

## 2020 Township Annual Meeting

### Buildings, Fire, First Responders

Marv Holsten, Supervisor

Workman Township currently has responsibility for the township hall, grader garage, outhouse, snowplow storage area at Palisade Co-op, and the space at the Palisade Community Center/Firehall.

We are maintaining the lawn at the township hall space and have discussed selling the furniture and fixtures inside the townhall, but no decision has been made. We believe that there is a very limited value to the majority of the items inside the building. We have also discussed selling the land and buildings but do not feel it would benefit the township at this time.

With the addition of the township snowplow truck we have also looked at the cost for adding on to the grader garage. However, this is estimated at \$20,000 and the insulated rental space we have for the plow truck is \$35 per month and has fuel and repair availability. At this time we feel it would be too costly to add on to our grader garage.

Looking at upgrading our townhall building with insulation, window replacement, indoor plumbing, upgraded heating is estimated at more than \$25,000. We currently pay only \$25 per month for the community center/firehall.

We have fire coverage with two fire departments, Palisade and McGregor. We have been very fortunate this last year to not have any fire calls. The cost for the services of these two departments approaches 20% of our annual levy.

First Responders have had several calls in our township over the last year and we are thankful that the calls have been infrequent.

Workman Township and several township citizens recently met with the fire chiefs from the two departments that service our township, the McGregor mayor, representatives from MedEvac, first responder representative, and a representative from the Mn State Fire Marshall. The result of the meeting is that the costs are too great for having a fire engine building, first responders, for our township and surrounding townships. There was also a concern that we could not find an adequate number of volunteer firefighters. The one area that could be a positive was to locate 3 designated locations for MedEvac helicopters. The area must be a minimum of 100 feet x 100 feet, level and not have any power lines or obstructions in the area.

We work to maintain our building properties in adequate condition and welcome suggestions or comments.