

Waterford Township Newsletter

JANUARY 2021

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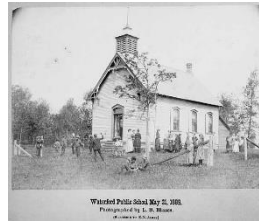
TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER

The Waterford Township Newsletter started in 2014 and continues to be published twice per year.

The Newsletter is meant to provide a quick update for those that are unable to attend the monthly Town Board meetings. The Newsletter is not the official record of the Township. Additional information regarding Township business can be found on the Township's website: waterfordtownshipmn.org

While every effort is made to publish in June & December each year, if upcoming events are within a month of the Newsletter, the Newsletter will be delayed to allow inclusion of anticipated events.

The December 2020 Newsletter was delayed as it was anticipated that the Project & Property Committee was close to making a recommendation on the challenges of the 1882 Waterford Town Hall at their January 7, 2021 meeting. The committee did come to a consensus and the recommendation is in this Newsletter.



PROJECT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE MET TO MAKE A DECISION

The Project & Property Committee was formed in 2017 to assist the Town Board in special projects and property management.

The Committee was tasked with researching, gathering, studying, evaluating, brainstorming and debating the challenges associated with the 1882 Waterford Town Hall.

The Committee was to recommend a solution that anticipates the future needs of a Township facing potential annexation (loss of tax revenue), changing demographics, and technology advances that influence service delivery expectations while ensuring the primary and secondary responsibilities of the Township remain the Township's first priority

One might ask why it took 2 ½ years to come to a recommendation? The Committee used a step-by-step decision-making process that is more time consuming and deliberate by defining the nature of the challenge, collecting the pertinent information, identifying several possible alternatives, evaluating each alternative, choosing the best alternative, developing a plan for the alternative and finally making a recommendation.

As a refresher, prior to the teleconference meeting on January 7, 2021, all Committee members read a 44-page summary of the work done by the Committee for the last 2 ½ years. At the end of the meeting all agreed the Committee was ready to make a recommendation.

The Project & Property Committee recommendation is on page two of this Newsletter and will be delivered to the Town Board at their Regular Board Meeting on March 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



INFORMATION REGARDING THE TOWN HALL CHALLENGES

On page two of this Newsletter is a list of articles and reports regarding the 1882 Town Hall that were either sent by Newsletter in 2019 or presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting and uploaded to the Township's website. The Newsletter & reports are available for review on the Township website:

waterfordtownshipmn.org

If you are unable to access the website and want to read the Newsletter and/or reports, please call the Town Clerk at 651-346-8467. Leave a message that you need a paper copy. Please leave your name and contact information. The Clerk will return your call and make arrangements to deliver or have you pick up a paper copy.

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A year ago in the December 2019 Newsletter, the Township announced a “Change in Polling Place”.

As the article indicated, after working with the Township Attorney, the Dakota County Elections Administration and the Building Official, the Township evaluated the 1882 Waterford Town Hall using the “Polling Place Accessibility Diagnostic Tool” published by the State of Minnesota.

The Town Hall does not comply with federal and state laws requiring accessibility and usability by the elderly and those with disabilities. The American’s with Disabilities (ADA) law was passed in 1990 and as a government building the Town Hall must comply regardless of its age.

Non-compliance with the ADA law resulted in the Town Board, by resolution, designating Sciota Town Hall as Waterford Township’s official polling place.

The Newsletter can be found on the Township’s website: waterfordtownshipmn.org under the Government – About Us – Newsletter tabs.

Ten months ago, at the March 10, 2020 Annual Meeting, the Project and Property Committee gave a presentation summarizing the challenges of the 1882 Waterford Town Hall.

The report was uploaded to the Township website following the meeting. The report “2020 Annual Meeting – Township in Action” can be found under the NEWS section on the home page of the website.

A month ago, the Project & Property Committee Chairperson prepared a 44-page report that summarizes information that was researched, studied, and discussed for the last 2 ½ years regarding the Town hall.

The report was uploaded to the Township website on December 19, 2020. The report “2021 Waterford Town Hall Report” can be found under the NEWS section on the home page of the website.



PROJECT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

On January 7, 2021, after 2 ½ years of research, discussion and debate, the Project & Property Committee came to a consensus on a three-phase approach (see below) to the multiple challenges of the 1882 Waterford Town Hall.

