

Community Building and Social Media Report



Clinton township has a beautiful expansive community building that is available to rent to the public. It also has high-speed wi-fi that is freely available to the public. It has a full-scale commercial kitchen to support gatherings of up to 200 people. Julie and Jim Bodas have recently accepted the position of town hall coordinator and custodians. Our fee schedule should be available online shortly for renting the town hall. In 2023, we will be installing improved doors as well as an improved security system that will allow keyless entry.



ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

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Annual Newsletter 2023

IMPORTANT DATES

Hello and welcome to our second annual Clinton Township newsletter! This has been a great year for the township. This has also been a year of change, with the stepping down of longtime supervisor Jeff Skaudis along with the retirement of his wife Alice Skaudis from her position as the townhall coordinator and custodian. Together, they served for nearly fifty years! The township owes both of them our gratitude and thanks for their dedication. Thank you!

In 2022, we received a seventy-thousand-dollar matching grant from the IRRR to improve access to our facilities. These funds will be used to install energy efficient doors and a new parking lot. Additionally, the township is in the advanced stages of securing funding for broadband access. Cal Warwas has worked closely with officials from St. Louis County, the IRR, CTC (the broadband provider), and the state of Minnesota to secure these funds. This would provide similar access as Cherry has for every address in Clinton. This project is estimated to cost over four million dollars, with fifty thousand coming from the township. This is a leverage of over 80 to 1 in outside funding to ours. Truly a huge win for our community if we are able to secure it!

In 2023, the township had receipts of \$350,736.72 and outlays of \$271,111.19. Our income is heavily dependent on taconite taxes and was supplemented by the final installment of covid relief funds. The township is currently in a healthy financial position. However, the township would not be able to maintain our level of infrastructure investment, facility maintenance and availability, and fire department without this taconite tax funding and ARPA funds.

As a community, we need to discuss this. Our levy has been relatively unchanged for over 25 years, ranging from 95 to 110 thousand dollars. We feel that an increase to \$130,000 dollars is the responsible financial decision, especially with expected spending of \$120,000 dollars for our broadband infrastructure and IRRR grants. It's important to remember that this money highly leveraged. For every dollar we spent, we are getting forty dollars in outside funding.

We would love to see a town hall full of our neighbors to discuss the future of the township on March 14th. I believe we are on a great path now and am looking forward to an exciting 2023!

Bobby Butler, Township Supervisor

March 14th
Election for Treasurer and one Supervisor. Polling Location at Clinton Community Building.

March 14th
Township yearly meeting. election results to be verified and levy to be set.

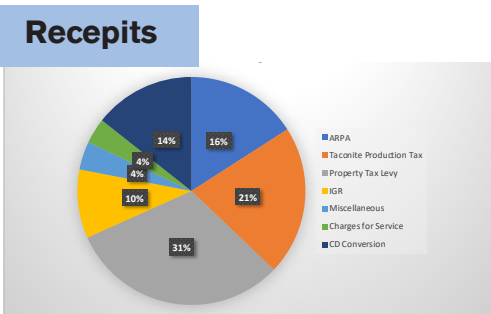
May 9th
Board of equalization meeting for property taxes. 4 PM, Clinton Town Hall.

August 1st
National Night Out, hosted at Clinton Community Building.

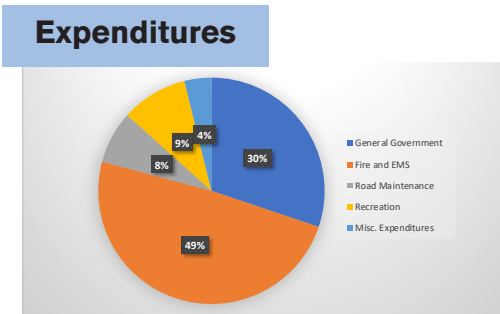
November 7th
General elections, polling location is the Clinton Community Building.

