

# Milton Township Update

February 2009

## Annual Meeting Agenda

March 10, 2009

Call to order  
 Pledge of allegiance  
 Election of moderator  
 Read minutes of last annual meeting  
 Reading of board of audit report  
 Road and bridge report  
 Submission and discussion of 2010 Budget  
 Motion to approve levy  
     general  
     fire  
     road and bridge  
 General discussion of items of concern  
 Statement of the result of canvass  
 Set location and time of 2010 annual meeting  
 Motion to adjourn or recess

## Township Election and Annual Meeting Coming Up March 10



Milton Township will hold its annual meeting on March 10 at the Milton Town Hall.

Voting for one township supervisor position and the township treasurer will be from 5-8 p.m. The meeting will begin at 8:15.

Only one candidate has filed for each position. They are profiled on page 3.

Town Board chair Ron Durst says he encourages residents to come to the annual meeting so they can keep up on what's going on in the township and vote, not only on officers, but also issues such as the township budget and levies.

## Dodge County Land Use Task Force Update

The Dodge County Land Use Task Force, an outgrowth of Milton's earlier task force, has been meeting since the fall of 2005 to study land use issues and make suggestions to the County Board of Commissioners. The group has tackled many issues, including septic system inspection and upgrade policies, ordinance enforcement, and feedlots.

**County-wide Tour** - April 5<sup>th</sup> the Task Force took a tour to view land use issues first hand. The tour included 10 stops: 2 rural subdivisions (Oaks at Hayfield & Oslo), McNeilus Wind Farm, rural manu-

facturing (Welsh Equipment), urban expansion at Claremont, feedlot biofilters, Stage Coach trail at Rice Lake State Park, karst geologic features – spring-fed fish farm & sinkhole in Milton), and county water quality monitoring station. Attendees gained valuable insight as to the similarities, differences and activities across Dodge County as land use issues are considered.

In 2008 the Task Force worked on 3 issues:

**Wind Towers** – The Task Force studied many issues relating to the 300 wind towers proposed in south and western Dodge County includ-

ing: county and state regulations, noise, generator interference and wind rights, retaining revenues locally, decommissioning, and impacts on roads, drainage tile, and farming practices. Recommendations regarding setbacks and other citing issues were made to the County Board. The ordinance is going to the board in February for adoption.

**Reciprocal Setbacks for Feedlots and Residences** – Minnesota state law requires that setbacks between feedlots and new residences be the same. Currently Dodge County ordinances have

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## Town Hall available to rent

The Milton Town Hall has become a favorite place for graduation open houses, having been used more than once already by a few township families. On the feedback form, one user said, "The building made the party awesome!"

The town hall is available for all township residents, community groups and others to rent for meetings, educational sessions, private functions, and other events. In addition to graduation parties, over the last two years, it has been used

*"The building made the party awesome!"*

for wedding receptions, a Bat Mitzvah, family gatherings, Christmas parties, 4-H meetings, and last fall, a morning break stop for the Pine Island Lions Antique Tractor Drive.

With lots of free parking, a kitchen equipped for catering, and space to accommodate about 150 people, the building is ideally suited for events like these.

And it's affordable! For township residents, the rental fee is \$25 for groups under 50 people, and \$50 for groups larger than 50. Renters are expected to clean the building before leaving. A \$100 damage deposit is also required of all renters to ensure that the building is left in good shape.

Check out the Milton Township website—[www.milton-township.com](http://www.milton-township.com) and click on Hall Rental for the full rental agreement, rental application, and fees. Madge Alberts is the contact person for renting the building. Call her at 356



*Antique tractors filled the town hall parking lot as the Pine Island Lion's Antique Tractor Drive stopped there*

## Titus Retires As Treasurer

Gary Titus has been a familiar face at town board meetings for 17 years.

After living in New Haven Township in Olmsted County for 15 years, Gary, his wife Karel and their family bought the Robert Glamm farm and moved to Milton Township with their Angus beef operation in 1992. Gary had served as treasurer of the New Haven Town Board for about six



tion and that

years. Continuing his interest in public service, Gary said yes when asked to fill an open position as Milton Township treasurer, he been re-elected continuously ever since. But he has decided 2009 is the time to hand the reins over to someone else.

In addition to serving as treasurer and changing the bookkeeping from hand-written ledgers to computer records, Gary was the driving force in establishing Milton Township's website, installing the speaker system in the new town hall, and recording township meetings so they could be available on-line. He has also served many years as an election judge.

Gary retired from IBM in 1992, and he and Karel have been involved in raising registered angus cattle since 1978. They sold the last of the herd in the Fall 2008. Gary is also

a dealer for Ritchie Livestock fountains and cattle handling equipment, has driven school bus for the Pine Island School District since 1993, and has worked part time developing and maintaining websites for the last several years.

*"I have enjoyed serving the township and would encourage others to get involved in grass roots politics."*

—Gary Titus

Gary and Karel have four sons: Kevin is retired from the U.S. Air Force and currently works civil service for the Air Force in Alaska; Joel lives in Rochester and works for Farm Country Coop in Plainview; Matthew lives

in Bloomington and works at the Target headquarters; Paul lives in Milton township and works for Midwest Fabrication in Zumbrota.

Gary will help get the new treasurer on board, and will continue to serve on committees when asked.



