

WATERFORD TOWNSHIP – NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL EDITION – MARCH 2023

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2. **Vote Early in Person:** Or, you can cast an early vote in person at the Hastings Government Center weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. starting 03/07/23 through 03/13/23 or on Saturday, March 11, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

If you have questions about early voting, contact Dakota County Elections at 651-438- 4305 or email elections@co.dakota.mn.us.

3. **Vote on Election Day:** Or, you can vote Tuesday, March 14, 2023 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Sciota Town Hall, 30038 Alta Ave., Northfield, MN 55057.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Town Supervisor
Vote for One

Jacob Bentz

Brett Stadler

write-in, if any

Town Treasurer
Vote for One

Steven E Wheeler

write-in, if any

CANDIDATE PROFILES - see page 2



"CHANGE IN VENUE"
ANNUAL TOWNSHIP
MEETING 03/14/2023

There will be a change in venue for the 2023 annual Township meeting as follows:

Prairie Creek Community School
27695 Denmark Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057

Please join the Town Board on **March 14, 2023 at 8:15 p.m.** for the latest on roads, budget, levy, fire, and the funding of additional deputies for the Sheriff's Patrol Division serving the Township.



WHY A SPECIAL EDITION?

Minnesota State Statute 201.15 Subd. 1, in summary, requires the Town Clerk to provide a published notice of the election, stating the time of the election, the location of the polling place and the offices to be filled.

In prior years, to comply with the statute, you received a post card with the necessary election information. But as incumbents retire and new people run for those offices, a post card isn't adequate. Thus a "Special Edition" of the Newsletter containing candidate profiles.

Hopefully, the candidate profiles are helpful! Let me know by email if you want "profiles" again next year.

Ways to Vote



Vote by mail



Vote at Polls On Election Day



Vote Early in Person

1. **Vote by Mail:** You can request an absentee ballot from Dakota County by calling 651-438-4305 or by emailing: elections@co.dakota.mn.us.

If you have questions about absentee voting, contact Dakota County Elections at 651-438-4305 or by emailing: elections@co.dakota.mn.us. Ballots must be returned by Election Day to be counted.

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CANDIDATE BENTZ – SUPERVISOR

My name is Jacob Bentz. My wife and I raise sheep for meat and wool in Waterford Township. We are members of Minnesota Farmers Union, Sustainable Farming Association of Minnesota, Minnesota Grown, Land Stewardship Project, and Clean River Partners. We both also have jobs off the farm.

I served on the Budget Committee in 2019 and 2020. I am currently serving on the Planning Commission, and I am on the ballot for the open Supervisor position on the Township Board.

I believe it is important for those of us that live in the Township to participate in our local government whenever possible.

CANDIDATE STADLER – SUPERVISOR

My name is Brett Stadler and I am running for Township Supervisor. I grew up in Waterford Township on the Giloman property until the mid-80's and in '98 I bought my home in what is often referred to as the "village".

I have served on the Road Committee, recently the Planning Commission & last month was asked by Liz Messner to fulfill the remainder of her Supervisor term. I've been attending most monthly meetings since 2019 as a citizen and would encourage you to do the same.

Getting feedback from citizens gives the Board the input they need to represent you & your concerns. I believe that my input has had an impact on some decisions so your voice can matter.

As Supervisors, Clerk, Treasurer & Planning Commission members have begun to or are looking to retire, you might find that there is a position that would interest you to help serve our community.

CANDIDATE WHEELER – TREASURER

My name is Steve Wheeler. My wife & I have lived in Waterford Township on a forty-acre parcel since 1983. My old farm equipment and I plant & harvest corn and soybeans. For 30 years I commuted to the Cities to work as an Engineering Manager for Seagate Technology.

In 2019 I volunteered to serve as Township Road Steward. I developed a six-year road maintenance & rehab plan & the budgets needed to accomplish it. Check the Township website under News for the Town Newsletter, page 8 – for rehab information.

In 2021, I took on the responsibilities of Town Treasurer when no one had chosen to run for office. Together

with a Minnesota Association of Township CTAS Trainer, we had to conduct an internal audit of the Town records and the accounting system (CTAS) for the years 2016 – 2021 requiring over 1,000 volunteer hours.

