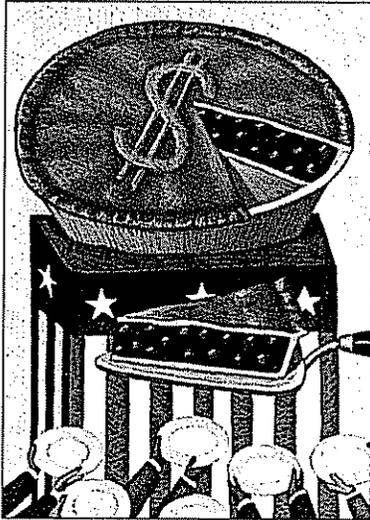




# White Bear Township Report

## Township Budget Meeting Nov. 16



**W**hite Bear Township's Special Town Budget Meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Tues., Nov. 16 in the Town Hall.

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

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

### Special Town Budget Meeting

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 2005 tax levy is \$2.4 million dollars, a 12% increase over the 2004 tax levy. This figure, however, will be offset by the Township's tax capacity increasing 15.42% 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 2005 tax rate of 20.139%, compared to a 2004 rate of

20.753%.

"When the rate is applied to market values, a home with a market value of \$175,000 would pay \$359 in 2005 compared to \$363 in 2004 and a home with a market value of \$250,000 would pay \$514 compared to \$518 in 2004," said Township Finance Director Tom Kelly. "Now if these homes have a 15% market value increase for 2005 to \$201,250 and \$287,500 they would pay \$412 and \$590, respectively, which is an increase of \$49 to \$72."

In September, residents approved a bond referendum to finance an expansion and site improvements to the Township's public works facility. A portion of the bonds will be repayed through a property tax levy based on a property's market value.

The Township's proposed 2005 budget also includes:

- 17% increase in fire protection services;
- 9.2% increase in Parks and Recreation; and
- 6.35% increase in police services.

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.

### Minnesota Government Finance Officers Association

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

He has also been actively involved with the National GFOA, a non-

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

The Township has received the "Distinguished Budget Presentation Award" from the GFOA eight 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 final levy is set by residents, the Town may lower but not raise the amount.

"Our financial goals remain the same for 2005," 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.

# Public Works Facility Expansion Approved



Dean Johnson, TKDA Architect, presented plans for the expansion of the Public Works Facility to Town residents at the Special Town Meeting.

**W**hite Bear Township residents approved a \$2.5 million Public Works Facility expansion project during a Sept. 13 Special Town Meeting.

The Public Works department is responsible for the maintenance of public facilities and the provision of utility services.

The project will add approximately 8,400 sq. ft. to the public works department's vehicle storage area; 2,700 sq. ft. to the existing cold storage area; and 900 sq. ft. in additional office space.

The improved facility will house equipment and supplies relating to street, snow, park, sewer and water maintenance.

The Public Works Department is staffed by eight public works employees.

During the Special Town Meeting, a preliminary plan of the expansion was presented by TKDA Architect Dean Johnson.

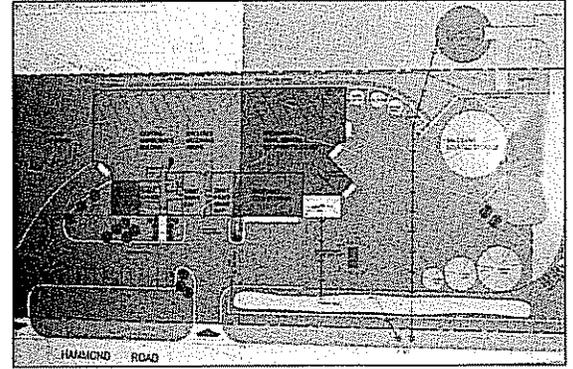
Expanding the public works facility, he said, would provide indoor storage of vehicles, equipment and supplies.

Some equipment is currently stored in water tower bases. Other equipment is stored outdoors.

Providing indoor storage will increase the longevity of the vehicles and equipment.

The project also includes the construction of a new salt storage shed. Indoor salt storage prevents runoff and improves the surrounding environment.

Township Finance Officer Tom Kelly then discussed the impact the \$2.5 million bonding project



A preliminary plan for the improvement of the public works department's facility was shown to Township residents during a recent Special Town Meeting. The campus is located at 1281 Hammond Road, east of the Township's Administrative Office and Community Park.

would have on homeowners' property taxes.

According to his estimates, the project will cost homeowners, with homes having a market value of \$250,000, an additional \$11 per year for 15 years.

After a brief question and answer session, Township residents unanimously approved the project.

## Other Township News

- **Leaves.** White Bear Township residents wishing to keep their yards clear of debris may deliver leaves, grass clippings, brush and other plant materials to Ramsey County's yard waste site in the Township. The site is located on Sherwood Avenue, one-quarter mile south of Co. Rd. J. For times of operation and directions, call the yard waste hotline at (651)773•4455.

Those wishing to prepare leaves, grass clippings, brush and plant materials for curbside pickup from BFI should do the following: Cut branches five feet or shorter and tie in bundles no more than 18-inches in diameter. Limbs should not exceed three inches in diameter. Bag yard waste and set on the curb in front of house. Bags will be collected on the same day as recycling and refuse.

- **Snowmobiles:** Snowmobiles are prohibited on Town roads, streets and rights-of-way, unless specifically designated by the Town Board.
- **Christmas Tree Disposal.** BFI will pick up Christmas trees on normal collection days January 3 – 14. 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.