***Thanks, Gary, for your many years of service to Milton Township!***

## Candidate Profiles

### Supervisor—Ron Durst

Ron Durst has lifelong experience with Milton Township. Although he worked in grain merchandising for a number of years as an Operation's Manager for Pillsbury, his parents, Victor and Hylah Durst, ran the dairy farm that is now Durst Brothers Dairy. In 1978, Ron and his two brothers, Ken and Allen formed the Durst Bros. partnership and they have continued to grow the farm to its current 1600 cows. Ron's wife Marsha is actively involved in the farm as well.

Ron was first elected to the town board in 2006 and has served as chair for two years. He enjoys serving on the board and getting to know and talk to township residents. He likes getting people together to get a better understanding of what they are thinking, and to listen to one another. He'd like to see more people involved in township meetings.

He brings a lot of expertise to the issues the township is dealing with currently—such as land use issues and road and bridge funding. He served on Milton's Land Use Task force before he was elected to the board, and serves on the County Land Use Task Force now. He said the task force has been an interesting experience—with lots of diversity of people and ideas.

One concern Ron expressed is how to continue to fund road and bridge improvements. They get on the county plan, but then get backed up so they don't get done. He noted that there is potential for Milton to received some money from the federal economic stimulus plan, if it passes.

Ron has two children: a daughter, Elizabeth Kueper, who is an electrical engineer at IBM (and her husband Matt is a mechanical engineer, also at IBM), and a son Jon, who is studying industrial engineering at Iowa State.



### Treasurer—Karel Titus

Does this face look familiar? Like her husband Gary, Karel Titus has been an active participant in Milton Township for many years. Now, Karel has decided to file for the position of Milton Township treasurer being vacated by Gary. She finds township government interesting and would like to give her time to the township in this way.

Karel has plenty of experience in handling finances and bookwork. For the past 20 years she has been the financial administrator at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Pine Island, where she manages all expenses and income for the church. Using computer software, Karel writes checks, balances accounts, tracks investments, and prepares payroll, including quarterly withholding statements and year-end IRS reports. She prepares monthly and year-end reports for the church council. For the last year, she has also been treasurer for the Minnesota State Cattlemen's Association.

When asked what she thought the outlook was for township finances given the current economic situation, Karel said she thinks the effect is unknown at this time. The townships could receive less income from the state, but expenses will increase

*"I think we are in an unknown economic time."*  
—Karel Titus

with the need to repair and maintain quality roads for the residents of the township. As our township grows in population, expenses will increase to serve the needs of residents.

Karel served on the building committee for the new town hall, and also helped prepare the rental policy. She has also been trained as an election judge.

Detail on Karel's family business and children can be found in the article on Gary's retirement on p. 2.

### SAMPLE BALLOT

#### TOWN ELECTION BALLOT TOWN OF MILTON GENERAL ELECTION MARCH 10, 2008

 Put an (X) in the square opposite the name of each candidate you wish to vote for.

#### TOWN SUPERVISOR VOTE FOR ONE

	Candidate: Ron Durst
	Write-in, if any:

#### TOWN TREASURER VOTE FOR ONE

	Candidate: Karel Titus
	Write-in, if any:

## Wytttenbach appointed to Dodge County Planning and Zoning Commission

Walt Wytttenbach has been appointed to the Dodge County Planning and Zoning Commission by the Dodge County Board of Commissioners as of January, 2009.

Commissioner Don Gray, who represents Milton Township, asked the Milton Town Board for recommendations for a Milton Township representative on the commission. The names of Walt Wytttenbach and Ken Olson were submitted to the county, and they appointed Wytttenbach.



### Dodge County Land Use Task Force Update, continued from p. 1

varying distances depending on feedlot size but all new residences are required to be ¼ mile from a feedlot. The Task Force agreed and recommended to the County Board that our ordinances should be changed to have reciprocal setbacks to be in compliance with state statute.

The discussion regarding the distinction of setback requirements for “farm” and “non-farm” dwellings from feedlots resulted in a general feeling that existing farm dwellings on the farmstead should not be subject to a reciprocal setback, nor should replacements of such structures, but additional second residences might be subjected to them because of the possibility of being sold to non-farm residents. No recommendation was made.

**Feedlot Setback Distances** - Discussions of the actual feedlot/residence setback distances focused on four options: 1) tiered distances based on size of feedlot (i.e. numbers of animal units) with 2 or 3 tiers, 2) equal distances for all sized feedlots, and 3) a site-specific determination using “odor rose” modeling. Some members thought the County should set low minimum setback distances and let townships vote to enact stricter distances. Because the Task Force was split on this issue, the options considered were shared with the County Board but no recommendations were made. Some members want equal or larger setback distances while others would reduce the distances in some

cases. This is an issue for interested residents to keep an eye on.

**2009 - Multiple Ag/Rural Districts** – The Task Force is now looking into options relating to establishing more than one “agricultural district” covering the entire county. The current Dodge County Comprehensive Land Use Plan suggests this concept. Many surrounding counties have more than one rural/ag district. This concept allows for variations in rules between districts.

If you have ideas or feelings on any of these or other issues regarding land use, be sure to share them with Ron Durst (635-5602) or Ken Olson (356-8686), Milton’s representatives on the Task Force.

**Milton Township**  
P.O. Box 26  
Pine Island MN 55963

**PRSR STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
ROCHESTER, MN  
STD BULK MAIL-  
PERMIT NO. 12**

**Supervisors:**  
Allan Clark, M.D.  
Ron Durst (Chair)  
Walt Wytttenbach

**Clerk:**  
David Kennedy

**Treasurer:**  
Gary Titus

**Milton Township annual meeting and vote on March 10. Voting 5-8 p.m. Meeting 8:15 p.m.**