



Life & Times of Ford Township

~ July 2010 ~

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And Much More!

Permit signs posted on roads

New signs advising that Land Use permits are necessary in Ford Township have been placed on township and county roads at their entrance into the Town of Ford.

Since Minnesota Department of Transportation regulations do not allow placement of this type of sign on right-of-way

under their jurisdiction, no signs were posted on State Highways #27 and #65 although these roads do pass through the township.



For more information regarding Land Use permits, please contact Ford

Township Zoning Administrator, Alan Hancock, at 320-515-0205.

6th Annual Ford Township Get-Together Sat., August 14

The 6th annual Ford Township Get-Together will be held on Saturday, August 14, 2010 at noon at the Town Hall. Everyone is invited - current and past residents and any and all landowners of the Town.

This old-fashioned gathering has become a highly anticipated summer event which gives us the opportunity to meet and greet old and new friends.

The meal is potluck so bring a dish

to share although beverages, plates and utensils will be provided.

The event will go on rain or shine so plan now to come for good food, fun and conversation with your neighbors. See you then!

Zoning, Land Use, Subdivision Ordinance work continues

This is a time of change for our Town and everyone needs to be aware of how these changes affect them. If you are considering a new project, contact the Zoning Administrator while you are still in the planning stage. Early contact

will not only save everyone time, money and frustration but will also help to establish priorities as to amendments and additional chapters.

The ordinances are available online, at the Library and the Law Office.

Details of the Public Hearings are published in the Kanabec County Times at least 10 days prior to each hearing, and are posted at the Town Hall and on the website. Public comment is essential to the process. Contact 320-515-0205 for more information.

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The Vision of the Town of Ford is to proactively preserve, develop and maintain a safe, thriving, and respectful community that sustains its historic integrity, rural character and natural and recreational amenities.

-from the Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Ford, adopted March 18, 2008

Annual Meeting report from March 9, 2010

The Annual Meeting was called to order by Sarah Berry, Town Clerk at 7:00 p.m. Dick LeCocq was nominated and elected as moderator.

The agenda, 2009 minutes and Board of Audit report were all approved.

Following discussion of the 2011 levy as recommended by the Town Board, motion was made and passed to set the levy at \$43,691 for General Fund, \$38,900 for Road & Bridge Fund, \$6,600 for Fire Fund and to establish a new Reserve Fund in the amount of \$5,000 for a

total levy of \$94,191.

In further business, the electors selected the Kanabec County Times as the legal newspaper for publication, Kanabec State Bank as the Township Depository, and to continue to use the Town Hall window as the official posting site.

Also on motion, it was decided to not make any donations to organizations for 2011.

The 2011 annual meeting date and time was set for the 2nd Tuesday in March at 7:00 p.m. at the Ford Town Hall.

Township Donation Requests:

**Communities Investing
In Families**
2093 153rd Ave., Mora

**Seven County
Senior Federation**
47 Park Street, Mora

Kanabec History Center
P.O. Box 113, Mora

Refuge Network
47 Park St., Mora

**Kanabec County
Sheriff's Reserve**
18 North Vine Street
Suite 143, Mora

Hancock hired as Ford Zoning Administrator

Alan Hancock was hired as the Ford Zoning Administrator and began his duties on February 25, 2010, replacing Frank Kriz who had served as Ford ZA since November, 2008.

Alan works for the Mille Lacs County Public Works Department as a Civil Engineer Technician and is also the Zoning Administrator

for Pomroy Township, Kanabec County. In addition, he owns a small beef farm operation.

Alan has prior experience on the North Branch City Council and the Pine County Board as well as having served in the US army as an Infantry Scout and the MN Army National Guard as a tank crewman.

Alan is married to Stacy (Steele) and they are the parents of two daughters. In his spare time, Alan likes to hunt, fish, ski and camp as well as spending time with his family.

You may contact Alan on the ZA cell phone at (320) 515 0205 with any questions you might have regarding land use issues.

Treasurer term ending; web & newsletter editor needed by Edna Cole

I will be retiring from the Ford Town Board when my term as Treasurer expires January 2011. Thus, this will be my last issue of the Life & Times of Ford Township.

I volunteered for the newsletter although it clearly was not under the Treasurer's official duties. I have certainly enjoyed the experience,

first with then Supervisor Katie Kerr, and most recently with Van Hale Marketing. There never has been a lack of stories to tell and information to pass on.

The same holds true for the website. Our webmaster, Dave (The Web Guy) Zambory displayed extreme patience as we worked through the

content and design.

Township newsletters and websites such as ours are the exception rather than the rule but their importance was emphasized at the Comprehensive Plan group meetings as something they wanted to see continued.