Phase 1: ensures a positive future for the historic Town Hall

- Accept the offer to move the Town Hall building to the Rice County Steam & Gas Engine Antique Village.
- Coordinate & oversee move from Township perspective.
- Build small enclosure for the shared well – an enclosure was already planned for 2021 to protect the electrical box from the elements.

Phase 2: ensures the Township can continue governing

- Sciota Township has agreed to rent their Town Hall to Waterford for meetings.
- The cost to rent once the building is moved is less than the current monthly costs for gas, electricity, snow removal, insurance, well repairs, septic pumping, custodial, supplies and minor maintenance.

Phase 3: ensure the Township has adequate time to evaluate the financial aspects of building and/or renting.

- Project & Property Committee will meet as necessary to determine:
 - pros & cons of renting versus building
 - pros & cons of building a Town Hall
 - pros & cons of type of building, size, features, etc.
 - pros & cons of need versus “would be nice”
 - perform a cost benefit analysis with opportunity costs for both renting or building.



PROJECT & PROPERTY COMMITTEE INVITING QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

If after reading all the materials (December 2019 Newsletter, 2020 Annual Meeting – Township in Action AND the 2021 Waterford Town Hall Report) you have questions or comments, please note that the Project & Property Committee wants to hear from you.

The question and/or comment period ends February 15, 2021. All questions and/or comments received prior to February 15, 2021 will be prepared for review by the Project & Property Committee during their next scheduled meeting on February 18, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. by teleconferencing.

If you have questions or comments:

1. Call the Township at 651-3465-8467 and leave a message. Elizabeth Wheeler is the Project & Property Committee Chairperson and will return your call.
2. Send an email to waterfordtownship@gmail.com
3. Write a letter and mail to P.O. Box 531, Northfield, MN



SUPER HERO SCIOTA TOWNSHIP

Eighteen months ago, Waterford Township reached out to the Sciota Town Board and asked if Sciota Township would be willing to share their building for the four upcoming elections in 2020. The Sciota Town Board didn’t hesitate to welcome Waterford.

Sciota was a very gracious host. Sciota installed signage on their building to make it easier for Waterford residents to locate the building, cleaned the carpets after each election (4 times in 2020) and rented lighting for their parking lot to ensure the evening voters were safe.

As the Township works through the challenges of the Town Hall building that is not compliant with federal and state laws, Sciota has offered to rent their ADA compliant building for Waterford Township meetings.

The Waterford Town Board, Election Judges and Voters are most appreciative of the Sciota Town Board’s attentiveness, hospitality and generosity.

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SUPER HERO ELECTION JUDGES

We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Waterford Township Election Judges for several reasons:

1. Four elections in eight months:
 - a. March 3, 2020 – Presidential Primary
 - b. March 10, 2020 – Annual Township Election
 - c. August 11, 2020 – State Primary
 - d. November 3, 2020 – General Election
2. Change of Polling Place - All four Elections
3. COVID 19 challenges & protocols
4. Five hours of internet training
5. Technology – ePollBooks replaced paper rosters

Every Election Judge met the challenges with efficient, dispassionate and transparent determination. Our democracy is better and the rule of law is stronger because of our Election Judges.

The Election Judges listed below are super heroes & deserve to be thanked enthusiastically:

Theresa Bentz	Nola Moen
Linda Blankenberger	Jan Odegard
Jane Dilley	Larry Odegard
Lou Ann Drovesky	Bridget Renlund
John Fried	Barbara Spurrier
Christie Hawkins	Marie Struss
Erin Johnson	Elizabeth Wheeler
Charlene Klemenhagen	Steve Wheeler
Liz Messner	Paul Wrolstad



SUPER HERO VOTERS OF WATERFORD

The Town Board and the Election Judges wish to thank all the voters for their cooperation in following the COVID-19 Preparedness Plan which ensured the election process was safe for all. 89% voter turnout – WOW!

2020 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS		
374	Registered Voters	7:00 AM
25	Same Day Registered	
399	Total Registered	8:00 PM
251	Ballots - Election Day	
104	Ballots - Absentee	
355	TOTAL VOTES	



FEDERAL CARES ACT FUNDING

Waterford Township was allotted \$12,775 from the Federal CARES Act for use in paying for equipment and services needed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to comply with remote meetings, social distancing and personal protective equipment (PPE).

The Township was able to acquire computer equipment and GoToMeeting teleconferencing services to comply with Resolution 2020-04.

