

NORTHFIELD TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – 2023

Northfield Township Board

Foster Transburg, Supervisor (First elected in 2020) 612-213-6954

Ron Sommers, Chairperson (First elected in 2012) 507-645-7058

Brian Peterson, Supervisor (First elected in 1998) 507-649-1888

Jessi Hubers, Treasurer (First elected in 2019) 612-242-8817

Diane Lyman, Clerk (First elected in 2018) 507-663-1068

PLEASE NOTE OUR EMAIL ADDRESS:
clerk@northfieldtp.org

The Town Board usually meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Tuesday of each month. Year 2024 will bring some changes to the schedule. Updates will be posted at the town hall and on the website. January – March 2024 meetings are as follows: January 9, 7:00 PM; February 8, 6:30 PM; March 13, 6:30 pm. The 2024 Annual Meeting will be held on March 12 at 8:10 pm (after the township election). Meetings are held at the Northfield Town Hall located at 10901 Jacobs Avenue.

Residents are invited to attend the monthly meetings. If anyone has a special concern to be discussed on the monthly agenda, please call the clerk by Monday noon prior to the meeting date.

Board Updates

After serving 12 years as a Board Supervisor, Ron Sommers has decided to not run for re-election. Anyone interested in running for office can file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the Clerk between January 2 and January 16, 2024. Ron would be happy to answer questions you may have regarding the supervisor position.

After serving 6 years as Township Clerk, Diane Lyman has decided not to run for re-election.

Anyone interested in running for office can file an Affidavit of Candidacy with the Clerk between January 2 and January 16, 2024. Diane would be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the clerk position.

Contact the Clerk for an Affidavit of Candidacy form at 507-663-1068 or clerk@northfieldtp.org

Elections

The town hall serves as the polling place for all our residents for the local, primary, and general elections. We thank you for your patience as we worked through the new process of hosting 2 precincts in our town hall location.

In 2024 the Northfield Town Hall will continue to be the polling place for Northfield Township residents for township, state, and federal elections as it has been in the past. Absentee ballots are administered by the Rice County Property Tax & Elections Department.

Township Day in Minnesota – Election and Annual Meeting

The 2024 Township Election will be held on Tuesday, March 12th. To be elected in 2024 are one supervisor for a 3-year-term (position currently held by Ron Sommers) and one clerk for a 2-year-term (position currently held by Diane Lyman). Filing for these offices begins on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 and ends at 5 P.M. on Tuesday, January 16, 2023. Affidavits of Candidacy can be filed with the clerk at 9090 100th St. E., Northfield. Please call the clerk (507-663-1068) to arrange a time to complete paperwork. The filing fee is \$2. On March 12th, the polls will be open at the town hall from 2 P.M. until 8 P.M.

The township **Annual Meeting** will be held at the town hall **March 12, 2024** following the closing of the polls.

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Snow Season

Residents are reminded that according to MN Statute 160.2715 **it is illegal and punishable as a misdemeanor to plow, shovel, or place snow onto township roadways.** Similar rules apply on county and state roads. **Snow from your property should be plowed and stored on your own property and not pushed across roads. If you have someone else plow your driveway, etc., please remind them of this state statute.** Civil penalties may apply if the placement of snow creates a hazard that contributes to a motor vehicle crash or pedestrian injury. The civil penalty can extend to both the property owner and the person who places the snow.

Some reminders on Northfield Township's Snow Removal Policies.....

The township's plow usually does not go out until a snowfall has ended. The plow will not be sent out during a time when poor visibility will make plowing dangerous. When possible, the driver alternates starting the snow removal from one of the four quadrants of the township – north, south, east, and west. Salt, sand, and chips are applied, as needed, to increase the safety of the road surface. The township is not responsible for snow thrown in driveways, damage done to mailboxes, fences, etc., due to thrown snow or equipment hitting these objects, or damage to landscaping within the road right-of-way.

Road Maintenance

Northfield Township maintains 37.85 miles of roadway. Each spring the supervisors determine which roads need crushed rock. Heavily traveled roads may need crushed rock every year, but most roads are on a two or three-year cycle. Weather and vendor

availability permitting, crushed rock is scheduled to be delivered and spread on roads in late May or early June, and dust control is applied as soon as possible after the new crushed rock is graded. Weather conditions in recent years have made it difficult to grade roads on a regular basis. It is best to grade roads after a rainfall as the road surface is easier to manipulate for best driving conditions. The township has warning signs and barricades that can be put in place to alert drivers to hazardous conditions or roads that are temporarily closed. Please call one of the township officers if you find debris on the roads or other dangerous conditions so that they can resolve the problem or take action to warn others if needed.

Dust Control

Most of the roads maintained by Northfield Township have a gravel surface, and a few of the roads maintained by the county within the township also have a gravel surface. Each year, the application of liquid chloride is made available to residents to control dust. The cost of this dust control is pre-paid by the resident requesting it. The application of chloride is scheduled after the crushed rock has been delivered and graded. Weather, gravel availability and chloride availability through our vendors are the biggest factors in the timing of application.

In April, residents who participated in dust control the previous year are mailed information about the program. Anyone wishing to apply for dust control for the first time can call the clerk for more information. Stakes are available for marking the area where residents wish to have dust control applied. One of the supervisors usually rides along with the truck driver who is dispensing the liquid chloride to help with making sure that the product is applied at the correct residences. Timing of the application is determined by weather and vendor schedule.