Financial Report

The township's total cash and investment assets in 2022 grew to \$351,961.94 from \$322,355.15 at the start of 2022. In 2022, the township had receipts totaling \$350,736.72. This includes a one-time conversion credit of a maturing CD of \$50,392.49. As you can see in the pie chart, our biggest source of revenue is the township levy, followed by the taconite tax. After this, it is a one-time grant of ARPA (Covid relief) money. This means that out of the roughly \$350,000 the township receives in revenue, only a little less than a third comes from sources within our control. IGR stands for Intergovernmental Revenue and consists



mostly of funds for road construction from the county and from the state for fire aid. The township had expenditures of \$271,111.59. The biggest expenditure as shown in the pie chart is for the fire hall and EMS, which did include a one-time cost of \$28,352 to re-surface and paint the fire hall, followed by general government. General government covers the cost of elections, township



employees, the town board, insurance, and maintenance of the town hall. Recreation covers the cost of maintain the skating rink, baseball fields, and playground. Misc. expenditures are split evenly between refunds for town hall rentals, sponsoring public events such as national night out, and contributing towards the cemetery association.

Going into 2023

The township had a very productive 2022, with a beautiful face lift and preventive maintenance done on the firehall, successful grant applications, and the beautification of the baseball fields. In 2023, we plan to work on the following:

Broadband Funding:

The township is working towards securing state funding for broadband access to every address in the township. Nearly one hundred years ago, the government passed the rural electrification act, with provided for federal loans to local cooperatives to run electricity to rural areas which otherwise would not have been profitable for private industry. In a similar fashion, high speed wireless internet is being brought to rural areas with government grants and loans. We have so

far secured \$450,000 in grant money. We hope to shortly secure more funding from the IRR. CTC has pledged their financial support, which will hopefully lead to the state providing the lion's share of the 4.2 million dollars plus project. Your letters of support to the state have been greatly appreciated. We should know this summer if we qualified for the grant. Construction would be expected to start in 2024.

Building Maintenance:

The township will be repaving the town hall parking lot, installing energy efficient overhead doors at the fire hall, and upgrading our doors/security at the town hall with the help of a \$70,000 matching grant from the IRRR. Paving will be done sometime this summer, and the doors will be installed this spring..

Social Media

The township is working towards making the reservation of the town hall available online. We will also be working to upload our older documents onto our site to make them available to the public.

National Night Out

The township will be hosting the national night out in August at the town hall. This will be in conjunction with McDavitt and Cherry townships. Last year was a great event and we hope to see you there again!

Thank you for taking the time to read through the newsletter! As with last year, don't be shy and come to our town board meetings which are every third Tuesday of the month at 7 PM, unless posted otherwise at the town hall. We hope to see you there!

<<First>> <<Last>>
<<Address>>
<<City etc>>
or Current Resident

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US POSTAGE
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Clinton Town Hall
8907 MN-37
Iron Junction, MN 55751





TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS



Brian Mayry, Clerk

Re-elected in 2022, Brian has an educational background in accounting and currently works for the city of Eveleth. In 2022, Brian worked with Elaine in streamlining our accounting process, helped in securing our grants, and continued his service on the fire department. Brian continues to be the source of knowledge and experience in local government for the township.



Cal Warwas, Supervisor

Cal was elected in 2020. He was the board chairman for 2022 and is up for reelection this March. Cal has worked at US Steel for 25 years, where he has gained extensive experience in planning and organization. Cal is also on the board with RAMS, a group which monitors state and federal legislation and

how they it may affect members. Cal's voice here helps give the township representation in St. Paul. Cal has been the spearhead behind the townships broadband initiative.



Bob Butler, Supervisor

Bob was elected in 2021 and will serve as board chairman in 2023. His educational and professional background is in business management. He is also a cowner of a local hops and hemp farm located in the township. In 2022, Bob helped secure an IRR matching grant of seventy thousand dollars. These funds will be used to repave the parking lot,

install new energy efficient overhead doors at the fire hall, and install new doors at the township building.



Elaine Santi, Treasurer

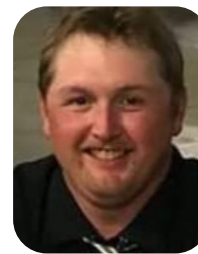
Elaine was elected in 2021 and is up for election in 2023. She has an educational background in Agricultural Business from the university of Minnesota, with many years of financial experience also. In 2022, Elaine worked to streamline the township's bill payment system through the implementation of CTAS, attended training sessions to guide

the township on proper policy and procedures, and has begun work on our website.