The PPE included the building of Plexiglas barriers (pictured above) to provide protection for the Election Judges and voters. The barriers were used at the August and November elections and will be used again at the March 9, 2021 Annual Election.

The Township incurred \$4,979.25 in COVID related expenses. The unused funds of \$7,795.75 per CARES Act guidelines was turned over to Dakota County on the 10th of November for COVID-19 expenses at the County level.

In addition, the Township was allotted \$551.48 from Dakota County to help with the additional costs of conducting elections during the pandemic. The allotment was used in its entirety to offset the Township's expense of having a Sanitation Judge and a Greeter Judge for both the August and November elections. The Sanitation and Greeter Judges were required under the Township's COVID-19 Preparedness Plan.



RETIRING PUBLIC SERVANTS

In every Township, there are those residents that **volunteer** to run for an elected position and there are those that **volunteer** to participate in the functioning of grass roots government by serving on a Commission, a Committee or as an Election Judge.

Without residents willing to volunteer and to serve, Waterford Township government would not exist.

Since the last Newsletter, four volunteers announced they are retiring from Public Service to let others volunteer to serve the Township.

- Brian Nelson - Planning Commission Chairperson
- Linda Blankenberger – Election Judge
- Charlene Klemenhagen – Treasurer
- Jane Dilley – Deputy Treasurer

A brief summary of their contributions follows:

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Brian Nelson purchased his home in 1993 and joined the Planning Commission in 1997 when Frank Wergin resigned from the Commission to become a Township Supervisor.

As Chairperson of the Planning Commission, Brian and four other Township residents met once per month from April through October and other times throughout the year as necessary with property owners of the Township wanting to build a house, a post frame building or an AG-exempt building.

Referencing the Zoning Ordinances of the Township, the Planning Commission would let the property owner know what they could build on their property and surrounding properties and how those properties could be used. Following a decision by the Commission, Brian as Chairperson, would either recommend or not recommend a building project to the Town Board.

Brian also presided over numerous public hearings over his twenty plus years to take public comment on the Township's comprehensive plan, Interim Use Permits and Conditional Use Permits.

Many thanks Brian for your dedication and commitment to Waterford Township. May you enjoy your retirement from the responsibilities of Public Service, you earned it!

Linda Blankenberger moved to Waterford Township in 1990. It wasn't but a couple of years until Chairperson John Dudley recruited her to be an Election Judge.

Twenty-five years ago, Linda remembers counting paper ballots by hand at the Town Hall and an Election Judge would drive the ballots to the Hastings government center late at night. Now the voting machine counts the ballots and the results are transmitted via a secure internet connection five minutes after the polls close.

Linda also remembers the November 1998 election when Jesse Ventura was on the ballot. It was surprising to have almost every registered voter in the Township turn out to vote in a non-presidential election year.

After 25 years, Linda announced her retirement from the duties of Election Judge to give others the opportunity.

The polling place without Linda's smile, welcoming nature and election judge expertise will be missed. Linda, you truly have been a dedicated public servant. Thank you.

Charlene Klemenhagen & Jane Dilley have been the Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer of the Township for the last five years.

Charlene was serving on the Planning Commission in 2016 when the Treasurer position was vacated by Larry Odegard when he was elected as Supervisor after the death of Chairperson John Dudley.

The Town Board appointed Charlene as Treasurer and Charlene appointed Jane as her Deputy Treasurer. The Deputy Treasurer assists the Treasurer as needed.

Charlene went on to complete two more two-year terms. But now, after five years as Treasurer of the Township, Charlene did not file for another two-year term. She

stated "It is time to give other Township residents the opportunity to run for office".

Minnesota Statute 367.16 states that "*the Treasurer & Deputy Treasurer of a Township must keep a register of all demands for payment made to the town and of all checks the town issues.*" According to the Minnesota Township Association, "*Town treasurers are mostly responsible for properly handling and accounting for all the town's funds.*"

The "register" used by the Township since the 1990's is CTAS. CTAS is an acronym for "Small City and Town Accounting System". The accounting software is designed to maintain accounting records and assist in bookkeeping tasks. CTAS also facilitates the annual submission of financial records to the office of the State Auditor.

During Charlene & Jane's tenure they used CTAS for line-item budgeting, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, Resolution 2018-09 savings, reserve accounts, escrow deposits, grant funds, Certificate of Deposit, FEMA accounting, submission of a monthly Treasurer's report to the Town Board and year-end financial records to the State Auditor's office, etc.

