased a second ambulance. Where to garage both units became a problem.

A joint powers board was formed consisting of six townships and the city, to build a new building for the ambulance service. In discussions with the city, it was agreed to expand the size of the ambulance building to allow the city offices to relocate in the new building, thereby providing much needed area for the library to expand.

Wabedo Township entered into the joint powers board agreement, agreeing to pay its share of the \$143,000 cost of the building, based on our valuation. Wabedo committed to \$4,500 a year, for ten years. It was also agreed that the amount would forgo any additional contributions for the ambulance service.

As the area population increased, the number of available volunteers to answer calls for ambulance service declined. In 2002, the city made the decision to change from a volunteer ambulance service to a paid employee program.

With the cost of operating increasing and with contributions, donations, and reimbursements for government providers declining, the City of Longville began subsidizing the cost of providing ambulance service for the area. In 2005, the city's accountant said they could not continue the financial commitment. They city could go bankrupt. Longville announced they would have to give up the ambulance service December 31, 2005.

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## Ambulance Service, Changing for the Future con't.

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The city then asked that the 15 townships and two cities, that are part of the Primary Ambulance Service area, an area defined by the State of Minnesota, to help create a new funding program. After many meetings, when a financial program could not be agreed upon by the local units of government, the city agreed to extend operation of the ambulance service until July 1, 2006, if the local governments, in the primary service area, agreed to cover the operating losses. Eight out of the 17 local governments agreed. Using an assessed valuation formula, Wabedo Township has been paying approximately an additional \$5,500 a month, an amount agreed to by residents of the township at a special town meeting held in November, 2005.

So what is the future for ambulance service in the area? One established ambulance service provider in the area, Cuyuna Medical Center, was the only area ambulance service that was interested in providing coverage for the Longville area. A tentative contract was proposed by Cuyuna that would require a five year \$270,000 a year subsidy. The contract could not be signed by the joint powers board without ALL of the local governments agreeing to pay their fair share. Again, only eight of the 17 local governments agreed to contribute.

The Cass County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on June 6th to hear our request to establish a Subordinate Service District for the Longville primary ambulance service area. If this district is established, the county would contract for ambulance service and all taxable properties in the service area, would pay their fair share. The decision of whether or not to pay for ambulance service would be taken out of the local units of governments hands.

Again, what is the future of ambulance service for the area? Will the Crosby Medical Center be the provider for five or more years? Will Cass County build a proposed hospital and provide ambulance service for the area? Or, will the local units of government allow the ambulance license to expire, thereby returning to the 1970's when it was 45 minutes to one hour wait for medical attention in Wabedo Township?

The future is now in the hands of Cass County....

The Cass County Commissioners voted on June 6th to establish a subordinate taxing district for ambulance service in our area.

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## Meeting times

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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.

# Road Notes...

By Ralph Schmidt, Road Supervisor

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All road signs are inventoried two(2) times a year. During these inventories signs are counted, checked for repair and checked at night to be sure the reflective material works.

It is time for chloriding the roads again this year. This year, as last, magnesium chloride will be applied to some of the township roads. The roads are: Stoney Creek, South Little Boy, Sioux Camp, Glenmar, Shangri-La and this year we are adding Island View.

Next annual meeting of Wabedo Township is March 2007. One of the items we will be talking about will be brushing along our township roads. We need your input.

Last annual meeting of Wabedo Township the membership asked the board to develop a standard for driveway approaches to township roads. We will be talking about this the next several meetings. Some ideas are:

- Driveway should intersect the township road at a right angle. Driveways should intersect the township road flat to prevent water from washing down the township road.
- Culverts must be approved by township board. Wetland permits need to be obtained from the County.
- No foreign material will be left on the township road or right-of-way such as rocks or anything that could cause an accident.
- Any time any work is done on the township roads or right-of-way the township board should be notified.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE** If you are planning to asphalt your driveway *please* call the township board first. In some driveways the asphalt was placed out on the township roadway only to be plowed up in the winter time by our maintenance contractors. We do need your help as this has become a big problem for the contract workers. If we all work together we can solve this problem.

Keep cul-de-sacs (turn arounds) open, emergency vehicles may need to use the turn around. On my check list of the roads, after a strong wind the day before, I found boat trailers, fish houses and lumber stacked in our turn around. We do need your help with this, there are big units such as campers, vehicles pulling boats, etc. using our roads.

Thank you for your help and interest in keeping the township roads clear and safe.



