

Your Lutsen Township at Work

The Lutsen town board has not let Covid 19 slow us down – too much. Yes, we had to have virtual meetings to address needs and township financials regularly which required preparing documents and having supervisors come to the Town Hall separately to review documents that needed their approval and signatures. *But the fun did not stop there.* Your board worked to do more for your community in thoughtful and significant ways. Each decision always considered the **safety of the community as well as the required financial obligations** each project might require. Below are the **projects** that have been completed or started over the last year.

- A **Lutsen Town sign** is in the process of construction with the help of local craftspeople and vendors as well as a substantial 75% grant from the IRRRB. The sign is located across from Arrowhead Electric and the property easement provided by AE. In addition the Lutsen Cemetery group approved the partial clearing of their segment fronting the Native cemetery located near the sign. Because of MNDOT restricted right-of-way along Hwy 61 and previous 2006 town plan, the sign is located in the most reasonable and effective place.
- Last fall we purchased and MNDOT installed the **digital speed signs** on both the east and west edges of the town center. This decision was initiated by residents and followed through by C Brennan in an effort to slow traffic as it makes its way through downtown Lutsen.
- With the need to replace the aging and deteriorating storage building that is also too small, the Board determined that replacement of a **storage and concession structure** could be built by North House Folk School last summer during the height of the pandemic. The new structure will replace the current shed that houses tables and chairs, and other various equipment that is used by the township and fire/ems. The new structure, a 16'x24' timber frame, will be installed this spring/summer. We have solidified donations for the concrete slab as well as labor for the installation of the roof and walls. We need to solidify materials for the roof, walls, doors etc. Donations for these materials would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate for this project the address is Lutsen Township, PO Box 151, Lutsen, MN 55612
- **Town Hall floors** were improved last spring with an epoxy finish from Northern Elite Epoxy. As part of this project, improvements to the bathroom in the old town hall, now Fire & EMS area, and installation of a **decontamination shower** were completed in early summer. The bathroom project was paid for with CARES money. The Board recognized that those designated Covid funds achieved the purpose of eliminating possible contamination of disease and dirt to family members of our amazing Fire/EMS team.
- Many residents attended previous informational meetings about the **Gitchi Gami Trail extension** from Ski Hill Road to Lutsen Town Center. With some funding now available, an engineered design should be accepted and that part of the trail to begin in 2022. The Legislature has been approached about additional bonding of \$1.5 million to complete the trail and hopefully to extend it to Caribou Trail.
- And for those who have not seen **election results** in March, congratulate Chris Homyak on being elected as supervisor for a 3-year term and Ashley VanDoren on her re-election as town treasurer.
- For our not-so young and younger ball players, please know that the **baseball field** improvements/restoration efforts are ongoing this spring and summer. After last year's lockdown and necessary cancellation of Tuesday night softball. it will be great to once again play ball. The field also continues to be a haven for many happy dogs. Thank you dog owners for continuing to pick up after your 4-legged friends.
- **Grandview Park** will receive a restored volleyball area this spring. Additional amenities now include a spigot for water and electric outlet on the pump house. The Park saw much more use during the pandemic since this awesome outdoor space could be used by all.
- The Fire and Town Hall **parking lots** will receive blacktopping this spring. If you see the driveway blocked off, just know that the area does not take too long to dry and will be a great improvement to the lot.
- Fire/EMS, received partial support from the CARES funds to purchase a **Lucas machine** which provides continuous chest compressions when and if transporting someone from a more remote location is involved. Thanks to James Coleman for his service as fire chief. Congratulations to Paul Goettl on being elected Fire Chief.
- As usual we had our **Annual Town Meeting** following elections March 9. Because we continued to follow COVID protocol, the meeting was virtual. With the need for approval of residents on the 2022 tax levy, the meeting is continued to August 17, 2021 at 6 p.m. for finalization.