

# Milton Township Update

[www.milton-township.com](http://www.milton-township.com)

*Fall 2005*

## **Milton Township on the Web!**

Now you can go “on line” and get Milton Township information. It is a way to:

- Request information
- Find a list of officials and phone numbers
- Obtain meeting agendas, board meeting minutes and hall rental information
- Link to county and state web sites
- Learn about the citizen task force
- Access the Township newsletter

Thanks to Gary Titus, township treasurer, for creating and maintaining the site!

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## **10 Days Notice for Board Agenda**

At the September Board meeting, the Board passed the following resolution:

*“Be it resolved that any person/persons/ organization wanting to appear before the Milton Township Board must contact the clerk of Milton Township to have their name/names placed on the agenda along with the purpose for their appearance, no later than 10 days prior to the next scheduled regular meeting.”*

Regular meetings are the first Tuesday of each month at 8 p.m.

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## **Changes in the Conditional Use Permit Process**

Article provided by Dodge County Planning and Zoning

Recently there have been some changes made to how the Planning Office processes requests for Conditional Use Permits.

The old way was to have the applicant obtain the Township’s signature on the application prior to submitting it to the Planning Office. The intent

of the signature was to ensure and document that the Township officers were notified of the request/activity in their township and to solicit comments that may affect the outcome of the request based on the guidelines of the zoning ordinance. A concern with this process was the Township was not always informed of the same information the Planning Office or Planning Commission received or if the plans were altered the Township was not always informed. Unless the Township had its own ordinance the signature was treated as a recommendation, not an authorization.

The new process eliminates the need for the applicant to approach the Township prior to submitting the application. Once the application is received a staff report is developed. This is sent to the Township, SWCD Office and the County Highway Engineer along with a request for comments. The applicant also receives a copy and is encouraged to attend the Township meeting so they are available to answer questions. The Planning Commission holds the public hearing and public input is accepted during the public hearing portion of the meeting. The Planning Commission’s recommendation for approval or denial is forwarded to the County Commissioners for final approval. Public comment is typically not accepted at the County Board meeting. Once the Commissioners have approved a Conditional Use Permit the applicant is free to proceed with other necessary permits such as a Zoning Permit, etc. Approval of a Conditional Use Permit does not guarantee the applicant can meet all the requirements necessary for other permits they may need.

A Conditional Use Permit is approval for a land use request. A Zoning Permit is similar to a Building Permit. A Zoning Permit is necessary before placing a structure on a parcel.

# History of Milton Township

By Ron Durst

Milton Township was settled in May of 1854, and organized as a township on May 20, 1858. It had been successively called Watkins, Buchanan, and Berne. Georgia has a Milton County, and 30 other states have townships, villages, and cities of that name, honoring the grand poet and patriot of England, John Milton. His most famous work was "Paradise Lost".

The first white settlers arrived in the township in 1854. They found the Indians had hunting and camping grounds in the southeastern part of the township. Among those who arrived here in 1854, were Nicholas Grems and his son Enos, Hiram Gilbert, Wiles Harvey, Gates Irish, Levi Barnum, David J. Moreland, John and Thomas Livengood, Jacob Hostetter, Eli Brandt, and Hezekiah Perkins. Most of these located permanently and brought their families with them. In 1855 many other immigrants came to settle in Milton.

The first log cabin was built in April, 1854, by Gates Irish, on section 21. Looking at the plats of the township from that time, I think this would be the Floyd Foote farm today. In the fall of 1854, with no minister or justice in the township, Gates Irish and a Mrs. Brown of Rochester, declared themselves man and wife. This was probably the first form of marriage in the township. The first marriage by law was that of Hiram E. Gilbert to Martha C. Watkins, October 21, 1855.

During the first autumn and winter a portion of the early settlers were stricken with smallpox transmitted by the Indians. A number of people died from the disease. The first to succumb was Michael Brandt and two or three others in his family soon followed.

Milton Township was known as the "wood-producing" township of Dodge County. Early saw mills were built in 1854 and a saw and grist mill was built later in 1856. Prior to this the settlers went to Dubuque, Iowa, to obtain lumber.

The township was also the "cheese producing" township of the county. Many farmers made cheese from their own cows' milk. Some of them had as many as 30 or 40 animals. A Mr. Andrest manufactured cheese at Berne in the early days. In 1884 a factory was built at Knoble's corner with a capacity of 3 blocks per day. In visiting with some

of the senior citizens, they remember 8 cheese factories operating in Milton Township. Through the years they closed one by one. The last one to close was the Milton Cheese Factory where Rosie and Lynn Boynton now live. I remember going there as a young boy and getting curds from Maurice Lally's cheese vat. He operated the factory for many years. In those days the cheese factory was the place where you could get the latest news of the area.

A log school house was built by a few of the settlers in the spring of 1856, in section 30. One of the first schools in Milton was taught by Miss Henrietta Severn. Other teachers that are mentioned are Amanda Mantor and Frances Kennedy.

The township was settled faster than any other township in the county, except Mantorville Township. In 1860 it had a population of 600 persons. In 1870 it grew to 912. By 1880, 957 lived in her borders.

The area of land in Milton Township is 22,827 acres and was valued at \$121,295 according to the assessment of 1868. This would place the value at \$5.31/acre. The personal property was valued at \$41,480.

There have been many changes since Gates Irish built that first log cabin in 1854. In 3 years the township will be 150 years old. Maybe a Milton Township celebration would be appropriate.