In addition to CTAS responsibilities, Charlene & Jane were appointed by the Town Board as charter members of the Township Budget Committee in 2017. The Budget Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the Town Board.

Public Service is the lifeblood of any Township. Everything flows from it and is nourished by it. Public service is an attitude, without it a Township would not be able to govern. Thank you, Charlene and Jane, for your five plus years of public service and your contributions to the functioning of Waterford Township government. Kudos!!!



CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

With the recent retirement of four dedicated Public Servants, the Town Board is hoping Township residents will consider serving as one or more of the following:

- Election Judge
- Deputy Treasurer
- Planning Commission member
- Budget Committee member
- Road Committee member
- Project & Property Committee member

Time commitment varies depending upon the position - once a year to once a month for two to four hours.

The work done by an Election Judge, Planning Commission member, Deputy Treasurer are compensated. Committee members are not compensated.

Call the Town Clerk for more information at 651-346-8467

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ANNUAL TOWNSHIP ELECTION

MARCH 9, 2021

The "Filing for Office" time period from December 29, 2020 through January 12, 2021 resulted in the following candidates:

Town Supervisor – Frank Wergin – Three-year term

Town Treasurer – Steve Wheeler – Two-year term

Absentee Ballot by mail: 2021 absentee ballot application is available on the following website:

<https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Government/VotingElections/Absentee/Pages/default.aspx>

Absentee Ballot in person: available starting February 5, 2021 at Dakota County Government Center in Hastings or Apple Valley during regular hours Monday through Friday. In addition, both Hastings & Apple Valley will be open at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Saturday, March 6, 2021.

Questions regarding Absentee Balloting can be answered by calling Dakota County Election Department at 651-438-4305.

Annual Township Election will be held on March 9, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. for Waterford residents.

Polling Place: Sciota Town Hall
30038 Alta Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057

Inclement Weather may cause the Annual Election to be postponed until the third Tuesday in March at the same times and places.



ANNUAL TOWN MEETING BY TELECONFERENCING MARCH 9, 2021

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on **March 9, 2021 at 8:15 p.m. by teleconferencing.** The Town Board has been meeting by teleconferencing since March 13, 2020 when the federal government declared a National Emergency & the State of Minnesota declared a Peacetime Emergency caused by the COVID-10 pandemic .

Below are the instructions for joining the Annual meeting:

Join by telephone:

1. Dial into the meeting using your phone: (224) 501-3412
2. Access Code: 790-122-965
3. Audio Code: # N/A

Join by computer – EITHER OF TWO METHODS BELOW

Method #1

- Open a new tab on your browser.
- Enter GoToMeeting in the URL address line & press return.

OR

Method #2

- Click on the following - <https://www.gotomeeting.com/meeting/join-meeting>

THEN

- The GoToMeeting screen should appear.
- Enter the Access Code (no dashes) as instructed & click "Join".
- Click on "Open Go to Opener".
- The application will start.
- Click on "OK I'm Ready".
- Click on the microphone & camera icons to hear & see everyone on the call.

The Annual Meeting Agenda and supporting documentation can be found on the Township website: waterfordtownshipmn.org on the home page under NEWS. "Join the March Annual Meeting"

The meeting will have reports from the Budget Committee, the Road & Bridge Committee and the Project & Property Committee. The 2022 proposed budget and levy will be discussed and voted on by the electorate.



MINNESOTA STATUTE 160.2715 (A) (1)

Snow from your Driveway

The recent snowfalls are a reminder to read and understand the law expressly forbidding obstructing any public road or depositing snow or ice thereon.

Violations are considered misdemeanors, but civil penalties also apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard, such as a slippery area, frozen rut or bump, that contributes to a motor vehicle or pedestrian crash. The civil liability can extend to both the property owner and the person who placed the snow.

The following diagram illustrates a smart way to shovel your driveway while avoiding depositing snow or ice thereon.



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SNOW & ICE CONTROL POLICY

Wondering when the township will plow the snow???

The Town Board adopted the Snow & Ice Control Policy by Resolution on November 9, 2020. The policy can be found on the Township website: waterfordtownshipmn.org on the home page under NEWS or call the Town Clerk to have a policy mailed to your home - Town Clerk - 651-346-8467 – leave a message – she will call you back.



