



Mission Township, MN

‘A QUIET PLACE TO BE’

Mission Township
PO Box 126
Merrifield, MN 56465

MISSION TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Spring Edition 2024

On March 12th, 2024, the Annual Meeting of Mission Township took place. This date is referred to as Township Day. These annual meetings are held every year on the second Tuesday in March and set townships apart from other forms of local government. It is a time when residents have the most direct input and say regarding how the township is functioning. During the meeting, the Township approved the general fund operating levy for 2025. The levy amount presented was the same as the last three years. The board committed to hold the levy the same for 2 to 3 years since approval of the Capital Improvement Levy in 2022. Reports and summaries were reviewed from each expense area and from the board. Resolution 2024-01 was passed authorizing the town board to adopt right-of-way regulations. All reports and summaries can be seen on the Township Website.

This newsletter is designed to keep all Mission Township residents informed. If you have any questions or thoughts on the newsletter, please feel free to contact Bob Steele, Supervisor (218-765-4041)

ROADS

The Roads Committee is looking at a long-term road maintenance plan that would preserve our roads well into the future. Full reclamation of Huxtable Point and the rest of East Horseshoe Lake Road will take place this summer and the Township will be working with the Crow Wing Highway Department in the bidding process and timing of work. Much planning goes into these projects in our Capital Improvement Plan which is shared in monthly Town Board meetings, the upcoming Informational Meeting and mailings to residents directly impacted as well as the website. Should you have any questions or concerns about these projects or roads in general, please contact Jon Auge, Roads Supervisor at 651-335-6555. The Township will move forward with a right-of-way ordinance as per the resolution at the annual meeting. The committee has developed road specifications for plat developments and the board approved them. All road signs have been replaced with new highly reflective signage which is state mandated. Coming this spring please be aware of the reduced speed signs on East Horseshoe Lake Road and East Bass Lake Road. This is a result of a speed study that the Road Committee requested.

SAVE THE DATE

Roads Projects Informational Meeting

An Informational Meeting will be held **Wednesday, April 17, at 6:00 PM** at **Mission Town Hall** about our reclamation of Huxtable Point Road and the final portion of East Horseshoe Lake Road. A representative from

our Township engineer Bolton & Menk and Town Board members will be present. Anyone impacted by or interested in these projects is invited to attend.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Capital improvement projects continue to move forward. Some are already completed and more will be completed in the next few years. There have been some adjustments due to cost increases. Mission Park Drive and the south one mile of East Horseshoe Lake drive went through full reclamation. Township Park improvements were completed. A maintenance storage building was constructed near the Township Hall. Structural firefighter gear was replaced, and new radios will arrive in the next month or so.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Fire Department has undergone changes in leadership and some structural changes. Chad Allard is the new fire chief, and Tim Yeager is the new assistant chief. The other leadership positions have been reduced and some changes in meeting times and frequency have been adjusted. A new pumper truck is on order and will arrive in August of this year. The Fire Department responded to 140 calls last year and there have been some recent additions to the department roster. The fire department has completed over 2,000 hours of training and skill development over the past year. The average response time for call outs is around 8 minutes. This serves to ensure the health and safety of

our residents. There has been recent press on the scarcity of EMS services in rural areas of the state. Mission Township is quite fortunate in comparison. Please join in support and celebration of Mission Township Fire Department's **50th Anniversary** this year. The dates of activities and celebrations will be forthcoming.

PARK

The park committee has completed all the projects that were part of the DNR grant. Mission Park now has 5 miles of trails and new signage to assist hikers. The park has seen a record number of park users, and the park offers a variety of activities for all age levels. The Park Committee has been busy with the ongoing maintenance and cleanup that keeps the park looking great. Staining of park buildings and new doors are on the agenda for this summer. The committee is looking for volunteers that would like to step up and infuse some new ideas for the annual Summer Started event. It usually involves a parade and root beer floats. Anyone with fresh ideas please contact the Town Clerk. We are sad to announce that Chuck Anderson, who has overseen the park maintenance for the last 13 years, will retire effective May 1, 2024. Chuck's devotion and commitment to the park was evident in how beautiful the park always looked. Thank you, Chuck, for your hard work and service to Mission Township and for helping keep the park one of the greatest assets of Mission Township!