Von Bank resigns as town supervisor

Supervisor Ken Von Bank resigned from the Ford Town Board effective June 9, 2010.

Ken, one of the original members of the Ford Planning Commission, resigned from that group to accept the position of Supervisor on the Town Board in January, 2009.

The remaining members of the Town Board, Doug Bassett and Kim Johnson, together with the Town Clerk, Sarah Berry, can appoint someone to serve as Town Supervisor until the next general election which is in November. The appointee is eligible to run for the Supervisor 2 position which will be for the remaining two years of Von Bank's term or until the general election in 2012.

Old Roads Vacated

At the March 2009 Annual Meeting, the electors voted to authorize the Town Board to proceed with vacating the old and unused roads within the Township. That process was completed in August 2009.

The next step was a road inventory which included an updated map and revision of the resolution which established the Ford Town Roads. In February 2010, the Town Board granted approval of the revision and authorized the recording of same.

Another resolution affirmed the designation of Kite Street as a private road.

Four township officer elections during Nov. General Election!

In March of 2007, the electors voted to move the election of Township officers to occur in even years of the November General Election rather than at the March Annual Meeting.

This action also changed the term of officers for all members of the Board – Supervisors, Clerk and Treasurer – to four year terms. Previously Supervisors were elected to three year terms and Clerk and Treasurer were on a two year rotation. Thus because there are only three Supervisors on the Town Board, two cycle for election at one time and one the next time. Treasurer and Clerk alternate for election every two years.

Legislation has now been passed to permit townships to revert back to March elections once they had changed to November and/or also gives the electors the ability to shift township officers to six year terms thus eliminating the doubling up of expiring terms in any one election year. Action on either of these options would need to be taken by the electors at the Annual Meeting in March.

Four township positions to be filled at the November General Election, 2010! This is unusual, but due to the move to the General Election and a resignation it will occur this year!

Supervisor Position 2 Open - to be appointed
Take office Jan. 2011/Serve to Jan. 2013

Supervisor Position 1 currently held by Kim Johnson
Take office Jan. 2011/Serve to Jan. 2015

Supervisor Position 3 currently held by Doug Bassett
Take office Jan. 2011/Serve to Jan. 2015

Treasurer Position currently held by Edna Cole
Take office Jan. 2011/Serve to Jan. 2015

New webcam records river activity

Thanks to the efforts of seasonal resident, Tom Mortenson, Ford Township has a year-round active webcam aimed at the Snake River.

The image refreshes every 60 seconds from dawn until dusk, and past mages can be viewed as well.

Access it through the Friends of the Snake River webpage at <http://www.snakerivermn.org>.

Also access the time-lapse webcam archive at: <http://www.mnlakecams.com/ttlv.html>.

Road closed signs, snowfence missing

When the Department of Natural Resources established a parking lot on Olympic Street for the public to access the Hunter Walking Trails in 2009, that lot also became a natural turn-around for the snowplows during the winter months. Thus the Ford Town Board passed a Resolution in November of that year to close the road north of that parking lot for vehicular travel for the winter months.

The road was properly barricaded with orange snowfence and signs announcing the road closing.

In April 2010, per Minnesota Statute 164.52, the Town Board rescinded the previous Resolution enabling the road to again be opened. However, when Road Supervisor Doug Bassett went to remove the signage and snowfence he found that all was gone.

The cost of the signage and snowfence was approximately \$300 and will need to be replaced before road closing again this winter.

If anyone has any information on this, they are asked to call the Kanabec County Sheriff's office at 679-8400. The missing items could also be returned to the Ford Town Hall – no questions asked.

Burn permits available locally or online

Annual burn permits are available online for a \$5 fee. The address is www.dnr.mn.us/burning/permits.

in Ford from your local Fire Wardens: Bob & Alice Aanestad, 3356 Olympic Street; and Jim & Edna Cole, 2016 Highway 27.

Free three-day permits are available

Tall Buttercup weed prevalent in Ford

This year the Ford Town weed inspection was completed by Supervisor, Doug Bassett, and Kanabec County Environmental Services Director, Teresa Bearce, on June 4.

Once again Tall Buttercup was noted in a lot of hayfields and pasture lands.

Since this noxious weed regenerates from seed, landowners need to cut it down before the plant matures and goes to seed. Mowing it down early in fields and pastures is the best way to control Tall Buttercup.



Landowners who rent their hayland should make sure that the person cutting it has clean equipment to help prevent further spread of the Tall Buttercup seed.

Clip & Save!

Ford Township Meetings and Events!

