

Waterford Township



"where the path from the past & the future meet"

Civic Minded

Webster Dictionary defines civic-minded as "tending to do things that help your city or town and the people who live there."

John Dudley, a life-long Waterford Township farmer met the definition of civic-minded by serving 45 years on the Waterford Township Board of Supervisors before he died on February 28, 2016 at the age of 90.

John took his civic duty, obligation, responsibility as the social force that binds you to the courses of action. John was known for his conservative values from which he never wavered. Sometimes he was popular and sometimes he wasn't. But John was a consistent, moral, ethical & an affable person the Township could count on.

John D. Rockefeller, Jr once wrote that "we must instill a sense of duty in our children"; every right implies a responsibility; every opportunity, an obligation; every possession, a duty". John Dudley certainly did it well.

John's Board Supervisor legacy will be his civic minded dedication & his unwavering belief that the Township should remain rural in nature. Farm land within the Township should remain farm land!!

Annual Picnic

Last year, approximately 25 people shared food & memories from years gone by at the Annual Township Picnic. This year the theme will be sharing memories of John Dudley, recently deceased life-long resident for 90 years & Township Supervisor for 46 of those years.

The Waterford Township Annual Picnic will be held **Monday, July 4, 2016** at the historic Waterford Town Hall starting at 11:30 a.m. with the "dinner bell at noon".

Bring friends & family, utensils, plates & a dish to pass. Beverage, cups & napkins will be furnished by the Township Board.

Newsletter - June 2016

Dudley Memorial

UPDATE: The Township has collected \$300 to be used toward a memorial for John Dudley at the Township Hall. A big thank you to all who donated including Joe & Pam Harris, Glenn & Karen Holz, Julie Johnson, Liz & Steve Messner, Marie Struss, Harold & Francis Veness, Steve & Elizabeth Wheeler.

The Township Hall is scheduled for an exterior paint job this summer. Perfect time to add a "Memorial Garden" to ensure that John's extraordinary civic-minded service including at least 550+ Township meetings & countless hours of government service will be remembered.

Please help make the Memorial Garden a reality.

Additional monetary donations are needed to purchase the bench, plaque, tree, plants, mulch & supplies. Please send donations to P.O. Box 531, Northfield, MN 55057.

Plants donated from your garden are most welcome. Volunteers to help design & plant the garden are needed.

E-mail or call Liz Messner or Elizabeth Wheeler if you can help in any manner. See page 4 for contact information.

New Officers

Larry Odegard, Township Supervisor was elected on March 8, 2016. Odegard served as Treasurer since 2007 & the Planning Commission prior to that. His term in office expires in 2019. Larry can be reached at [507-645-4576](tel:507-645-4576) or by e-mail at larryodegard@yahoo.com

Charlene Klemenhausen, Township Treasurer was appointed by the Township Board on April 11, 2016 to complete Larry Odegard's term because he was elected as Township Supervisor. Klemenhausen is a life-long resident & has served on the Planning Commission since 2013. Her term in office expires March 2017. Contact Charlene at waterfordtownship@gmail.com or call 952-356-5164.

Timely Reminder

Ditch Mowing – Minnesota Statute 160.232 Every Township resident must comply with the ditch mowing statute. The entire right-of-way may be mowed **after July 31, 2016**. From August 31st to the following July 31st, the entire right -of-way **may only be mowed if necessary** for safety reasons, but may not be mowed to a height of less than 12 inches.

Anyone interested in more information on **roadside habitat and/or hinge cutting** should contact Waterford resident Jerry Wicklund-612-384-4584 or info@wicklundfamily.com

Hotspot Team

The year 2016 will go down in history as a challenging “election” year for several reasons, but for Waterford it will include three elections in one year (Annual Township, Primary & General), new voting equipment and mandatory “hotspot” electronic transmitting.

