



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

February 2015 Vol. 1 No. 20



Baldwin Township Annual Meeting and Election is March 10, 2015.

Polls open at 10:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m.
Precinct 1 & 2 will be combined and
voting will be held in the

Town Hall

The Annual Meeting starts at 8:01 p.m.
The Annual Meeting will be held in the Maintenance Shop
right after the polls close.

Positions are open for Supervisor 'A' and Supervisor 'E'.
These positions are both for a 3 year term.

Town of Baldwin
30239—128th Street, PO Box 25
Princeton, MN 55371

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m. Mon—Fri
Closed Daily 12:00 noon—12:30 p.m.

Phone 763-389-8931 Fax: 763-389-2751
Email: baldwintwp2@qwestoffice.net

TOWNSHIP BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Jay Swanson, Chair—763-856-4201
Larry Handshoe—612-961-7020
Tom Rush—763-389-8931
Jeff Holm—763-389-8931
Randy Atwood—763-856-5722

CLERK/TREASURER

Cathy Stevens—763-389-8931
Cheryl Dobson, Deputy Clerk—
763-389-8931

ANIMAL CONTROL

Craig Hilburn—612-501-7814

FIRE STATION

****EMERGENCY DIAL 911****
Mike Rademacher, Fire Chief—
763-350-0378

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

763-389-0036

SHERBURNE COUNTY WEB SITE:

www.co.sherburne.mn.us

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WEB SITE:

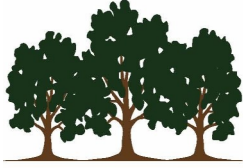
Approved Town Board meeting minutes
can be found at
<http://baldwintownship.govoffice.com>

**Burning Permits at the town hall or
online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us>.
burningpermits**

In place of a candidate forum for the election of Supervisors March 10, 2015 the three candidates running for office will be asked to answer five questions. Their responses will be available by February 18 on the Baldwin Township website, the township Facebook site, and via printed copies for pick-up at the township office.



The AgStar Fund for Rural America, the corporate giving program of AgStar Financial Services, ACA, recently awarded \$3,000 to the Baldwin Township Fire and Rescue Department. The grant was used to help purchase six medical bags. Fire department officers will now carry the bags in their personal vehicles. This will allow them to give a higher level of care when responding directly to medical and trauma calls where they arrive before other EMS services.



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30239 128th Street, Princeton MN 55371

U.S POSTAGE
PAID
Princeton, MN
PERMIT NO. 30
Zip Code 55371

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Unless otherwise noted, all meetings start at 7:00 p.m.)

- Feb 16 **PRESIDENTS' DAY (Office Closed)**
- Feb 17 Town Board Regular Meeting
- Feb 18 Planning Commission Meeting
- Feb 19 Park Committee Meeting
- Feb 23 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting
- March 2 Town Board Regular Meeting
- March 10 **ELECTION (10:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.)
AND ANNUAL MTG (8:01 P.M.)**
- March 17 Town Board Regular Meeting
- March 18 Planning Commission Meeting
- March 19 Park Committee Meeting
- March 23 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting
- April 6 Town Board Regular Meeting
- April 14 Local Board of Appeal—3:00 p.m.
- April 15 Planning Commission Meeting
- April 16 Park Committee Meeting
- April 21 Town Board Regular Meeting
- April 27 Baldwin Volunteer Corps Meeting

LET'S GO GREEN!

To save money on paper and postage

**If you send a message to
cheryl.dobson30239@gmail.com,
we will have your email address for the green
edition of the newsletter.**



2014 Call Totals

2014 was another busy year for the Baldwin Township Fire department. During the 2014 year, the fire department responded to 226 calls.

Burning Permits

Burning permits are not needed when:

The ground is snow-covered — by definition, when there is a continuous unbroken cover of snow 3 inches deep or more surrounding the immediate area of the fire, sufficient to keep the fire from spreading.

For a "campfire"—a fire set for cooking, warming, or ceremonial purposes, which is not more than 3 feet in diameter by 3 feet high, and has had the ground 5 feet from the base of the fire cleared of all combustible material.

For a fire contained in a charcoal grill, camp stove, or other device designed for cooking or heating.

COMMUNITY BUSINESS HIGHLIGHT

Marvin George Builders Started as a Lumber Yard in 1966. In 1972 Marv's expanded into the Hardware Business. Then in 1980 the business was rebuilt in the current location and expanded the facility size to 30,000 square feet. In 2000 the business was expanded further into the Power Equipment industry, adding more sales and a small engine repair shop. Then in 2004 Marv's took the leap into the Rental Business and has been growing ever since.



MARV'S TRUE VALUE

31620—125TH STREET NW
BALDWIN TOWNSHIP
PRINCETON, MN 55371

763-389-3201



If you're a local business and would like to be featured in our next newsletter, please contact us.