Jim Theodore, Fire Chief

Jim was appointed Fire Chief by the townboard in January of 2020. Jim has over forty-five years (!) of firefighting and EMS experience to bring to the position. He has served both as a volunteer position and as a professional fireman. Jim has taken it upon himself to bring the fire department up to the modern safety and professional standards required in today's world. Jim's favorite part about the position is seeing the passion in new volunteers and watching them develop in the position.



Pete Ramfjord, Supervisor

Elected in 2022, Pete's background is in welding and fabricating. He continues to work at US Steel as a planning coordinator. In 2022, Pete made immediate impacts with his service to the township in road maintenance, securing contracts for infrastructure improvements, and his practical knowledge in getting projects

completed. He is the major driving force behind the improvements to the town hall and baseball fields.

Did you know

New Financial Record Keeping System, "CTAS"



The township clerk and treasurer each keep records of the township finances to verify that all expenses are being paid and income is being recorded properly. This year the treasurer began keeping records in the Small City & Township Accounting System, "CTAS", a computer program developed specifically for townships by the Minnesota Office of State Auditor (OSA).

Once the system is set up correctly, several reports can be generated which are useful for the township audit and for tracking our inlays and outlays. Since both the clerk and treasurer keep separate records in the township, there is no need for an outside audit, other than the Board of Audit performed by the Town Board before the Annual Meeting and the review by the OSA.



Rhuby's Pantry Clinton Township has been hosting Rhuby's Pantry for several years now serving 200-300 families on the fourth Wednesday of each month from 3 – 6 pm. For \$25 a bundle donation, people receive

an abundance of groceries in the drive-thru style distribution. There is no income or residency requirement. "As long as you eat, you qualify" says Connie Elg, the coordinator for the Clinton Community Center distribution point.

Connie expressed many thanks to Clinton Township for the use of the facility and Ellefson Off Highway for bringing a forklift over to unload the pellets of food that are sorted and bundled by volunteers. She also thanks all the many volunteers that make it possible to distribute the food in a fast and efficient manner. If you are interested in volunteering or want to learn more about Ruby's Pantry, please visit www.rubyspantry.org for more information.



Minnesota Association of Townships "MAT"

Clinton Township is a member of the Minnesota Association of Townships where board members regularly attend regional and state-wide on-line and in-person meetings and trainings concerning township government MAT provides required and optional training and updates for township

officers through out the year and sponsors events such as "Township Day on the Hill" which Supervisor Cal Warwas recently attended to support state legislation specific to township interests. Supervisor Cal Warwas and Treasurer Elaine Santi both attended the MAT Annual meeting last fall. MAT employs 2 lawyers that provide basic interpretations of township law and recommendations for a variety of challenges faced by townships. MAT also employs 4-5 trainers for many training opportunities. The staff holds regular update and Q & A meetings for township officers every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month – "Township Tuesdays" are live and recorded on-line for later review. MAT publishes a quarterly magazine full of information, tips, schedules and education for township government. A copy of the magazine is kept in our township meeting room.

As a member of MAT, Clinton Township uses The Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust (MATIT), a joint-powers entity under Minnesota Law set up for the purpose of providing Minnesota townships with a self-insurance pool. To learn more about MAT and township government visit: <https://www.mntownships.org/>

State of the Clinton FD Address 2023

Jim Theodore, Chief

Hello, and welcome to another year in review for the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. My name is Jim Theodore, currently I am the Fire Chief of the Clinton Volunteer Fire Department. Over the past few years that we have observed that all Fire Departments have a life cycle. In general, they are like a roller coaster. There are peaks and valleys, and there are good times and there are bad. In the same way that a roller coaster courses up, down and around, a fire department function in much the same way. Fire Departments can be judged by several markers. Some of these markers being, the volume of runs, the number of activities ongoing, the number of projects being completed and most importantly by staff changes. In all these above areas, The Clinton fire department has seen active growth and positive change, indicating that we are on the right path. Allow me to address some of these areas. First: RUN VOLUME In the previous decade or so, our annual run volumes have been fairly stable with slightly more than 30 Fire Emergency Fire runs per year and a similar number of EMS runs. for some reason, in 2022 we saw a 25% increase in our emergency calls. Many of these calls are in neighboring communities as we all embrace an increased demand for service or emergencies and less availability of our volunteers. This change has been noted in all area departments. That impact has hit home. The time commitment involved on these runs has also increased from an hour or two per event to many of our calls lasting 8 or 10 hours or more. This increased staff time per call has certainly been felt by all our volunteers. Second: PROJECTS BEING COMPLETED. The list of major projects