In 2022 I set up and implemented the CTAS budget and investment modules. The Township now has expense & revenue by month resulting in the Township's ability to invest funds that are waiting to be spent. More info on the budget & investment modules at the Annual Meeting.

With re-election, I plan to write procedures (monthly, yearly, budget & investment) for the Treasurer's responsibilities within CTAS to ensure the next Treasurer can more easily take over the responsibilities.



PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE CHANGE!!!

All Townships were notified by Dakota County (DC) of two major changes in Annual Township Elections:

1. Due to directives from the Office of the Secretary of State, DC cannot close the absentee tabulators until after polls close and it will take time to get scans of the tape to the Townships.
2. Results of the Election will NOT be published on the County website.

RESULTS CAN BE FOUND:

1. UNOFFICIAL results: Will be announced at the Annual Meeting on Tuesday 03/14/23 and posted on the Township website waterfordtownshipmn.org - home page - NEWS by 11:00 p.m.
2. OFFICIAL results: The Town Board will meet on 03/16/23 at 5:45 p.m. to "Canvas the Vote". Following the meeting, the official results will be posted on website under NEWS by 11:00 p.m.



VENUE AVAILABLE FOR YOUR NEXT SOCIAL EVENT

Sciota Township has graciously extended an invitation to Waterford Township residents to rent Sciota Town Hall for your next shower, graduation, birthday, anniversary, family reunion, meeting, etc.

If you are interested in getting details for renting and/or booking your event, please call Heidi VanDeSteege, Sciota Town Clerk at 507-645-8195, leave a message – she will return your call.

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TOWNSHIP CONTRACTS WITH STANTEC FOR CONSULTING ON MINING APPLICATION

The Township, as the Responsible Government Unit (RGU) in the environmental review process for a limestone quarry mining application has contracted with Stantec (<https://www.stantec.com>) to oversee the preparation and analysis of the environmental review documents. Stantec was chosen by the Town Board to manage the process and advise the Township at each step of the process.

Courtney Bot, Stantec Senior Project Manager, met with the Board & interested parties on 01/12/23 to highlight the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process and timeline. A two-page detailed handout can be found on the Township website under News.

The EIS process is long (approximately 18 – 24 months), complex (federal, state, county regulations) and requires several areas of expertise (mining, legal, environmental, engineering, etc.).

The public is welcome to attend the Town Board meetings when Stantec will be reporting and advising the Township as the process moves forward.

As of this date, the next time Stantec will be meeting with the Board is unknown. However, meeting notices are posted on the Township website: waterfordtownshipmn.org on the home page – Calendar – click on a red star for meeting information.

Meeting Agendas are also posted on the website home page two days before a meeting. Click on Agendas & Docs.

The Lime Stone Quarry application and the EIS process are public documents and can be found on the Township website home page under NEWS.

Zoning Ordinances can be found on the website home page under Building & Zoning, Zoning Ordinances.

FYI: The Town Clerk has a [group email notification](#) set up for those interested in receiving an email notification when Stantec will be meeting with the Board. If interested, send an email requesting notification to: waterfordtownship@gmail.com

The Town Clerk is gathering/disseminating all inquiries/questions about the application, the consultant, the process, etc. Contact the Clerk at waterfordtownship@gmail.com or by calling 651-346-8467 – leave a message – Clerk will call you back.



DEPUTY CLERK & DEPUTY TREASURER

On January 9, 2023, the Sciota Town Clerk, Heidi VanDeSteege, and Sciota Town Treasurer, Aleta Leske, each took an “Oath of Office” to serve as Waterford Township’s Deputy Clerk & Deputy Treasurer respectively.

In summary, per MN State Statutes §367.12 and §367.167 “Each town clerk or treasurer may appoint a deputy, for whose acts the clerk or treasurer shall be responsible, and who, in the clerk’s or treasurer’s absence or disability, shall perform the clerk’s or treasurer’s duties”.

Deputies exercise all powers of the clerk or treasurer who appointed them when the clerk or treasurer is unable to perform the duties because of absence or disability. The clerk or treasurer may direct the deputy to perform some or all actions of the office.

