

BOARD CHAIRMAN 2014 SPRING LETTER

Hello again and thank you for viewing our website. I hope you navigate around the site and discover everything it has to offer. It is filled with pertinent information and a great tool for you. We have had visitors to the website from as far away as European countries including Russia to our East and Pacific Rim countries to our west and many in between.

I have now served the township for the past 3 years and I am now beginning my fourth year and enjoying every minute of it. I like to work.

When I was elected to the Board in 2011, I was shortly thereafter "elected" to be the Chairman which I served as such for 1 year with the agreement that we should always rotate that job among each Supervisor in following years. We have done that for the last 3 years running and so now it's my turn again this year.

This year as Chairman I look forward to 2014 with much excitement because of the hard work we've done and the progress we have made in the last 3 years and the plans for projects this year.

Due to the untimely death of Supervisor Burt Coleman in January of 2013 we had a special meeting of the Board to appoint an interim Supervisor from a list of very qualified applicants. We welcomed new Supervisor Dennis Valentyn to the Board and are very happy to have Dennis accept the appointment and is a great addition on the Board.

We also appointed and welcomed Kurt Koester as the township's treasurer to the Board. Kurt is doing an excellent job for our township.

We unanimously agreed to a necessary and overdue pay cut to the board in 2011 and 2013 which is still in effect as of today and will be for quite some time to come. We continue to look for more ways to cut township expenses while maintaining an excellent level of service that our residents deserve.

We currently have a board that works very well together on a broad range of topics and issues. Even though we don't always agree on everything we do however, agree on ways to save our tax dollars. In the past 3 years we have accomplished a lot. So, what have we been doing? The following is a snapshot of what we have been busy with.

On the subject of saving tax dollars, the board has saved the township tax payers over \$65,000.00 in the past 3 years by not using mag-chloride on roads in the township as was done to select roads in previous years. We do allow the application of mag-chloride if desired but, the individuals requesting it to be sprayed on the road in front of their property have to pay for it themselves. Those saved tax dollars were used in part to rebuild roads such as 371st Ave. NW which was in very poor condition and is now totally

rebuilt with a new and larger culvert, cleared trees, new gravel, new ditches, and a wider right of way. The minimum maintenance road at the end of 371st was also graveled and graded and made passable once again.

Several years prior to myself being elected to the Board of Supervisors, the Board at that time was informed of a possible MN. DNR grant for paving 341st Ave. NW and Holly St. NW to join up with the already paved portion of the BECKLIN FAMILY HOMESTEAD COUNTY PARK.

By unanimous vote the Board gave permission for the town clerk to fill out and file an application with the MN. DNR for the grant to pave the road.

The grant application was then completed and forwarded to the DNR only to be denied. Not to be discouraged our clerk then reapplied for the grant funds again and was then finally approved nearly 2 years later.

The MN. D.N.R. grant paid for the entire reconstruction project and the road was built and paved according to MN. State specifications which was overseen by the Isanti County Highway Engineering department and also the Isanti County Zoning Department. The only cost of this project that was paid for by the township were the engineering costs of BDM engineering company. This is a State mandate we had to agree to before we could receive the grant money.

All property owners along these 2 roadways were notified of the 429 process concerning assessments and attended the special meeting held at the town hall and all, with the exception of one complainant, agreed to the amount to be assessed. The complaining party agreed to an assessment modification and they then paid their total assessment by way of profits from their charitable gambling pull tabs funds.

Mr. Phil Dunbar generously donated a portion of his land to the Township so as to cut down on costs of the project because the roadway needed to be straightened somewhat. Thank you to the Dunbar family for helping the township by getting the project off to a fast start thus saving the township from having to purchase the additional property.

This particular stretch of roadway has been a very high maintenance stretch of road (est. \$20,000.00+ yearly for grading and new gravel) due to the massive use by the sportsmans club with virtually daily shooting 12 months a year. There is a plethora of groups using the gun range daily ranging from the Mn. State Highway Patrol, many out of the area and local police departments, sheriffs' departments etc. to the 4-H kids and many, many other groups in between. The BECKILN FAMILY HOMESTEAD COUNTY PARK has also added some traffic to this road. The only reason the we received the DNR grant was directly related to the BECKLIN FAMILY HOMESTEAD COUNTY PARK being in our township. The final steps of the project will be done early this year.