DANBURY AVENUE FROM COUNTY ROAD 86 SOUTH TO 290TH ST. W.

Not again! The 2017 road closure for State Highway 3 & County Road 86 road construction project with official detours managed by the State resulted in an **“unofficial”** detour using Danbury Avenue.

The normal average traffic count on Danbury is 63 vehicles per day, but during the unofficial detour the vehicle count was reported to be 600 plus vehicles per day. The road was not built to carry that amount of traffic safely, thus the Township closed Danbury for the remainder of the road construction project and required the Dakota County Sheriff’s assistance to enforce the closure.

On October 14, 2020 the Town Board and the Road Committee met in Special Session with the Dakota County Department of Transportation regarding the spring/summer/fall C.S.A.H. 86 Roadway Reconstruction Project. The topic of discussion was the “impact of the project” on Township roads.

The outcome of the meeting resulted in the Town Board passing Resolution 2020-14 temporarily closing Danbury Avenue from County Road 86 south to 290th St. W. from April 1, 2021 through October 31, 2021.

Dakota County will install non-moveable traffic barriers on or about April 1, 2021 at the intersection of County Road 86 and Danbury Avenue. Property owners living on Danbury were notified that they can access their property by way of 297th St W and Danbury from the south or 290th St W from the west, during the road closure. Additional information on the road closure can be found on the Township website home page under NEWS.



TOWNSHIP ROAD AFTER THE EARLY WINTER SNOW STORM

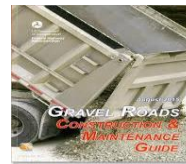
On November 11, 2020, the ground had not frozen yet when the Township experienced seven inches of wet sloppy snow and rain. This picture was taken November 15, 2020 on 320th Street.

The reason for the standing water and pot holes:

- Road is flat – little or no crown.
- Water does not run off into the ditches.
- Standing water softens the gravel road.
- Traffic drives over the soft surface creating pot holes.

All the gravel roads in the Township, albeit to varying degrees, have the same issue; flat roads – no crown.

Below is a diagram of how a gravel road with adequate gravel, crown, shoulders and ditches would minimize the formation of potholes while improving drivability & safety.



ROAD PROJECT COMPLETED IN 2020

One of the primary responsibilities of a Township is to manage and maintain the Township road infrastructure.

Township roads are subject to snow, rain, freeze, thaw and traffic. The Township cannot manage the weather, but the Township can manage how the roads are maintained.

Simply grading the road each time it rains doesn’t solve the problem nor does spot gravel (fill the potholes with gravel). It takes money to continue the “grading & spot gravel practice each time its rains” causing the quick return of potholes, safety issues and frustration.

The Waterford Town Board, like other Townships decided to manage the primary responsibility of the Township by developing a “Road Maintenance Plan”. The Plan includes drainage, surface and vegetation maintenance for 15 miles of gravel road.

The Plan is based on road and ditch conditions, traffic counts (using a traffic counter), traffic type, size, weight, the strength of the subgrade and depth of the surface material, proper use of a motor grader, good surface gravel, sources of funding and budget.

Implementation of the Plan started in 2020 with the rehabilitation of Canada Avenue between County Road 47 and Highway 19. The 1.3 miles of road has an average vehicle count of 353 vehicles per day including cars, trucks, semi-trucks and farm implements.

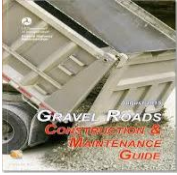
Rehabilitation included preparatory grading, applying gravel, grading to distribute the gravel and form a crown. Application of water helps during the grading process, followed by shoulder to shoulder compacting & the timely application of chloride. Chloride prevents the loss of fines (which binds larger aggregate together). The result is a tightly sloping surface that sheds water into the ditches with the added benefit of eliminating dust.

While the rehab of a road does not eliminate all road maintenance, it does reduce the “grading after a rain”. Spring cleanup, periodic maintenance and a yearly chloride application are necessary to protect the rehabilitation investment.

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[SW1]



SPRING MAINTENANCE & ROAD REHAB PROJECTS SPRING/SUMMER - 2021

Every spring, when the road conditions permit, the Township gravel roads are graded as needed to recover from the long winter of freezing, thawing, snow, etc.

2021 Rehabilitation Projects: Two road rehabilitation projects are planned for the spring and summer of 2021.

- **Rehabilitation Project #1:** 290th St. W., south end of Danbury and 297th St. W totaling 1.24 miles is planned to start as soon as the Township is able to acquire gravel after the spring road restrictions are lifted by the State of Minnesota.