Please welcome Heidi & Aleta.



CRITICALLY IMPORTANT TO OUR DEMOCRACY

Waterford Township Election Judges are the gatekeepers for election operations and their work is critically important to keeping the Election Day running smoothly. Without them, there would be no polling place.

Election judges are the individuals who check-in voters, provide instructions, answer questions, and generally monitor the activities in the polling place. They are the unsung heroes of our democratic process, who provide a vital public service to our voters on Election Day.

Here are three things you may not know about local Election Judges and the crucial work they do:

1. They work in a nonpartisan or bipartisan fashion to make sure that every eligible vote is counted.
2. Every judge takes an oath of office, which requires a pledge to uphold the federal and state constitutions.
3. They are required to complete 2.5 hours of Election Judge training and 2.5 hours of ePollBook training every two years.

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Since 2019 the following Election Judges have met the challenges of a new polling location, new technology with ePollBooks, new election procedures and COVID protocols. *They truly are unsung heroes!!!!*

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

Election Judges Needed



BE AN ELECTION JUDGE FOR 2024

Since COVID, the Township has had seven of the judges listed above resign/retire for a variety of personal reasons. While the upcoming 2023 Annual Election has enough judges, the Township must train and hire additional judges for the 2024 election year.

Every four years, voter turnout for the Presidential election requires additional judges to cover all shifts.

Presidential Primary 03/05/24	Annual Election 03/12/2024
State Primary 08/13/24	General Election 11/05/24

On January 12, 2023, the Town Board raised the Election Judge wage to **\$15.00** per hour in recognition of the importance of Election Judges to our democracy. **\$16** per hour is budgeted for 2024, but not yet approved.

No experience is necessary. The Township pays for training time as well as hours working the Election. Shifts are 4 to 5 hours long.

Please email or call Clerk Wheeler to join the “unsung heroes”. waterfordtownship@gmail.com or 651-346-8467 – leave message – Clerk will call you back.



SPRING – SUMMER MOVE

The 1882 School House is ready to move, but a spring or summer date has not been set yet. A “NEWS” article will appear on the Township website: waterfordtownshipmn.org – home page – NEWS when a date has been scheduled.



PLANNING COMMISSION POSITION AVAILABLE

Do you have eight to twelve hours a year you can spare to “get involved” with your Township? Experience in Planning and Zoning is **NOT** a requirement, only that you are a qualified elector of the Township. Learn on the job.

All Townships have zoning districts and all Townships have zoning Ordinances that contain provisions controlling the type and intensity of development allowed. Waterford’s Zoning Ordinances can be found on the Township website: waterfordtownshipmn.org home page – Building & Zoning – Zoning Ordinances.

The five-member Planning Commission will have a vacancy after the March 14, 2023 election. Two of the current Planning Commissioners are on the ballot for a Supervisor’s position. One of the two will be vacating their position.

Planning Commission (PC) facts:

- The PC meets approximately six (6) times a year
- Generally, the PC does not meet during the months of November through March.
- The PC meets, when necessary, on the 2nd Thursday night of the month just before and/or during the Regular Town Board Meeting.
- The PC meetings vary in length: 15 minutes to 2 hours.
- Commission members are paid \$25.00 per meeting.

Since 2019, the Zoning Administrator, a.k.a. Town Clerk, has prepared twenty-five (25) Zoning Reviews that the Planning Commission then met to review, discuss & verify that the proposed building project was compliant with the Township Zoning Ordinances.

This summer, in addition to Zoning Reviews, the PC will be working with a Planning Consultant and the Township Attorney to develop a “Buildable Sites” inventory. This inventory is of vital importance to the Township and its property owners for determining if a property owner or a future property owner can build a dwelling on the land they own, plan to sell and or plan to buy.

The result of the Buildable Site inventory process will be an electronic database that can be accessed and managed by the Zoning Administrator when a buildable site is used.

Those interested in becoming a PC member should call 651-346-8467 - leave a message – Town Clerk/Zoning Administrator will return your call. Or send an email to waterfordtdtownship@gmail.com or by U.S. mail.