Another project,(paving University Ave.) that had been talked about for many years but no forward action ever taken, finally took place this past year. University Ave. which is a shared road with Cambridge Township, was finally paved after many years of

requesting to do so by Cambridge Township but always being declined by Springvale township.

This too was a high maintenance roadway requiring a lot of graveling and grading annually. Our financial responsibility (50%) of this project was paid for with monies from our blacktop fund which were levied by those attending the annual township meeting 7 years ago.

All property owners along this roadway were also informed of the 429 process and attended a special township meeting explaining the project as well as tax assessments and all agreed to the amount of assessment. I will add that each and every property owner worked seamlessly with us and had been waiting for this road improvement for a long time and are very happy to finally see this happen.

With these 2 pavement projects done we should begin to see the cost saving benefits of no grading and no graveling expenses for these 2 roads with those saved tax dollars going instead towards other road and bridge improvements. As you will remember, at the 2013 annual township meeting we residents approved a blacktop levy of \$100,000.00 for 2014 to build up our blacktop fund to pave 329th NW. Ave,(airport road) another very high maintenance road,

While all that money won't be available until December we should have the funds to do the project this summer due, in part, to the savings of maintenance costs of the 2 other pavement projects we just finished and tax dollars not being spent on mag-chloride. It is so good to see those capital investments going towards township infrastructure improvements that ultimately save us tax dollars while also improving the quality of life for our residents.

We have also replaced nearly all dilapidated culverts in the township with new and in some cases larger ones. We have a couple more to do this summer and then that should be good for awhile.

We had all the ditches and rights of ways sprayed for brush and poison ivy this past year. This hasn't been done for many years and we will keep on top of this from now on. By keeping up with the spraying it will cost us much less to get the brush and poison ivy back under control and will soon only have to be done with light spraying every 2 to 3 years costing us much less to maintain.

Another project started last fall that will be finished this spring is the widening of Jivaro St. New mailboxes will be installed and 911 address signs will be installed as well making for a safer road.

The town hall has also had some needed updates. Our town hall is a very old but a very solid building in outstanding condition.

We have been taking care of it with patching all the old holes inside and a new paint job. We also had the oak flooring repaired and refinished by a township contractor and the floor looks terrific.

New lighting was installed in the newly painted voting booths as well. Also needing attention was the voting booth curtains which were replaced as well as new curtains on

the town hall windows.

The town hall basement was also cleaned and organized. We also built and installed a new mailbox support materials bin in the basement and added some steel racking for our remaining new traffic control signs and township information signs.

There you have the snapshot of what we've been doing and there were many other projects done that didn't get mentioned here but were important nonetheless.

I would also like to mention a word about mailbox supports.

If yours needs replacing please don't purchase a mailbox support at any of the local stores. All township mailbox supports, in accordance with MN. State Statutes 169.072, need to be the swing away type and these are available from the township. Please call one of the township Board members if you'd like one or if you need one and we will be happy to help you.

I would also like to bring to your attention that we have been installing the blue address signs (A.K.A. 911 signs) in our township either by request or when a road is reconstructed. These address signs are so very helpful to bus drivers, delivery trucks-FEDX, UPS, etc., law enforcement, and all emergency vehicles. Myself being a Cambridge School Bus Driver I can attest to the benefit of those blue address signs when I'm looking for a new student stop/pickup in the dark of the early morning. There is more information available on our website about the purchase and installation of these signs. **UPDATE CONCERNING 911 SIGNS:** as of the annual held on March 11th, 2014 those attending voiced their approval to purchase and install the 911 signs at every address at no additional cost to the resident.

In closing this letter from the chairman I want to say thank you for allowing me to serve you and the township. I look forward with hopes to continue serving for many more years to come.

Please, if you have a question or suggestion for me, please contact me @ 320-496-5870 cell, or home phone @ 763-689-4273 or email- slindgren@springvaletownship.com and I will happy to assist you any way I can.

Sincerely enjoy serving you,

Steve Lindgren
Current Chairman
Springvale Township