

Milton Township Update

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Winter/Spring 2006



Old Town Hall Goes Up For Bids

At the February 7 Town Board meeting, supervisors voted to put the old Milton Town Hall up for bids to be sold as is to the highest bidder. Bidding will be for the building and contents only (not the land), and the buyer must remove the building, and the contents, from the current site by July 1, 2006.

Bids must be in the hands of Township Clerk Bill Sanborn no later than March 8, 2006. The bids will be opened at the March 9 Town Board meeting (note that the March meeting is on Thursday, due to conflict with precinct caucuses on Tuesday).

If potential bidders wish to inspect the building, contact Bill Sanborn at 356-8596.

Township Election & Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 14, 2006

Milton Town Hall

Election – Polls open 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

1 Supervisor – 3 year term

1 Clerk – 2 year term

Annual Meeting – Immediately after the voting is completed

Election Judges Must Now Be Registered With Their Political Party

A statute that has been in place for a long time but not widely enforced will now apply to the process of selecting election judges.

Potential election judges must officially register with the political party of their choice, either by attending the precinct caucus and signing up or by calling the local representative of their party to request that they be put on the list of potential judges. Each party will compile a list of potential judges, and send it to county auditors, township clerks, and others responsible for securing election judges. Persons can also be added by contacting county auditors after July. Judges must be selected from these lists. For any election, judges must represent a balance of the major political parties.

CURRENT election judges must do this as well. All of those who have served as election judges for federal, state or local elections in the past must now register with their party in order to be eligible to continue.

Since Milton Township will have a new clerk, and precinct caucuses occur March 7th BEFORE the annual meeting, it is important for potential election judges to register now so the new clerk will have an adequate pool of eligible judges. Before serving, judges must also attend a training conducted by the county.

Check your address. Is it correct?

Please send any corrections or changes to Madge Alberts, who is managing the list until the new township clerk is elected. Her mailing address is: 54059 265th Ave., Pine Island, 55963 or they can be e-mailed to her at dmalbert@pitel.net.

If you know a resident who did not get a newsletter, please send their name & address to Madge as well.

Milton Task Force Update

Looking ahead to the future is important and an ongoing process. The fall 2005 Milton newsletter included a "Vision Survey" with 3 open ended questions. Eleven (11) people completed the survey. The summary of those responses follows. If the summary stirs thoughts in your mind relative to the future of Milton Township, be sure to share them with a task force or town board member.

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

Summary of Milton Township "Vision" Survey

The survey explained that "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."

Residents were asked "to weigh in on your hopes for the future of Milton Township so that we might use your input when developing this vision".

Here are the results:

Question # 1 -What would you like to see Milton Township look like in 20 years?

Overwhelmingly respondents indicated a desire to keep Milton Township "rural". Two major factors – 1) close proximity to Rochester and the Twin Cities, and 2) the hilly topography and karst characteristics of the area, lead many respondents to define "rural" as meaning Milton is a good place for small acreages, rural residences, recreation, hobby farms, and 'regular' family farms with limited large commercial farms. Preservation of open spaces and natural resources (water, soil and air) were important to everyone. The right of current farmers to expand their operations was also important.

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

Most respondents felt that the location, natural features and current population density make Milton Township unique as compared to much of the rest of

Dodge County and that this warrants policies appropriate to the area.

Policies might include the restriction of dense housing developments, property sizes of 5 to 40 or more acres, limiting the size and location of large commercial agriculture (livestock facilities in particular), and to encourage protection and preservation of natural resources and quality of life.

Additional Comments offered:

- Respondents were happy with the "way it is now" and pleased with the way the township has been run. They were pleased that the township offered the opportunity to respond to this survey. They were pleased with the diversity of the township task force.
- Respondents also recognized that growth and change are inevitable and would like to see "far-sighted planning" and appropriate zoning rules enacted sooner rather than later to manage the growth and change consistent with the desired "rural" character they described.



Celebrate Bill Sanborn's Retirement

Bill Sanborn will retire as Milton Township Clerk after 30 years of dedicated service.

