I mentioned in my last Chairman’s Corner that the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is still moving forward with their plans to expand the Lake Elmo Airport. Part of the expansion plans would include extending one of the runways across 30th St into West Lakeland, directly affecting our residents. MAC is preparing to release an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) and hold a public hearing to gain input from the public. The EAW is the most common environmental review document that is prepared for most larger projects that meet or exceed certain mandatory environmental thresholds set by the Environment Quality Board (EQB). The review helps identify unacceptable environment impacts with the project, and in turn, the proposers of a project can modify it, if possible, to avoid problems. This information is also used to establish permit conditions that will protect our environment.

The Township Board has decided to hire Attorney Thomas Casey, who specializes in Environmental Law, and Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc., an environmental consultant firm, to conduct an assessment of MAC’s EAW and advise the Town Board on the airport expansion project. We anticipate this will take place sometime within the next two months. The publication of the EAW will likely be towards the end of February and the public hearing will take place at Oak-Land Middle School on Wednesday, April 4 at 6:00 pm. Please visit the town website for updates.

Sincerely,
Chairman Dan Kyllo

Emerald Ash Borer—by Supervisor Dave Schultz

In 2015, Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found at the St. Croix Wayside Rest Area off of I-94 in West Lakeland Township. As a result, Washington County was the 11th county to be added to the list of quarantined counties in Minnesota. Under this quarantine, it is a violation to transport firewood of any hardwood species and any ash material from a quarantined area to a non-quarantined area without a permit. Violations of this quarantine may result in civil or criminal penalties.

EAB is a significant threat to our community as it is known to kill all 16 native species of ash trees in the United States. EAB is so aggressive that ash trees may die within two to three years after they become infected. Ash trees that have low densities of EAB often have few or no external signs of infestation. Symptoms of infestation may include any or all of the following: dead branches near the top of the tree, leafy shoots sprouting from the trunk of the tree, bark splits exposing larva galleries, extensive woodpecker damage, and D shaped exit holes. In the future, the township will be adding links to our website to help educate residents on the quarantine rules, EAB and other tree pest and diseases. Like oak trees, ash trees should be trimmed during the winter months to help prevent the spread of the disease. Also like oaks, ash trees can be treated to help prevent the EAB. Contact an arborist for more information on treating EAB.
Inside This Issue

- Chairman’s Corner
- Ash Tree Disease
- Town Board Election
  March 13—10 am to 8 pm
- Annual Township Meeting

TOWNSHIP INFORMATION

Office Hours—8:00 a.m. to Noon
Phone—651-436-4773

Mailing Address—
P.O. Box 447
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
www.westlakeland.govoffice2.com

Town Board
Dan Kyllo, Chairman 651-436-1134
Dave Schultz, Supervisor 651-436-6816
Steve Ebner, Supervisor 651-436-6482
Carrie Seifert, Town Clerk 651-436-4773
Jennifer Samec, Deputy Clerk 651-436-4773
Marsha Olson, Treasurer 651-998-9178

Building Official (building permits & inspections)
Duane Stensland—651-436-7669

Animal Control
Kathi Pelnar—715-386-7789

Town Board meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Oak-Land Middle School Auditorium, 820 Manning Avenue, Minnesota.

Changes to this schedule can be viewed on the township website calendar or posting board located at 10th Street and Stagecoach Trail.

West Lakeland contracts with Tennis Sanitation for recycling services every other Monday. Call Town Office 651-436-4773 with questions.