completed in the last year is significant. From routine cleaning and maintenance to sealing and weatherproofing the outside of the fire station with a top coat of paint. The routine cleaning and maintenance add to the professional appearance of the fire station. But more importantly sealing and weatherproofing the outside of the cement walls had to be done to prevent premature surface failure of the precast concrete walls. Another major project occurred In November when we initiated a "voluntary OSHA inspection". We did this to ensure that our working environment, both in the station and on an emergency scene, was as safe as we could make it. This was a significant involvement and did result in reduced liability for the Township, improved policies, and better documentation as well as the future ability to apply for OSHA safety grants. Fire Fighter Safety is our first and foremost goal and completing this inspection provides us with additional oversight to accomplish this challenge. We continue to seek out and apply for grants that would help us support our operational needs. This is a time-consuming effort that without a doubt saves our Township valuable dollars in today's economy. These grants come from a variety of sources and we have secured in excess of \$700,000 in federal and state grant dollars thus far. These dollars have funded personal protective equipment, breathing air compressor, and apparatus. Third: THE NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES. One of our more prominent activities is hosting basic firefighting training. This training consists of a 153-hour certified course conducted to NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) standards. This ongoing training provides our new

firefighters with the ability to complete their required training at home, as opposed to traveling a number of miles to get it done. It has proven to be economical from a cost standpoint and incredibly valuable as a regional resource. We also commit a great deal of staff time to host the National Night Out activities in August, along with Township support. Additionally we participate in Fire Prevention activities at the Cherry School, and individual tours of the Fire Department. These activities are valuable public relations assets. Fourth: STAFFING CHANGES. Volunteerism is changing across the country. The available free time our firefighters have is constantly being challenged and we see that regularly in department activities. One of the most significant markers a volunteer fire department will identify with are the changes in participation and staffing levels. When times are good members are active and new members are joining the department. At other times, members are leaving or become inactive. In the past nine months we have seen six new members join the department with no one leaving or retiring. This reflects a growth trend combined with a great deal of activity.

Allow me to conclude this annual review by saying the past year has been an amazing year of progress, training and emergency responses. None of this would have been possible without the support of our volunteer firefighters and their families as well as the continued support of Clinton Township and its residents. Thank you!

Recreation report

This year saw much work done with the ball fields and playground area. Maintaining a ball field isn't an easy task and requires dedicated work year over year. Art Peterson, along with supervisor Pete Ramfjord, spent many hours in a needed effort to revive our ball fields. The results speak for themselves!

Youth baseball will again be using our fields. Last year's combination with the

Cherry program was successful, and we will be combine with them going forward. In order to register if you have not done so, please contact a member listed below for the registration link. To register, a \$100 jersey and concession deposit check will be required in addition to the registration prices. For Junior Legion, Legion, and Babe Ruth, the cost will be \$175. For Majors/Minors/Coach Pitch/Tball, the cost will be

\$100. There will be no family caps on cost this year.

In addition, please contact a member listed below for possible position openings including the umpire coordinator, concession stand coordinator, field coordinator, fundraising and marketing coordinator, and website coordinator.

Jay Asuma, President (218) 929-9745
Dustin Pittman, Vice President (218) 290-8889
Email at ctsummerball18@gmail.com

Roads Report

In 2022, there were several projects completed in the township. Most notably was the roundabout completed at the intersection of highways 37 and 7. The township also work on culverts and ditching on Borg and Santi roads, including an emergency culvert replacement on Santi road. The township also hauled 35 loads of class five on the five township managed roads, Santi, Mayry, Borg, Bennet, and Harju roads.

Speaking with St. Louis County, they plan on doing culvert replacement work on the south side of Perry Road this summer. This will last about a week and will have a detour mapped. There are no major plans for road work on the county roads going into 2023 and 2024. If there is a concern on a township road, please contact any one of the supervisors.