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Residents who live on a gravel road maintained by the county are subject to the county's maintenance schedule. The maintenance schedule may affect the delivery of new rock and chloride.

Roads receive a final grading as close to ground freeze and/or snow fall as possible. During this process, the areas that have received chloride treatment may also need to be maintained by the grader.

Burning Permits

Burning permits are available on-line through the Minnesota DNR's website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits. The applicant needs to provide their name, address, phone number, and the legal description of where the burning will take place. The legal description can be found on a tax statement or deed for the property. Information on the website will tell you how to activate the permit(s) on the day or days when you want to burn. The permits are valid for the calendar year. If you have questions about what can be burned and when, visit the DNR's website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/forestry/fire/questions.html

Driveway Permits

Permits for new driveways, additional driveways or revisions (including paving) to current driveways and field approaches must be approved by the township board and/or road supervisor for residents who live on a road that is maintained by the township. If you live along a county or state road, you must contact the appropriate entity. Driveways must be built according to MN Statute 160.2715 and provide a smooth transition from driveway to roadway. The 2024 cost for a driveway permit in is \$100. When applying for a driveway permit, a resident must also pay a \$500 deposit. When the driveway has been completed, the driveway is

inspected by a supervisor and if the requirements have been satisfied, the \$500 will be returned to the resident. The installer/landowner is responsible for requesting a final inspection and a refund of the \$500 deposit. Please call the clerk or one of the supervisors if you wish to obtain a driveway permit application.

Right-of-Way Permits

Permits are also required for any work to be done in the right of way. The right of way includes driveway and ditch areas and driveways up to the edge of and to the midpoint on a township road. A Right-of-Way Permit is available from the Clerk and/or on the township website www.northfieldtwp.org As always, you need to contact Gopher State One Call before you dig: 1-866-640-3637 or www.gopherstateonecall.org

Building Permits

Planning and zoning matters in Northfield Township are handled by Rice County. Residents needing a building permit should contact the Rice County Environmental Services Office at 507-332-6113.

Wild Parsnip

Wild Parsnip is a noxious weed, the sap of which can cause severe blistering of the skin especially in the presence of sunlight. It is found in many areas of Minnesota, often in road ditches, drainage ditches and adjacent grassy areas near woodlots. In recent years, with the help of a Minnesota Department of Agriculture grant, Northfield Township has made progress in reducing the infestation in our township using timely mowing and spraying. We did not have grant funding in 2023, but did continue our spot spraying effort to control wild parsnip and other noxious weeds as well as invasive trees in the township right-of-way. A

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noxious weed grant has been applied for to support eradication efforts in 2024. Wild parsnip is generally not a problem in row crop fields, due to producers' weed control programs. However, infestations are frequently found on private land in waterways, grassland and near woodlots. Several producers have extended special efforts to control this menacing weed on their property which helps to prevent its reintroduction to areas where control progress has been made. Township residents are asked to watch for infestations on their private land and work to control it, as required by law. "Do Not Spray" signs are available for purchase by residents to place in right-of-way areas where they will assume responsibility for noxious weed control. The Board is looking for township residents who will "adopt a roadside" to assist with noxious weed eradication. Those interested can contact Supervisor Brian Peterson to learn more. Training could be made available to learn how to identify noxious weeds and to learn what spot spray chemicals are most effective for eradication. If you have questions about control methods, please contact a township supervisor.

A Note from the Clerk

We have a busy election year ahead of us. I will continue to assist with elections as much as possible as we transition to a new clerk.

March 5, 2024 Presidential Nomination Primary
March 12, 2024 Township Election
August 13, 2023 Primary Election
November 5, 2024 General Election

If you are interested in serving as an election judge, please contact the Clerk. There is training required to serve as an election judge. All training is presented by the Rice County Elections office.

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes to support the infrastructure and residents of our township. Your supervisors are always on call and on the lookout for the safety and well-being of our residents. I thank all our elected officials for their service and hope you will express a word of appreciation to our current board members. The board appreciates the efforts of Mike Groth, Andy Groth and Donnelly Bultman who work around their regular non-township jobs to provide road maintenance and roadside/right-of way maintenance.

Do you have a new neighbor? When real estate changes ownership, the township does not receive notification of the change. If you visit with a new neighbor, please encourage him/her to contact the Clerk with any questions. The Clerk can mail a newsletter to the new resident to assist with quick acclimation to township life.

Township Website

The township website is available for you to refer to should you have questions regarding permits, etc. You can visit the website at www.northfieldtwp.org

Everbridge Citizen Alert

Rice County Emergency Management utilizes the Everbridge Citizen Alert system as one way to notify residents of an emergency or an important community alert.

This system allows the Rice and Steele 911 Center to quickly provide you with critical information in a variety of situations, such as certain severe weather events, missing persons, or hazardous and/or dangerous incidents that may lead to evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

Once enrolled, you will receive time-sensitive messages via how you specify, such as your

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home phone, cell phone, business phone, email, or text message. You can subscribe to the type of notifications you want, and can also set a window of time not to receive any notifications, if you choose.

You must be signed up in order to receive notifications and be alerted of an emergency that may affect you. All Rice County residents are encouraged to sign up for this free service. The information entered is protected and will not be used for any other purposes.

To initially sign up, update your contact information, or change your alert settings, go to <https://member.everbridge.net/453003085612579/login> . Direct links to the login page can also be accessed from several places on the Rice County website, including the Sheriff's Office and Public Health. Any individuals who need assistance can register by calling the Rice and Steele 911 Center at 507-444-0341.