The Baldwin Township newsletter is a quarterly publication

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION



Approved for appointment to the Baldwin Planning Commission at the regular meeting on February 2, 2015 were Bryan Lawrence and Richard A. Marshall.

Bryan Lawrence stated that he would like to serve as a commissioner because of his past and current involvement in the township and county. His desire is to have good planning that also considers private property ownership. Lawrence was a supervisor for Baldwin for 10 years, and is currently serving on the Sherburne County Planning and Zoning board.

Richard Marshall wishes to have the opportunity to be an active participant in the Baldwin community. He is looking forward to being instrumental in reviewing and updating ordinances, and identifying problems as well as offering solutions to make the whole process as resident friendly as possible.

The Baldwin Planning Commission meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. All residents are encouraged to attend.

SNOW PLOWING RULES PROMOTE EFFICIENCY

Not only does complying with Baldwin Township's rules about its snowplowing policies increase its ability to quickly clear township roads resulting from accumulating snow and ice—it also strives to provide safe and accident free roadways. Baldwin's maintenance crews ask for your cooperation.

Our township staff is keenly aware of the importance of keeping its roads clear in a timely manner. It's goal is getting in and out as soon as possible, recognizing many of our residents are commuting to jobs outside of the township. In addition, the crew attempts to complete its work in a cost-effective method.

Remember the township is only responsible for township roads. If you live on a state or county road, please contact the state or county departments.

WINTER ROAD MAINTENANCE SNOW PLOWING AND ICE CONTROL

Winter road maintenance is one of the most important duties of the public works department. Providing the best service and the utmost safety to the public will always be the first consideration as is the safety of the snowplow operators. Although winter weather will always be unpredictable, every effort will be made to provide a consistent and high level of service.

In November of 2009 the Township of Baldwin adopted a snow and ice control policy. The policy set guidelines for snowplow operators to follow while performing winter road maintenance. Responsibilities of residents were also outlined in the policy. Prior to the winter season each year the snow and ice control policy will be reviewed and recommendations will be made for the Township to consider.

Go to <http://baldwintownship.govoffice.com/ordinances> for complete information.

Just a Reminder

Per Minnesota Statute 160.2715(a)(1), it is unlawful to push or plow snow into or across any public road. When clearing snow from your driveways, snow must be directed on to your own property. Exercise caution in following or approaching plow trucks. Snowplows are not as maneuverable as smaller vehicles.

Any motor vehicle left on any roadway or road right-of-way in the Township that impedes the performance of the Township snowplow efforts shall be dealt with under the provisions of Baldwin Township policies. Your vehicle will be towed at the owner's expense.

Roads are plowed when snow accumulation reaches 2".

MORE ABOUT ANNUAL MEETINGS

Information taken from Minnesota Township News

The Annual Township Meeting is held on the second Tuesday in March unless bad weather requires that it be postponed. The Meeting is then held the third Tuesday in March. If bad weather forces cancellation again, the Town Board must set another date for the Meeting within 39 days of the third Tuesday. A 10 day published notice of the date and time of the Meeting is required.

The Town Clerk is charged with convening the meeting and taking official minutes. The Deputy Clerk acts in her absence; if neither is available, the electors (Town residents) appoint someone to take minutes. The electors appoint a moderator to oversee the meeting. The Meeting is a meeting of the people, not the Town Board. Supervisors can participate as citizens and can provide information so the electors can make informed decisions; the Board does not run the Meeting.

Any person may attend and speak at the Annual Meeting, but only those eligible to vote in the Township Election may cast a vote at the meeting. The moderator determines the outcome of any vote. A person's eligibility to vote may be challenged by any resident. The validity of the challenge is to be determined by the election judges appointed for the Township Election. A vote at the meeting may occur in any manner decided by the residents. No formal paper ballot is required; however to allow for any issue for which a vote may be taken at the annual meeting to instead be submitted as a formal ballot question at the Town's Election .

Minnesota Statute 365.431, with very limited exceptions, prohibits the Town Board from certifying a levy in excess of the amount approved at the Annual Meeting. However the electors may opt to continue the March meeting to a later date such as August so the levy can reflect any statutory changes that may be adopted during the legislative session.

Other issues that can be dealt with at the Meeting are: authorization for expenditures for a new town hall, authorize nuisance ordinances to be adopted by the Town Board, authorization to proceed with road vacations, set the location for the next year's Annual Meeting.

Most of the actions taken at the Annual Meeting simply authorize the Town Board to take action and are not binding on the Board. Actions such as setting monthly meeting schedule, designating a posting place and official newspaper, and similar actions should occur at the first meeting following the taking of the oath of office of all new supervisors—this is commonly known as the reorganization meeting. Preferences of the electors can be discussed at the Annual Meeting, but only the Board can take official action on these matters. The electors cannot authorize the Town Board to do something otherwise prohibited by law or which the Township lacks the authority to do. For example the electors cannot authorize the Town Board to ignore the Open Meeting Law or operate a municipal liquor store.