

# Carlos Township Newsletter - March 2012

## Board Members

Dwayne Waldorf, Chairman  
852-7827

Ted Steidl, Supervisor  
852-7714

Rod Meyers, Supervisor  
852-7563

Rebecca Anderson, Clerk  
846-0373

Dean Yohnke, Treasurer  
852-7702

Website: [www.carlostownship.org](http://www.carlostownship.org)

## Meeting Dates

The Carlos Town Board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, except for November and December, when it meets only on the second Thursday of the month.

The meetings are held at the Carlos Elementary School and begin at 7:00 pm. The public is encouraged to attend.



## Animal Ordinance 2011-1A

The Board has adopted an Animal Ordinance. Please check out the Ordinance on the township's website under the Policy/Resolutions tab.

## Be Sure To Get Out and Vote

**Tuesday, March 13th Polls Open from 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM**

**Annual Meeting to Follow at 8:00PM**

## **Township Election and Annual Meeting March 13, 2012**

**Get ready to participate.** Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> is the Township Election and Annual Meeting for Carlos Township. Both will be held at the Carlos Town Hall, located in the City of Carlos. The Town Hall is located directly behind Herby's.

Up for election this year is one 3-year supervisor term, and a 2-year clerk term. Bill Krivanek has filed for the 3-year supervisor position and Rebecca Anderson has re-filed for the 2-year clerk position.

Township government plays an integral role in maintaining our quality of life. If you are unfamiliar on what your Township does for you, we urge you to take part in the Annual Meeting and see grass roots government in action. Your presence does make a difference as residents attending the Annual meeting vote on the budget for the year 2013.

## **Road Progress**

**Sandhill Lane/Terrace:** The paving project was completed. This is a wonderful improvement for our township.

**Buckskin Road West:** This road had severe frost boils and the board needed to wait on reconstructing this part of the road until the water level receded. This was completed in October.

**East Lake Carlos Lane:** This road received a tar overlay as it was badly broken up.

**Farming next to Township Roads:** The board has received complaints that some residents are farming crops directly next to the edge of the road. Please keep in mind that this area is township ROW and there should not be any farming – planting of crops in the right of way.

**Road Maintenance/Snow Removal:** All work orders need to be directed from the board. If any resident has a concern or question regarding road maintenance, please contact a board member and they will then contact the road maintainer.

**Carlos Township Annual Meeting**  
**AGENDA**  
**March 13, 2012 - 8:00 PM**

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance**

**Select Moderator**

**Minutes:** Approve Minutes of 2011 Annual Meeting

**Guests and Presentations:** (Funding to be voted as presented on or after hearing levy recommendation).

- 1) Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission
- 2) Lakes Area Recreation
- 3) Alexandria Fire Department
- 4) Carlos Fire Department
- 5) Carlos First Responders

**Old Business:**

- 1) Treasurer's/Clerk's Financial Report for 2011
- 2) Comparison Spending Report

**New Business:**

- 1) Property Tax Levy for 2013
  - a. Set Amount for the General Fund
  - b. Set Amount for the Road and Bridge Fund
  - c. Other Services and Funding as Desired
- 2) Specify Depository for Township Funds
- 3) Specify Locations for Posting Notices
- 4) Specify Newspaper for Publication of Notices
- 5) Set Time and Place for Next Annual Township Election
- 6) Set Time and Place for Next Annual Township Meeting
- 7) Discuss Application of Calcium Chloride
- 8) Set Gopher Bounty

**Un-Official Election Results Declared**

**Other Business:**

- 1) Road Maintenance
- 2) Dog Problems
- 3) Spraying for Weeds
- 4) From the Floor
- 5) Comment Box

**Adjourn**

**Board of Canvass to Meet and Declare Official Election Results**

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## 2011 in Review – Douglas County

The County Board accepted the Transportation Plan for the County

Named Karen Simmons Douglas County Library Director

Accepted the Highway Study done in cooperation with the City of Alexandria

Approved three grant Application for improving Brophy, Curt Felt and Runestone Parks

Were informed that 30,000 home delivered meals had to be cut from our Region

Accepted the report of County Health Rankings – excellent

Liberty Livewires 4H Club received and Association of Minnesota Counties Community Leadership Award

Adopted a Resolution to control/eradicate zebra mussels, as asked by the Douglas County Lakes Ass'n

Bids accepted for a new boiler for the old courthouse

Voted for a Resolution on the MAGIC Act, to send to the Legislature, allowing Counties more leeway in conducting business – to speed up results in operations, saving time & money.

Jerry Wright was selected to replace Dave Nelson on the Solid Waste Board

Conducted the Board of Equalization Hearing

Voted to make Douglas County courthouse, grounds and all county buildings and parks entirely "tobacco free"

Given permission to apply for grants for sirens for South Lake Miltona, County Road 7 and the City of Carlos

Agreed to the bid letting for the Le Homme Dieu Bike Trail

Approved the acceptance of a Feedlot Grant

Accepted the carpentry bid for the Services Center to Jerome Getz

Plaque for Beyond the Yellow Ribbon – honoring our soldiers was placed under the oak tree on the Court House front lawn. The plaque and tree were donated.