Paul Wrolstad and Steve Wheeler (*hereafter called the Hotspot Team*) met several times in the month prior to the Annual Election at the Township Hall with the Dakota County election team to work out all the issues of transmitting (set up, sending & receiving) election results.

The Township Hall does not have a phone (land) line nor an internet service, thus the necessity to create/develop a method of transmitting the election results from the new voting equipment to Dakota County as soon as possible following the closing of the polls. The County & the Hotspot Team tried more than one process and more than one computer, before the transmission worked.

Thanks to Wrolstad’s & Wheeler’s expertise & patience for taking on the challenges and responsibilities of ensuring Waterford Township was able to comply with the mandatory transmission requirements.

RESULTS: Waterford Township, at 8:06 p.m., was the first Dakota County Township to transmit election results on March 8, 2016. Thank you Paul & Steve!!!

Thank You!!!

Thank you, thank you & thank you to the following election judges for a superb job!!!

Alberta Aldahl, Linda Blankenberger, John Fried, Erin Johnson, Lorraine Lemke, Rein Lemke, Ines Malecha, Liz Messner, Jan Odegard, Larry Odegard, Bridget Renlund, Marie Struss, Elizabeth Wheeler, Steve Wheeler, and Paul Wrolstad

Words cannot express the Township’s appreciation for the civic minded people that heeded Waterford’s call for election judges. Election judges are critical to the democratic process & everyone’s right to vote!

The Annual Township Election on March 8, 2016 was the first election with the new voting equipment. The judges ensured that all 62 voters were able to vote and use the new equipment successfully.

Successful voting was ensured when the voter & the judges heard the “ding” (FYI - voting equipment nuance).

Important Notice

Prior requests to the Township Clerk from Township residents for notification of special meetings will all expire as of July 1, 2016. Anyone wanting “notification via e-mail” of special meetings for one year must put the request in writing. Send request to P.O. Box 531 or e-mail the Township Clerk at waterfordtownship@gmail.com

Website

“It was almost too easy!!! Looked at spreadsheet of motions, found it, looked at month and then went right to the minutes!! This was all sooo great!”, wrote a Township resident about the Website.

The Township Clerk endeavors to keep the website up to date. You can find regular meeting agendas three days before the meeting, minutes from the meetings after they are approved & signed, special meeting notices, public hearing notices, election information, zoning & ordinances, newsletters, contact information.

Two ways to find Waterford’s website

1. **Google:** *Dakota County Townships then click on Waterford*
2. **Add following link to your browser favorites:**

<https://sites.google.com/site/waterfordtownshipwebsite>

WEBSITE INCEPTION DATE	9/1/2015
STATISTICS AS OF	5/1/2016
Sessions	788
Users	496
New Visitors	40.70%
Return Visitors	58.30%
Pages Viewed	1,762
Pages per Session	2.24

A number of the new visitors are made up of attorneys, builders, developers, real estate agents, financial institutions & appraisers that the Clerk has referred to the website. A number of the returning visitors consist of the clerk managing and maintaining the data.

The statistics are indicating that the website is having fewer and fewer visitors. The first couple of months the website was frequently used, but since that time the visits have leveled off.

USE THE WEBSITE-IT WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED!!!

Thank you & Welcome

The Township Board wishes to thank Tom Devney for his time & expertise on the Ad Hoc Road Committee last year.

The Township Board welcomes Andy Devney to the Ad Hoc Road Committee. Andy took over for his father effective March 2016. Andy brings much needed computer skills to the Committee – spreadsheets of the roads, signs, bridges and costs will be most beneficial to the Township for future maintenance and planning.

Vacancy

Charlene Klemenhausen resigned from the Planning Commission when she was appointed as Township Treasurer in April 2016. Her resignation created a vacancy on the Commission. The Township Board is seeking a person interested in serving on the Commission & helping to oversee/manage the Township's zoning & ordinances.

Responsibilities include reviewing plan documents for houses, pole barns, solar energy systems, etc., to ensure the plans are compliant with the Township's zoning & ordinances. The Commission meets the first Monday of the month in April through October starting at 7:30 p.m.

