



White Bear Township Report

Township Budget Meeting Nov. 18



White Bear Township's Special Town Budget Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 18 in Town Hall.

Township residents are encouraged to attend the meeting and vote on the budget.

Town Hall is located on Old Hoffman Road, southwest of Hwy. 61 and White Bear Avenue.

During the Special Town Budget Meeting, staff members will present information to residents on the proposed budget and property tax levy. Residents will then vote on whether to accept or reject the proposals.

The proposed 2004 tax levy is \$2.3 million dollars, a 13% increase over the 2003 tax levy. This figure, however, will be offset by the Township's tax capacity increasing 14.64% due to greater market values and new development/construction.

Based on the Township's tax capacity and certified preliminary levy, the Township would have a 2004 tax rate of 21.057%, compared to a 2003 rate of 22.585%.

"When the rate is applied to mar-

ket values, a home with a market value of \$100,000 would pay \$211 in 2004 compared to \$226 in 2003 and a home with a market value of \$200,000 would pay \$421 compared to \$452 in 2003," said Township Finance Director Tom Kelly. "Now if these homes have a 12% market value increase for 2004 to \$112,000 and \$224,000, they would pay \$236 and \$472, respectively, which is

an increase of \$10 to \$20."

The Township's proposed 2004 budget includes:

- 12% increase in fire protection services;
- 10% increase in Parks and Recreation; and
- 7% increase in police services (adding a second night patrol officer).

The 2004 budget will also cover the cost of three elections: Town Board Election in March; Primary Election in September; and General Election in November.

These figures are not set in stone, said Kelly, because other governmental bodies have not yet submitted their final numbers to the Township.

Kelly will present a detailed budget and proposed tax levy to residents during the Special Town Budget Meeting.

In addition to serving as the Town's Finance Officer for nine years, Kelly is President of Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association (MnGFOA).

National GFOA is a nonprofit pro-

fessional association serving 13,000 government finance professionals throughout North America.

Kelly has received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" from the GFOA seven years in a row.

The Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards program is the only national awards program in governmental budgeting.

The award represents a significant achievement by a governmental body and reflects its commitment to meeting the highest principles of government budgeting.

Kelly's expertise in presenting budgets helps residents understand the Township's financial status in easy-to-understand language.

Kelly was also instrumental in helping the Township secure the more favorable bond rating of A1 from Moody's Investor Services, which helps the Township borrow money for future projects at a lower interest rate.

Township government relies on the participation of residents to approve each year's budget. Once a preliminary levy is set by residents, the Town may lower but not raise the amount.

"Our financial goals remain the same for 2004," said Kelly. "We're striving to maintain the lowest possible tax rate while providing the best services to Township residents."

Township residents are invited to attend the Special Town Budget Meeting later this month. Those in attendance will then be asked to vote on the levy.

For more information, call Tom Kelly at (651)429•5827.

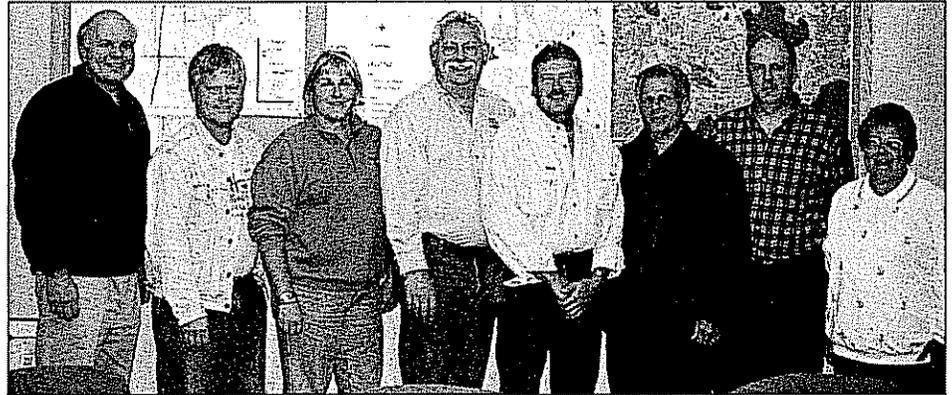
Planning Commission Vital to Township

White Bear Township's Planning Commission consists of a group of dedicated volunteers who advise the Town Board on planning and zoning issues.

The Town Board considers the Planning Commission's recommendations and decides if a plan will be approved.

Planning Commission members review development proposals in accordance with the Township's zoning requirements and comprehensive plan policies. Applicants and neighbors are invited to attend meetings so all parties can be heard.

"The Planning Commission plays a key role in the democratic process in the Township. The relationship between the Planning Commission and Town Board is much like a bicameral body with a House and Senate," said Town Board Supervisor Dick Sand. "They look at land use within the Township, including county open spaces, and make decisions that



(l to r) Town Board Supervisor Dick Sand, Planning Commission Members Pete Metcalf, Beth Artner, Vice-Chair Ron Marquardt, Chair Ed Prudhon, Ron Marmo, Town Planner Tom Riedesel and Recording Secretary Joan Clemens meet the fourth Thursday of each month in the Town Hall (New Member Dana Vanderbosch is not pictured).

complement individual neighborhoods."

Planning Commission members, says Sand, represent a cross-section of the Township. Their main goals are to minimize non-conforming properties and reduce conflict among neighbors.

"The whole process is really like sitting down with your neighbors and trying to figure something

out," said Chair Ed Prudhon.

"When you're dealing with people's property, you can't be hard-nosed all the time. We try to be fair to everyone and make everybody happy."

White Bear Township's Planning Commission meets at 7 p.m., the fourth Thursday of each month. Due to the holidays, the Commission's next meeting will be Dec. 10.

Other Township News

● Township Winter Regulations (Nov. 1-April 1).

Safety: Keep children out of snow piles and forts near the road to prevent injury from snowplows. Do not put anything in the road right-of-way including plants, shrubs, rocks, etc. **Parking:** Motorists cannot park vehicles on the street for more than 24 consecutive hours. Motorists cannot park on a Township street, boulevard, highway or alley after a snowfall of one inch or more until the road is cleared curb to curb. Automobiles should be parked in driveways more than two feet from the edge of the road. **Snowplows:** Stay back, slow down and be patient. Give snowplow operators room to work in. Don't pass snowplows. Maintenance vehicles frequently back up. **Driving:** Never drive into a snow cloud. Monitor weather and road conditions. **Snow Removal:** Perform snow removal and ice control tasks in a timely manner. Keep fire hydrants, gutters and catch basins free of ice and snow. Store shoveled snow "downstream" of driveways (in your yard) to reduce the chance of having your driveway filled again with snow as snowplows pass. Check the condition of your mailbox post and make any necessary repairs prior to winter. **Snowmobiles:** Snowmobiles are prohibited on Town roads, streets and rights-of-way, unless specifically designated by the Town Board.



- **Yard Waste.** Leaves, grass, brush, small branches and garden debris may be bagged and left at the curbside the same day as recycling and refuse pickup throughout the month of November.
- **Christmas Tree Disposal.** BFI will pick up Christmas trees on normal collection days January 5 - 16. Trees should be bare, free of tinsel, lights and stands and placed at the curb across from trash prior to 6:30 a.m. Wrapping paper and packing materials are not recyclable and should be thrown away with regular trash. For more information, call BFI at 651•455•8634.