Discussion on whether or not to have a Private Audit in lieu of the State doing it.

Bonnie Huettl, Douglas County Lakes Ass'n, stated they are working on getting a \$300,000 grant to study Zequinox, the product that kills zebra mussels.

Lake Mary residents asked the Board to increase the flow of water out of their lake. Doing so would push the problem on to others. The season of high water was a problem throughout Douglas County and beyond, the likes which hadn't been experienced here for perhaps a century.

County Engineer, Dave Robley said curb & gutter were being poured on County 11 & 34. This project was completed the second week of September – ahead of schedule and below estimates.

Discussion on whether to tear down the north end of the Services Center instead of remodeling it was held. Structural engineers determined the building is very sound, and it was definitely worth remodeling. It was shown that the County could save \$4 million dollars in lieu of building new. Also the Law Enforcement Department would have garages which they didn't have, plus an additional 10,000 square feet. This is much more room than if they were in the new Police Department. Included in the Central Services remodeling will be a workout room for Law Enforcement and an additional 8,500 square feet in storage space. The new Armer Dispatch needs much more space than the old. The pool was removed, creating many more parking spaces for Public Health, Social Services and Veteran Services. The locker rooms on the lower level, the offices, break room and hallway on the first level are being remodeled into more office space.

~~Contract awarded to Central Specialties for \$699,946. This was \$129,400 under the estimate for the Le Homme Dieu Bike Trail. It was completed the end of October, which was paid mostly by Federal and State funds. With the history of three deaths in this area, it is a tremendous improvement for better safety, biking and pedestrian use.~~

The new Comprehensive Plan was completed and adopted by the Board. Now our Land and Resource Department will work at implementing it into our Ordinance.

The Board set the Preliminary Levy for \$24,625,224, up 5.73%. This was mainly attributed to the new Armer Dispatch System, which was mandated by the state.

County Assessor Keith Albertsen, discussed the disastrous Omnibus Tax Bill the Legislature passed, eliminating the Homestead Credit, which eliminated \$370 million dollars to Counties and Cities in which automatically raised taxes. The Legislature "passed the buck" without warning, and with immediate consequences. Douglas County was cut \$1.2 million dollars in this action. It will have a very negative effect to small cities, farms, recreational properties and more.

The Board approved the application for a Wind Tower in Hudson Township

"Take Heart" gave Certificates of Appreciation to folks who helped save those in our area having a cardiac arrest.

Land & Resource Manager Dave Rush, reported that zebra mussels were found in Lake Irene – brought in on a boat lift. The DNR is treating the area – hoping to contain the mussels. There are fifty two lakes in Minnesota which includes ten lakes in our county which have them. The DNR placed a cage in Lake Carlos near the State Park. It will be removed in the spring and treated with the Zequinox in a confined vehicle to see the results.

The County Board reviewed the results of the Long Range Plan conducted by EDI, with recommendations in Capital Equipment replacement and determination of future needs.

The County learned there is a savings of \$277,900 with the new Health Care Plan

To avoid so many court cases a "Misdemeanor" charge is now a "Petty Misdemeanor." For example this would apply to someone tossing out a bottle.

The Board signed a proclamation declaring November "Homeless Awareness Month". The County has 61 children and 43 adults declared as such. HRA has a waiting list of 289 households.

Approved Maintenance of Agreement with the Horizon Community Health Board. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, the State Department of Human Services is expanding Special Care/Special Needs people enrolled in Prime West.

The Board reviewed the two options for the water problems on Lake Oscar.

Reports were given by Commissioners who attended the Annual Association of Minnesota Counties Conference. The room was packed in the session called, "Too many cells – not enough prisoners." So many counties built jails all over the state & don't have the prisoners to house. Set by the State, jails can charge \$55.00 per day to house a prisoner, but the cost to house them is about \$125.00 a day.

Report given from the West Central Communities Action.

Awarded the Jail Nursing Service Contract. This cost is in the Sheriff's budget and he is the one who makes that choice.

The final budget was passed in the amount of \$24,625,224. Salary increases were approved for County employees at 1% January 1<sup>st</sup> with another increase of ½ % at mid year. No employee was given an increase in 2011. For the fourth year in a row, the Commissioners took no salary increase.

The Douglas County Hospital is in negotiations with Alexandria Clinic, creating a locally owned, integrated system resulting in improved efficiency to better serve the people of this area

Despite the downturn in the economy, the tremendous flooding with related problems, Douglas County remains strong. The wonderful County Employees are working very hard for the public, in spite of additional workloads and law changes that constantly need updating in education and implementation. We're very fortunate for the great people who work here to serve you.

Contact me with any concerns/suggestions/ideas you may have about County Government. I am here to serve you and I truly enjoy doing so.

Thank You

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