The urgency for this project is due to the “unofficial” detour traffic that is anticipated due to the C.S.A.H. 86 Roadway Reconstruction project that will start in April/May of 2021.

The Township will close the north section of Danbury (between 290th St. W to County Road 86) to stop the “unofficial” detour from that direction, but closing the other “unofficial” detour would not be feasible, thus the need for the rehabilitation to prepare the 1.24 miles of road for the increase in traffic. The normal traffic for 290th averages 118 vehicles per day. The last unofficial detour caused a ten-fold increase in traffic in the area. The current condition of the 1.24 miles of road would not withstand the increase in traffic.

In addition, when the Town Board & the Road Committee met with the Dakota County Department of Transportation, the Township was informed that the 1.24 mile of unofficial detour would be for two construction periods from April 1st – October 31st in both 2021 and 2022.

Dakota County will provide signage, traffic control barriers and liquid chloride during both construction periods, but will not provide any other assistance to the Township for road maintenance.

- **Rehabilitation Project #2:** Approximately 1 mile of 300th St. W. from State Highway 3 east to Burma Avenue will be a summer rehabilitation project.

The 1 mile of road receives on average 163 vehicles per day including heavy straight trucks, farm implements and semi-trucks. 300th is flat and the water does not run off into the ditches. The Township grades, but as soon as it rains, the standing water continues to soften the road surface and the traffic causes the potholes to reappear shortly after grading.

Note: 300th St. east of Burma Avenue to Arkansas Avenue will be rehabilitated in the future.

Depending upon weather, these two rehabilitation projects will each take three to five days to complete. Roads will remain open to traffic during the road work.

Road Steward Steve Wheeler is coordinating these projects, call with questions. 507-261-2539.



DUST CONTROL

Last year in June, three hundred feet of liquid chloride was applied in front of each rural residence. The chloride will be applied again this year after the spring road maintenance is complete and weather permits.

Those residents that wish to pay for additional chloride for purposes of dust control must contact the Town Clerk before May 15, 2020 to request the additional application.

Either email the clerk at waterfordtownship@gmail.com or call and leave a message at 651-346-8467. Please provide the number of feet you wish to apply in addition to the 300 feet the Township applies.

At this time it is unknown as to the cost per foot. It is anticipated that the cost will be available by May 1, 2021. Once the cost per foot is known, the Road Steward will calculate the cost and contact you either by email or phone to confirm the request.



VANDALISM & ILLEGAL DUMPING COST TO TAXPAYERS

Twenty-seven signs on 315th St. W. (east of river), Barnard Avenue, 320th St. W. (east of river), and Canada Avenue were spray painted the evening of September 23rd. The cost to Waterford taxpayers for just making replacement signs (not the installation of the signs) was \$834.80.

If anyone has any information on the vandalism, please contact the Dakota County Sheriff's department and reference case # 20001200.

Littering and/or dumping of debris or waste along the roadway or in the ditches is a health, environmental and safety issue. Illegal dumping is a misdemeanor in Minnesota. MN Statutes 609.675

Cleanup and disposal of furniture, tires, appliances, batteries, garbage, etc. cost the taxpayers of the Township.

Note: Town Clerk makes every effort to ensure accuracy in the Newsletter but makes no claims, promises or guarantees about the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents & expressly disclaims liability for errors & omissions in the contents.

Note: MN State Statutes are cited but not transcribed word for word due to space constraints. Printing segments or paraphrasing or summarizing the Statute is in no way meant to mislead or misrepresent the law. Statutes are cited for your information allowing you to look up the exact wording for further clarity and/or understanding. Town Clerk requests respectful feedback on the Newsletter to ensure it meets the needs of the recipients. Email waterfordtownship@gmail.com or call 651-346-8467

Newsletter Editor & Publisher - Town Clerk Elizabeth Wheeler

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CANADA AVENUE CULVERT SUMMER 2021

The existing cast-in-place culvert located approximately ¼ mile north of Highway 19 on Canada Avenue provides stormwater conveyance for the farmland and drainage ditches along the east side of Canada Avenue. The traffic count over the culvert on average is 353 vehicles per day including semi-trailers, farm implements, trucks & cars.

