

# 2012 BROCKWAY TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

Township Election: **March 13, 2012**; 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Annual Meeting: **March 13, 2012**; 8:30 p.m. or as soon as possible thereafter

**ADDRESS OF TOWN HALL:** 43710 85<sup>th</sup> Ave. No., Rice, MN 56267; 320-393-3770

Regular monthly meetings of the town board are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.	Planning Commission meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month.
The Town hall is available for rent. Please contact the Township Clerk at the phone number listed above.	Construction Site Permits must be signed by Steve Vouk 654-0850
Please note that only mail that has been sent through the US Postal Service may be placed in the Township's outside mailbox receptacle. This includes any invoices, claims and election ballots.	Website: www.brockwaytownship.govoffice.com Email: brockwaytownship@clearwire.net

## Board Notes and Comments

Some resignations happened in these past months. They were Ms. Pat Weber, Deputy Clerk and Supervisor Dan Stang. Ms. Deb Determan will also be leaving March 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you for your time of service to the Township.

In order to be more cost efficient, the Brockway Township Board of Supervisors has amended the *Ordinance Creating the Planning Commission* to reduce the Planning Commission from a five [5] member Commission to a **three [3] member** Commission. The Board has also changed the Planning Commission requirement in the Ordinance to read that **residents** and not landowners will be eligible to apply for the positions. See below for Notice.

## Public Notice

The Brockway Township Board of Supervisors is calling for applications to fill the **positions** of the Brockway Township Planning Commission. Please submit your interest in writing on or before March 15, 2012, to the office of the Town Clerk, 43710 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Rice, MN 56367. The Township Board of Supervisors will consider all applications and appoint the new Planning Commissioners on April 5, 2012, who will begin their positions immediately after appointment. All residents are encouraged to apply. Thank you for your interest.

*By order of the Brockway Township Board of Supervisors, Debra Determan, Clerk*

## Mulberry Meadows Status

Many of the residents of Brockway Township have seen the recent newspaper articles and attended meetings in which the issue of wastewater for the Mulberry Meadows Subdivision has been discussed. The Board wishes to clarify some of the misinformation that has been circulating. The Township has created, but not implemented, a Subordinate Service District with conditions that the private Developer would need to meet before the Township will take over and maintain the central wastewater treatment system. The Township presently manages the Opole Subordinate Service District wastewater facility. The expended costs to date will be the responsibility of **only** the landowners in the Subordinate Service District and those can be spread over a minimum of ten years to be paid back. There can be no movement forward on this (and the Board is doing nothing right now) until the MPCA and Stearns County who have pending issues with the Developer are resolved. To date, it is estimated that the Township has incurred, over the past two plus years, approximately \$29,000 in costs against the project.

<b>Road Right-of-Way:</b> The Township does not allow landscape rocks in the road right-of-way. This includes rocks in and around culverts. Please contact the Zoning Administrator for specifications. <b>911 Signs:</b> It is the residents' responsibility to	<b>Snow and Ice on Township Roads.</b> It is illegal to deposit snow or ice onto public road right-of-ways. To do so is a misdemeanor under Minnesota Statutes Section 160.2715. Under the same statute, it is also illegal to plow, till, plant or perform any other detrimental
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notify the township if their 911 sign has been damaged or stolen. The township will order and install the sign but the cost is borne by the landowner.

operation within the road right-of-way except in the preparation of the land for planting permanent vegetative cover.

### **Brockway Planning Commission 2011 Year End Report**

The Brockway Planning Commission has been working on a number of details this year. In the spring of this year, we welcomed two Planning Commissioners to the group. Mr. Steve Vouk returned to his position and Mr. Larry Christman was appointed to replace Mr. Pat Smoley who remains as the Township's Road Boss. Thank you to Mr. Smoley and Mr. Vouk for their prior efforts on behalf of the community and welcome to Mr. Christman. The main goals of this year will be to finalize the Ordinance and work documents with Stearns County. Under Minnesota Statutes, the Township has the ability to do their own Planning & Zoning so long as they are as restrictive or more than the County. This has been a subject of debate in the past months; however, the Township has been able to negotiate better and more Township friendly language for their Ordinance. Stearns County has requested that this work be completed this spring with all Townships.

During this year, the following things have been going on:

1. The Planning Commission reviewed the following:
  - a. Five Administrative Subdivisions – Land Splits
  - b. Three Preliminary Plats
  - c. Four Land Use Rezoning Requests
  - d. One Land Use Variance
  - e. Conducted site visits for the above.
  - f. Made recommendations to the Town Board regarding different land issues.
2. Stearns County issued the following in Brockway Township between March & November 2011:
  - a. One Variance
  - b. Three Preliminary Plats
  - c. Four Land Use Re-zonings
  - d. Thirty-seven Miscellaneous Permits of which were six new homes
  - e. There were twenty-nine Certificates of Real Estate Values issued.

*Total Approximate Amount of Value to the Township: Approximately \$5,054,550.00.*

*Total Planning Commission Costs: \$5896.15*

For more information on any of the above, feel free to contact the Offices at 1.320.393.3770 Town Hall office number, or e-mail at [brockwaytownship@clearwire.net](mailto:brockwaytownship@clearwire.net).

### **Road & Bridge – Road Projects, Repairs and the New Federal Sign Mandates**

As this newsletter goes out the Town Board is determining the Road and Bridge budget for 2013 and deciding how to manage the funds coming in for 2012. Approximately 14 miles of crack filling will take place this year along with replacing damaged signage. With the dry fall and mild winter, it is hoped that we do not have too much damage that would take money away from the planned road work. The Board is identifying possible road projects to be done this summer and will be discussing this in the next months. In addition, the Federal government has created a new federal unfunded mandate dealing with signs and their replacement. The Board has been working on this for the past months and there will be added costs. Currently, the Board has a Sign Policy in place and is in the process of reviewing and adopting a sign removal policy shortly. Stay tuned.

On behalf of the Brockway Township Board of Supervisors we would like to thank all of the residents for attending this past year's meeting and the Board would like to encourage you to continue to contact the Board of any issues or concerns that you have.

Mailboxes need to be installed according to U.S. Postal Service Regulations or our snow plow operator is not responsible if it gets damaged. A link for the United States Postal Services Residential Mailbox Standards is: <http://www.usps.com/receive/mailboxstandards.htm>