Send an e-mail to waterordtownshp@gmail.com or call Chairperson Liz Messner (507-581-9067) if you might be interested. All inquiries welcome.



State Primary Election will be held on August 9, 2016. Waterford residents can vote at the Waterford Township Hall, 3847 321st Street West, Northfield, Mn 55057 from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A sample ballot will be posted on the Township Hall door and on the Township Website on or about June 24, 2016. Candidate names will be on the sample ballot.

Unable to vote on August 9, 2016? Get an Absentee Ballot from Dakota County Government Center in Hastings or Apple Valley starting Friday, June 24, 2016. Call 651-438-4305 (Dakota County Election Department) with questions or requests.

General Election will be held on November 8, 2016 at the Waterford Township Hall, 3847 321st Street West, Northfield, Mn 55057 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

A sample ballot will be posted on the Township Hall door and on the Township Website on or about September 23, 2016. Candidate names will be on the sample ballot.

Unable to vote on November 8, 2016? Get an Absentee Ballot from Dakota County Government Center in Hastings or Apple Valley starting Friday, September 23, 2016. Call 651-438-4305 (Dakota County Election Department) with questions or requests.

2017 Tax Levy

The final 2017 tax levy for Waterford Township will be discussed, and voted on at a reconvened Annual Township Meeting on August 8, 2016 at 7:15 p.m.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, please call a Board Supervisor with any questions, concerns or comments.

Commission Review

BEFORE a Waterford resident can start building a house or pole barn or storage shed or AG building or gazebo or deck or solar energy system or any alteration to the footprint of an existing structure, the resident **MUST schedule a zoning & ordinance review of the building plans** with the Planning Commission. A review is essential to ensure all Township zoning ordinances including buildable lots, building utilization, lot accessibility, property line distances, setbacks, septic sites, etc. are addressed & compliant.

Call Planning Commission Chairperson to schedule a Commission review. See page 4 for contact information.

Don't Forget

On April 14, 2014 the Waterford Township Board contracted with MNSPECT, LLC to help Township residents comply with the Minnesota Building Code (Section 1300.0120) for new construction (home, garage, pole barn, etc.), remodeling, re-roofing, re-siding, basement finish, decks, windows, exterior doors, plumbing, water heaters, water softeners, solar arrays, etc.

Code compliance is required whether you hire a contractor or you do the work yourself. If you hire a contractor, verify they have a valid contractor's license by calling 952-442-7520 or via the internet at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/lookup/licensing.aspx>.

Building permits are extremely beneficial to you and the township for many reasons. In working with an expert building code official, you will benefit from their knowledge of building codes to ensure your construction project is built correctly and is constructed with safety in mind for you, your family, visitors, and future owners.

BUILDING PERMIT APPLICATION & QUESTIONS: Contact Clerk – see page 4 of newsletter for contact information.

BUILDING CODE QUESTIONS: can be answered by the Building Official at MNSPECT: Office # 888-446-1801 or # 952-442-7520

SEPTIC SYSTEM DESIGN & INSTALLATION QUESTIONS: can be answered by the Certified Septic Inspector at BFS LLC: Robert Freiermuth - # 651-437-5343

STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTION QUESTIONS: can be answered by State Electrical Inspector Randy Edel at 507-334-3748.

No Chloride

Township residents are reminded that in the even years, for example year 2016, the Township does not participate in a chloride application on gravel roads for dust control. The Township does not have the funds to share the cost of chloride application with the homeowner more than once every other year. Thanks for your patience & understanding. Sorry about the dust.

Annexation Update

City of Northfield Mayor Dana Graham, the new City Administrator Ben Martig and the Waterford Township Board (hereafter known as the "Board") met on May 26, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Hall to discuss the Township's most recent Accounts Receivable billing statement of \$28,744. The amount due Waterford includes six years of annexation payments plus interest.