In October the Road Committee recommended to the Town Board the need to address the following issues:

- Migration of gravel surfacing from Canada Avenue to the culvert openings
- Erosion of the roadway edge, above and at the headwall edges of the culvert crossing.
- Vehicular safety concerns at the vertical drop-off from the roadway adjacent to the culvert crossing.
- Restricted flow capacity of the culvert due to accumulated sediment.

Kimley-Horn, the Township's Engineering Consultants provided an Engineering report that can be found on the Township's website: waterfordtownshipmn.org under NEWS on the home page

To address the safety and erosion issues currently present at the culvert crossing location, the Township will be implementing a "temporary road closure" for three to five days this summer while the Road Contractor breaks through the concrete culvert, inserts a longer culvert thus allowing sloping in the ditches to eliminate the erosion and drop off.

The dates of the closure are unknown but once the dates are known the property owners living along Canada Avenue will be notified as well as police & fire & ambulance, etc.

The Property owners on Canada Avenue will need to access their homes from Northfield Blvd/County Road 47 over the Dudley Bridge during the closure

2021 BRIDGE WORK FUNDED BY THE MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MHS) LEGACY GRANT



Exciting News – Phase 1 Rehabilitation of the historic 1909 Waterford Bridge will begin this summer.

The timeline includes the Town Board approval of the contractor on March 8, 2021 and a start date yet to be determined. Completion is anticipated by November 2021.

The plans for Phase 1 are on the home page of the Township website under NEWS. The major work will consist of:

- Remove approximately 10 feet of the existing bituminous and concrete deck & stringers on each end of the bridge.

- Remove & replace upper portion of north abutment & selectively repair remaining portions of abutment & wingwalls.
- Remove & replace outer 8+ inches of concrete on south abutment front face.
- Remove & reconstruct reinforced concrete bridge seat & backwall at each abutment.
- Provide temporary support to trusses to facilitate bridge seat & bearing replacements.
- Remove existing fixed bearings at north abutment and replace with new fixed bearing assembly.
- Remove existing roller west bearing at south abutment and replace with new expansion bearing assembly.
- Regrade & reshape slope & place riprap with geotextile filter material.
- Secure the area for Phase 1 & 2.

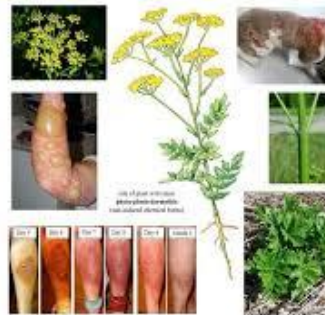
The MHS Legacy Grant is funding \$342,000 of Phase 1 work. Waterford & Dakota County are contributing \$56,000 in in-kind work.

The Township needs to write multiple grants over the next few years to acquire the additional \$1.4 million necessary to historically restore the bridge. The goal is to complete restoration and connect the bridge to the Mill Towns Trail.

DANGER WILD PARSNIP

This invasive plant
BURNS, SCARS, SPREADS, INVADERS!
EDUCATE YOUR FAMILY.

Wild Parsnip is all over the place around here.
Please be aware and share this post!
Burns PETS also!



2020 - 2021 WILD PARSNIP

Minnesota Statutes
Sections 18.75 – 18.91

Townships in Minnesota
by State Statute must
manage noxious weeds.

Waterford joined with
three other Townships
(Bridgewater, Greenvale
& Northfield) to write a
two-year \$50,000 Grant.

As part of the Grant requirements, Road Steward Wheeler surveyed 16+ miles of Waterford's ditches in May/June 2020. He entered the data into a computer mapping system. He dug & cut wild parsnip. Ditch mowing before the wild parsnip can flower was done in late June.

The Township will be reimbursed \$4,158.55 from the Grant for 2020 Wild Parsnip treatment expenses. Waterford is required to provide in-kind contributions as part of the Grant, but more on that in the next newsletter.

In 2021 Wild Parsnip will be controlled by digging, cutting, mowing and targeted spraying of infested areas. If residents have road-ditch areas along their property they don't want sprayed, please call Wheeler (507-261-2539) to discuss your responsibilities for placement of "Do Not Spray" signage and your responsibilities to eradicate the noxious weed.

Kudos to a Township resident while out walking last summer, who spotted some Wild Parsnip in a ditch, called Wheeler who treated & recorded the infestation. If you spot Wild Parsnip (see picture above) in the Township this spring call or email waterfordtownship@gmail.com