**Please join the Town Board
immediately following the March 14th
Annual Meeting for a reception in
Bill's honor.**

Candidates for Township Supervisor

Caryl McLaughlin

Caryl McLaughlin, a life-long resident and farmer in Milton Township, will celebrate his 70th birthday in March. He was married 2 ½ years ago. He was a “small farmer by today’s farming” standards - milking cows and raising hogs.



Caryl is interested in continuing after 24 years as Township Supervisor “to have a voice in what happens in the township with roads, ditches, and money, to get all we can for the dollar.”

He feels money is the most important issue facing the township. “Without raising taxes too much, we get less money back from the government”. He points out how rock costs more as do bridges. Caryl wants citizens to know that Milton Township belongs to the Dodge County Officers Association which meets with County departments to learn what is going on in the county and state.

Caryl feels he has “made many things better – roads and bridges” as well as building a new debt-free town hall. He wants residents to know “I have been on the town board a long time, and I think they (board) have handled all situations favorably.”

Kerry Glarner

Kerry Glarner is a life-long resident born on his family’s four generation farm in Milton Township. He and his wife of 44 years, Bonnie, were dairy farmers for over 50 years. Kerry is currently a delivery driver for Equipment Services for Mayo Clinic.



Kerry would like to be a township supervisor because “I would like to take an active role in helping institute some positive changes in our township. I have experience at the county level serving the public’s needs and am eager to continue my service in Milton Township.”

Kerry feels the two most important issues facing the township are protecting our unique environment and preserving air, water and soil quality.

Kerry served on the Dodge County Planning and Zoning Board for 18 years and on the County Advisory Board for 6 more years. He feels he has seen the pros and cons of township and county government and recognizes the importance of township rights and responsibilities.

He wants everyone to know that “I live in the township and have been a dairy farmer and understand the challenges facing farmers and rural residents. I am willing to talk openly with anyone to find solutions to the challenges we face in ensuring our quality of life.”

Candidates for Township Clerk

Theresa Benda

Theresa Benda, born and raised in Milton Township, has lived in Chicago, Omaha and St Paul before she and her husband, Tom, returned to Theresa’s homestead in Milton Township. Her life experiences helped her realize the “irreplaceable area and the exceptional people who live in this neighborhood.



Theresa is interested in becoming township clerk because she knows the importance of

insuring meetings are run fairly, openly and honestly. “Meeting agendas, minutes and all permits should be easily accessible to everyone. It is extremely important that everyone’s voice be heard.”

She believes the most important issues facing the township are “the vulnerability of its karst topography to many factors associated with certain types of expansion.”

Theresa assures residents that with her work experience and education in marketing and psychology, if elected she will provide accurate information and clear communication to supervisors and residents on all issues. “I am a market research professional capable of using computer based technology to provide accurate information to the township.” She would be grateful to be of service to her township neighbors.

David Kennedy

David Kennedy, with wife, Linda, has lived in Milton Township 39 years. He retired as a Pine Island High School industrial arts teacher after 34 years and lives on an 80 acre farm east of the town hall.



David is interested in running for the township clerk because “I want to see Milton Township stay abreast of all of the changes that are occurring in rural southern Minnesota.”

Important issues to him include maintaining a “good rural lifestyle for all of the residents, planning for the probable influx of people moving to the country, recognizing that agriculture is the main industry in Milton, and recognizing that Milton has about 650 residents who all deserve good representation, good roads, and clean air and water.

Dave wants residents to know he has attended township meetings, served on the Township Task Force, and helped formulate the County Land Use Task Force. “This experience allowed me to look at our problems from many viewpoints and see how other communities are dealing with situations similar to ours.” He stresses that education, communication and planning are essential to township government.

Milton Township
PO Box 26
Pine Island, MN 55963

Newsletter Contents:

- Old Town Hall Up for Bids
- Election Judge Registration
- Township Election & Annual Meeting
- Milton Task Force Update
- Vision Survey Results
- Township Clerk Retiring
- Candidates for Supervisor & Clerk

Milton Township Calendar:

March 7 – Precinct Caucuses
March 9** - 8 p.m. - Monthly Town Board Meeting
*****Note the date change*****
March 14 – Township Election 5 – 8 p.m.
March 14 – Township Annual Meeting –
Immediately following the election (8 p.m.)
Regular Town Board Meetings – 8 p.m.
1st 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