**Information for this article was taken from various books featuring Milton Township and citizens of the township.**

## **Land Uses:** (Provided by Dodge County)

<b>Milton</b> – Cultivated land	71.4 %
Farmstead/Residences	2.4 %
Grass & Shrub	15.4 %
Rural Developments	.2 %
Water & Wetlands	.1 %

## **Dodge County Townships – Cultivated Land**

Ashland	92 %	Canisteo	86 %
Claremont	86 %	Concord	85 %
Ellington	95 %	Hayfield	92 %
Mantorville	73 %	<b>Milton</b>	<b>71.4 %</b>
Ripley	96 %	Vernon	85 %
Wasioja	80 %	Westfield	91 %



## Milton Task Force Update

By Ken Olson

Over the past several months the Task Force has worked on several projects:

**Town Board Meetings:** The task force made several recommendations to the Town Board to improve Town Board meetings. Most of these have already been implemented:

- Make use of the microphones and arrange the Board meeting area so people attending Board meetings can hear the presentations, proposals and information being presented.
- Develop and make meeting agendas available to Board members, residents and meeting attendees prior to meetings (see web page and resolution elsewhere in the newsletter).
- Maintain a file of permit applications presented and acted upon by the Board.

**Check List for Permit Applications:** The task force is preparing a list of information that the Town Board may want to know when considering regular and conditional use permit applications for new homes, remodeling or additions to homes, outbuildings (residences, hobby farms and farms) and feedlots. This is intended to help the Board make informed decisions and help residents understand the applicant's proposal and request.

**Township Vision Survey:** The primary focus of the task force is on land use issues. Having a vision of where the township is headed and what the residents want the township to be in the future is pivotal to making land use policies and decisions. Whether land use policies for Milton Township are set by the Township or the County, it is important to have a vision for the future.

In this newsletter, the task force is inviting all residents to offer their ideas of what you would like Milton Township to look like in the future and offer suggestions as to the policies residents think should be in place to attain that future. The summary of this vision survey will be shared with the Town Board and Dodge County. Please take a

few minutes to answer the questions and send them to the task force.

**Two Milton Residents on Dodge County Land Use Task Force:** Following the Dodge County Land Use Conference in Feb '05, the Dodge County Board established a county-wide task force to study land use issues and future policies. Thirty people applied for the task force, including many from Milton Township. Ron Durst and Ken Olson have been appointed along with 12 others from across the county. Ron and Ken welcome ideas and concerns you would like considered over the next year by the task force.

**Talk to us -** Task Force members are always interested in hearing your ideas and views on any of these or other topics.

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## Town Hall Available For Rental

The new Milton Town Hall is available for rental for gatherings such as family reunions or parties, educational events, business sponsored events, and meetings of various kinds.

The Town Hall features:

- Climate control and handicap access
- Seating space for up to 150 people at tables. Currently the building is equipped with tables and chairs to seat about 80 people. Renters are welcome to bring in additional tables and chairs.
- Serving kitchen, equipped with refrigerator and microwave. The kitchen is not equipped to prepare food; only to serve it. It is suitable for caterers to bring in food. Plates and eating utensils need to be provided.
- Large parking lot with free parking.
- Sound system that can be used if needed.
- White walls suitable for projection.

Building users will be expected to return the building to the same condition they found it.

For the complete rental policy, rental rates, and application, visit Milton Township's website.

We welcome your comments on the rental policy and rates. Please direct your comments or questions to the "contact us" section of the website, or call or e-mail the rental contact person, Madge Alberts at 356-8625 or [dmalbert@pitel.net](mailto:dmalbert@pitel.net).

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**Milton Township**  
**PO Box 26**  
**Pine Island, MN 55963**

**Newsletter Contents:**

- Milton Web Site
- 10 Day Notice for Board Agenda
- Changes in Conditional Use Permit Process
- History of Milton Township
- Land Use Statistics
- Township Task Force Update
- Town Hall Rental
- \*\*\*Milton Township Vision Survey \*\*\*

**Milton Township Calendar:**

October 4 – 8 pm – Monthly Town Board Meeting  
November 1 – 8 pm – Monthly Board Meeting  
Regular Town Board Meetings –  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of Each month

**Township Officers:**

Supervisors –

Dr. Allan Clark, MD

Walt Wyttenbach (Chair)

Caryl McLaughlin

Clerk – Bill Sanborn

Treasurer – Gary Titus

Deputy Treasurer – Jody Titus

**Citizen Task Force Members:**

Madge Alberts

Ron Durst

Dan French

David Kennedy

Ken Olson

Angela Organ

## **Milton Township “Vision” Survey**

One of the goals of the Milton Township Task Force is to think about how our township will grow and change in the future. Whether planning and zoning is done at the county or township level, it is important the governing body knows how the residents and landowners want their community to evolve.

Below we ask you to weigh in on your hopes for the future of Milton Township so that we might use your input when developing this vision. The Task Force will summarize the responses and share the information with you in a future newsletter and with township officials.

***Question # 1:* What would you like to see Milton Township look like in 20 years?  
(housing density, commercial farms, hobby farms, large and small  
acres, rural residences, recreational uses, etc.)**

***Question # 2:* What public policy do you think would need to be implemented, if  
any, to make your vision a reality?**

***Additional Comments:* (Use the back side for more space)**

**Please sign below if we have your permission to publish your responses or comments.**

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**Signature**

**Please return surveys by Friday, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 to:  
Milton Township Task Force  
Ken Olson  
24614 530<sup>th</sup> St.  
Pine Island, MN 55963**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE!**