- Tuesday, August 3 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Monday, August 9 Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, August 10..... Primary Election, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.**
- Saturday, August 14 Annual Get-Together, noon
- Tuesday, September 7 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 14 Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 5..... Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 12..... Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 2..... General Election, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.**
- Tuesday, November 9 Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 7 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, December 14 Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 4, 2011 Planning Commission Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, January 11, 2011 Town Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

All meetings are open to the public. Meeting cancellations or change of date and/or time will be posted at the Town Hall and at www.fordtownship.org. Town Board or Planning Commission members may be in attendance at the other group's meetings to assist in the process.

Grant monies available from the SRWMB

The Snake River Watershed Management Board (SRWMB) is a four county non-regulatory joint powers organization, which was established in May 1993 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 471.59. The board was created in response to increasing water problems and recreational and development pressures occurring in the Snake River Watershed.

A watershed is an area of land where water from rain and melting snow drains downhill into a body of water. Thus the Snake River Watershed is not just the Snake River but encompasses all the land, wetlands, lakes, streams and rivers that convey that water. The entire Township of Ford is included in the Snake River Watershed.

Incentives are in place for cost-share programs to protect the Watershed. Thanks to a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency grant, now in 2010 money is available for individuals, groups, Cities and

Townships. Most of these projects can be funded up to 75% of the total cost and many could have 90% covered.

If you have ideas for protecting the water in your yard, on your

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Ford Township is in the process of applying for an SRWMB grant to fund erosion control projects along the Snake River and Chelsey Brook bridges.

Another grant application is also being considered to repair the damage ATVs have created along the Snake River on Olympic at the bridge. This would include the installation of posts discouraging ATV entrance into the River.

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property, in your neighborhood, or for the Township, bring your

ideas to the Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District, 2008 Mahogany St. Mora, or contact Kelly Osterdyk, District Manager at 320 - 679-3982. He and his staff will help you develop your ideas and bring them to the Snake River Board.

Projects available are: Septic System Upgrading, Erosion Control for Roads, Rain Gardens, Buffer Areas to Open Water, Livestock Waste Management, Terraces/Divisions/Grassed Waterways, and Pasture Management. There also is a low interest loan program for resident homeowners with a failing septic system. For information on this and other Watershed Management Board questions, contact Teresa Bearce at the Environmental Services office at 320-679-6456 or by email at: teresa.bearce@co.kanabec.mn.us.

~ Information provided by Wayne Anderson, Planning Commission Member and SRWMB employee.

Still seeking items for Ford Town Hall

To better conduct township business, make meetings more comfortable for attendees, and have equipment for events, the Town Hall is in need of some items. They are a fireproof file cabinet, folding chairs, a large spigot water cooler, and large metal or heavy plastic serving spoons.

If you can help, please call Doug Bassett, Chair at 320-679-5780.

Annual Town Road Review Completed

The Town Board completed the annual review of all of the Town Roads on Saturday, May 29. Roads were found to be in good condition.

The gravel that was spread in 2009 really made a big improvement to the general condition of the roads.

The brushing project that had been planned but then postponed

because of budget constraints was finally completed in April of this year. This process opened the roads for safety issues and air movement.

Gravel scheduled for delivery on 330th, 340th and 360th Avenues was completed and spread in June.

The washout on Olympic Street will be addressed soon.

 **Ford Township**
P.O. Box 75
Mora, MN 55051

**Newsletter designed by
Van Hale Marketing
320.272.4501
apdvh@copper.net**

 *If you have a change of address, or if you would prefer not to receive this newsletter, please send an email to: fordtwp.clerk@northlc.com, or mail a copy of your mailing label (with corrections if needed) to Sarah Berry, P.O. Box 75, Mora, MN 55051.*

**Ford Township
Contact Information**

Chair: Doug Bassett
Planning Comm. Board Rep
Road Supervisor
(320) 679-5780
dcbassett@ncis.com

Vice Chair: Kim Johnson
(320) 679-0512
snakerivermn@yahoo.com

Supervisor: to be appointed

Clerk: Sarah Berry
(320) 679-4580
fordtwp.clerk@northlc.com

Treasurer: Edna Cole
Newsletter & Website
Coordinator
(320) 679-3137
fordtwp.treas@northlc.com

**6th Annual
Ford Township
Get-Together**

Saturday, August 14,
2010 at Noon

- Bring a dish to share.
- Beverages, plates and utensils provided
- Everyone welcome!
- Come for an afternoon of food, fun and conversation!



**Check out photographs of
the 2009 event online at:
www.fordtownship.org**

**REMEMBER To
VOTE!**

**- Primary Election -
August 10, 2010
*Note new date!***

**- General Election -
November 2, 2010**

*Four Ford Township
positions are to be
filled during this year's
General Election!
See page 3!*