Keep informed during the year by checking the web site

[wabedo.govoffice.com](http://wabedo.govoffice.com)

# Township Election Question

The election laws have changed. As of 2008 all elections, local, state, federal, school, will require the use of an electronic tabulator machine. Wabedo Township has been using this type of machine for state and federal elections for the past few years. Now the law requires the township elections to also use this type of machine.

If the township decides to continue to hold the township election in March the township would be responsible for: having a program written for the election, printing of the ballots for the tabulator, and holding public tests for the machine prior to election day. The cost of writing the program is about \$1,500, printing the ballots about \$500. and cost for holding a public test and legal notices in the newspaper is about \$60.

If the township election is to move to November to coincide with the state and nation elections the cost would be about \$500 for adding the township information at the ballot. The County pays the programming and ballot printing costs. The County also publishes the legal notice and holds the public testing before an election.

This type of a decision needs to be on the ballot at the time of the local election. The residents asked for this question to be placed on the ballot for March 2007.

For more information on the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) go to [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us)

## Levies

### Budget review for the year:

Levies	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
General Fund	\$10,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 22,400.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$30,000.00
Road & Bridge	\$58,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$85,500.00
Ambulance	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 79,500.00	\$79,500.00
Fire	\$16,610.00	\$ 16,256.00	\$ 18,076.00	\$ 18,514.00	\$21,446.25
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 89,100.00</b>	<b>\$110,756.00</b>	<b>\$119,976.00</b>	<b>\$ 203,014.00</b>	<b>\$216,446.25</b>

### Donation

Ambulance	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	
Lakes Area Dive Team			\$ 500.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Lake Country First Responders			\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,900.00	
Library	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	
Family Safety Network			\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	
Clinic	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 2,000.00			
Northland Family Service Center				\$ 1,500.00	
Cass County Historical Society				\$ 100.00	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 4,750.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,400.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	

Total of budget & donation	<b>\$93,862.00</b>	<b>\$115,756.00</b>	<b>\$127,376.00</b>	<b>\$ 213,014.00</b>	
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# Treasurer's Report

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The following treasurer's report was giving at the Annual Meeting.

For the Period 01/01/2005 to 12/31/2005

<u>Name of Fund</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Total Receipts</u>	<u>Total Disbursed</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
General Fund	\$13,132.74	\$43,812.91	\$47,264.79	\$9,680.86
Special Revenue Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
ROAD AND BRIDGE	\$56,519.35	\$81,908.52	\$68,001.01	\$70,426.86
PLANNING COMMISSION	(\$251.06)	\$0.00	(\$251.06)	\$0.00
Lemke Escrow	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Hausladen Cartpath	\$0.00	\$1,228.00	\$1,228.00	\$0.00
Debt Service Fund SRF	\$0.00	\$10,445.52	\$10,445.52	\$0.00
LONGVILLE	\$3,900.60	\$4,894.78	\$8,795.38	\$0.00
AMBULANCE				
LONGVILLE FIRE	(\$2,291.34)	\$19,099.76	\$16,808.42	\$0.00
DEPARTMENT				
VOTING TABULATOR	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,010.29</b>	<b>\$161,389.49</b>	<b>\$152,292.06</b>	<b>\$80,107.72</b>

## More Information

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Financial Depository—The residents moved to continue using Woodland Bank as the depository for the township for 2006.

Legal newspaper - Bliss explained that for the first time the township has two newspapers to select from for the townships legal newspaper. The residents selected the newspaper with the lowest cost per column inch. Northland Press is the legal newspaper for the township for this year.

Culverts - Ralph Schmidt, road & bridge supervisor, is working with the Planning Commission to determine an ordinance on driveway approaches to the township roads and how to determine when a culvert is needed. This will help the property owner and the township.

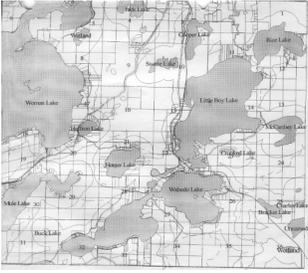
## Longville Centennial

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Longville will be celebrating its centennial this summer. The celebration is scheduled for August 4th—through August 13th. Congratulations to Longville!

For more information on the celebration schedule go to [www.longville.com](http://www.longville.com) and click on the centennial page.

Come and join the celebration!



## WABEDO TOWNSHIP NEWS

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Longville, MN 56655

Phone: 218-363-2649  
Fax: 218-363-2915

Website: <http://wabedo.govoffice.com>  
E-mail: [wabedotn@uslink.net](mailto:wabedotn@uslink.net)

*A great place to live!*

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## 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](mailto: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.