The Board started the meeting by stating that the 1980 Annexation Agreement did not have an end date thus according to Waterford's Annexation Attorney Mark Johnson the Agreement remains a legally binding document and legally enforceable.

Mayor Graham stated that the City Council, on the advice of City Attorney Chris Hood passed a resolution in 2010 to stop paying Waterford for an Annexation Agreement that was over thirty-years old & no longer legally enforceable.

All parties to the meeting agreed that taking legal action to resolve the matter would be very costly and not improve "neighborly" relationships between the City & Waterford.

Mayor Graham stated that the City Council authorized him to meet with the Board to come up with "what it would take to resolve the impasse". After much discussion, all parties to the meeting agreed that a sum of money, a new Annexation Agreement & a commitment to improving communications by meeting on a regular basis is what it will take to resolve the impasse.

The meeting ended with the Board scheduling a "Work Session" for June 2, 2016 to prepare a settlement figure.

Used Refrigerator

The Township Hall refrigerator is in need of replacement. If anyone has a used refrigerator in good working order that they would be willing to sell or donate, please e-mail the township at waterfordtownship@gmail.com or call Liz Messner (507-581-9067).



Solar Gardens

Public Hearings in February 2016 & April 2016 resulted in the Township Board of Supervisors approving two separate "Interim Use Permits" (IUP). Each IUP is for a Solar Garden with a maximum capacity of 5 mega-watt of solar generating power not exceeding 40 acres each.

Two separate Solar Garden developers, Solar Stone Partners & Novel Energy Solutions, are currently in the application process with Excel Energy. Construction of the solar gardens is anticipated to begin later this fall.

Contact Information

PLANNING COMMISSION:

Meets 1st Monday of month - 7:30 p.m. (Not Nov – Mar)

Chairperson Bryan Nelson	507-663-9057 bryannelson945@gmail.com
Doug Bakken	507-645-7973 djbakken@northfieldwfi.com
Tom Davis	507-645-7644 lmcrash224@gmail.com
Kris Mortensen	507-645-7921 No e-mail
Vacancy	

TOWNSHIP OFFICERS

Meets 2nd Monday of month-7:00 p.m.

Chairperson Liz Messner	507-581-9067 lmessner@northfieldwfi.com
Supervisor Frank Wergin	612-308-1401 ftwergin@gmail.com
Supervisor Larry Odegard	507-645-4576 larryodegard@yahoo.com
Clerk Elizabeth Wheeler	651-346-8467 (leave message) Newsletter creator/editor/reporter waterfordtownship@gmail.com
Treasurer Charlene Klemenhagen	952-356-5164 waterfordtownship@gmail.com

TOWNSHIP INSPECTORS:

Building, remodeling, inspections, septic repair/installation:

Building Official & Inspectors & Plan Review	888-446-1801 MNSPECT
Bob Freiermuth Jr. – #C818	651-437-5343
Certified Septic Inspector	Bob Freiermuth Sanitation,

RED ROSE CEMETARY: Officers & Trustees & Caretaker:

Jane Skluzacek -Chair	507-645-0014
Donna Ozmum - Sec/Treasurer	507-645-9700
Laura Skluzacek	507-645-4213
Jerry Skluzacek	507-645-0014
Douglas Bakken	507-645-7973
Laura Storlie	507-663-7033
Dick Ozmum-Superintendent/Caretaker	507-645-9700

AD Hoc Road Committee:

Frank Gerdesmeier	507-645-7248 No e-mail
Andy Devney	507-581-3342 atdevney@gmail.com
Liz Messner-Board Liaison	507-581-9067 lmessner@northfieldwfi.com

AD Hoc Budget Committee:

Marie Struss	651-346-8467 waterfordtownship@gmail.com
Charlene Klemenhagen Township Treasurer	952-356-5164 waterfordtownship@gmail.com
Frank Wergin-Board Liaison	612-308-1401 ftwergin@gmail.com