

Lent Township Meeting Schedule

All regularly scheduled meetings are held each month at 7:00 pm at the Lent Town Hall unless otherwise stated below.

Town Board Meeting: 3rd Tuesday

Planning & Zoning: 2nd Wednesday

Staff Meeting: 1st Monday at 9:00 am

Parks Committee: Last Tuesday

Chisago County Association of Township Officers: Last Wednesday at 7:00 pm at Senior Center in North Branch.

Stacy Lent Fire Dept. Joint Powers: 1st Monday in March, August and December at 7:00 pm at Stacy Lent Fire Station in Stacy.

Special meetings will be posted at the official Township posting sites and/or published in the Chisago County Press and the website.

Contact the town clerk one week prior to a meeting to be placed on the agenda.

Building and driveway permits are obtained at the Lent Town Hall during normal office hours.

Town Hall Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday - 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Town Hall Phone: (651) 462-3009 Fax: (651) 462-2991 Website: Lenttownship.com Email: clerk@lenttownship.com

Building Inspector Jack Kramer Office (651) 351-5051 Pager (651) 847-9157 Cell (651) 269.5633



Community Comes Naturally

33155 Hemingway Avenue
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www.lenttownship.com



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LENT TOWNSHIP NEWS

February 2015

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election

Notice is hereby given that the Lent Township Elections will be held March 10, 2015 from 10:00 AM until 8:00 PM. Absentee voting is available now and will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2015, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Lent Town Hall. Eligible voters will be voting for one Supervisor A position (Three-year term) and three ballot Questions.

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 at 8:15 pm. The Annual meeting and Elections will be held at the Lent Town Hall, 33155 Hemingway Avenue, Stacy, MN 55079.

If weather prohibits the Township elections from being held on March 10, 2015, they will be held on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 from 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM. If weather prohibits the Annual Meeting from being held on March 10, 2015 at 8:15 PM, it will be held on March 17, 2015 at 8:15 PM and the regular Board meeting will be on March 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

The Board of Canvass will meet immediately after the annual meeting on March 10, 2015 to certify the official election results.



TOWN ELECTION BALLOT TOWN OF LENT, MINNESOTA MARCH 10, 2015

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS:

To vote, completely fill in the oval(s) next to your choice(s) like this:

TOWN OFFICES	
TOWN SUPERVISOR SEAT A TOWN OF LENT VOTE FOR ONE	
<input type="radio"/>	BRIAN SEEKON
<input type="radio"/>	CAROLYN L. CAGLE
<input type="radio"/>	write-in, if any
TOWN QUESTIONS	
To vote for a question, fill in the oval next to the word "YES" on that question. To vote against a question, fill in the oval next to the word "NO" on that question.	
TOWN QUESTION 1 MOVING TOWNSHIP ELECTION TO NOVEMBER	
Shall Lent Township designate the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of even-numbered or odd-numbered years as the date of the Town General Election?	
<input type="radio"/>	YES
<input type="radio"/>	NO
TOWN QUESTION 2 APPOINTING A FIVE-MEMBER TOWN BOARD	
Shall Option A, providing for a five-member town board of supervisors, be adopted for the government of Lent Township?	
<input type="radio"/>	YES
<input type="radio"/>	NO
TOWN QUESTION 3 COMBINING THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK AND TREASURER	
Shall Option D, providing for combining the offices of clerk and treasurer, to be appointed by the Town Board, be adopted for government of Lent Township?	
<input type="radio"/>	YES
<input type="radio"/>	NO

Special Ballot Questions for March 2015 Election

This letter is written to inform the residents of Lent Township about three ballot questions you will encounter at the upcoming March 2015 general election. The ballot questions involve moving the general election date, creating a five-member Board, and combining the Township clerk and treasurer positions. Pursuant to Minnesota law, the Town Board is responsible for creating plans to implement the respective ballot questions if they are passed by the electors. Attached to this letter are four Board resolutions that may be enacted by the Board depending on the outcomes of the upcoming election. This letter is not created to persuade voters one way or another as to how one should vote on any specific ballot question, but rather to inform voters of how the Board will implement any ballot question or questions that are passed. Below are the ballot questions as well as potential outcomes depending on whether the questions pass or not.

Ballot Question 1: Shall the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years be designated as the date of the Lent Township general election?

Ballot Question 2: Shall option A, providing for a five-member town board of supervisors, be adopted for the government of Lent Township?

Ballot Question 3: Shall option D, providing for combining the offices of clerk and treasurer, to be appointed by the Town Board, be adopted for the government of the Lent Township?

Depending on how the Town Electors vote on the above three questions, there are several potential outcomes. Below is a discussion of each outcome.

None of the Ballot Questions Pass

If none of the three above ballot questions are passed by a majority of the Town electors, then there will be no changes to the Lent Township ("Town") governmental structure. Although, a Board Supervisor position is still up for election this March.

Switch to November Election Cycle Only is Passed

If a majority of the electors passes Ballot Question 1, the Town's general election will move from the second Tuesday in March every year, to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. That is, instead of having an election every year in March, the Town will have a general election every other year in November.

To implement this change, the Board proposed lengthening the terms of two current Board Supervisors. The current Supervisors are: Supervisor A (Gene Olson), whose term is up in March 2015; Supervisor B (Rick Keller), whose term expires in March 2016; and Supervisor C (Lyle Johnson), whose term ends in March 2017. Because the Supervisors' current terms end in March of their respective election years, the Board's resolution lengthens the terms of Supervisor B and Supervisor C until November of the next election year.

In addition, the Board's plan provides that future members of the Board will serve staggered six year terms, instead of staggered three year terms. Also, because November 2015 is an odd-numbered November, a second general election will be held to elect Supervisor A's Board seat. The person who wins the Supervisor A seat in March 2015 will serve as interim Supervisor A until the second general election in November 2015. The implementation plan will look as follows:

Supervisor A will have his term expire after the March 2015 election, and the winner of the March 2015 election will serve as interim Supervisor A until the second general election in November 2015.

Supervisor B will have his term extended from March 2016 until November 2017 at which time his seat will come up for re-election.

Supervisor C will have his term extended from March 2017 until November 2019 at which time his seat will come up for re-election.

It is also important to note, that if Ballot Question 1 were to pass, only the general election would be moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. The annual town meeting will, in any event, still occur every year on the second Tuesday in March.

To recap, if Ballot Question 1 is passed, the general election date will be moved to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years, current Board Supervisors B and C will have their terms extended, future Board Supervisors will serve six year staggered terms instead of three year staggered terms, and the winner of the March election will serve as interim Supervisor A until the second general election on November 3, 2015 in which the electors will elect a person as Supervisor A to the Board.

Five-Member Board Only is Passed

For this outcome assume the Town electors only pass Ballot Question 2, dealing with the creation of a five-member board. Note, the current terms of the Board Supervisors are three years.

If the Town Electors only pass Ballot Question 2 dealing with the five-member Board, the Board's plan provides that the new Supervisors will be elected at a special election held on _____. The two new Supervisors will be Supervisor D and Supervisor E.

The person elected to fill the seat of Supervisor D will be elected initially to a two year term and will serve until March 2017, while the person elected as Supervisor E will be elected to a three year term serving until March 2018. After the initial two years, the seat of Supervisor D will be elected, like the rest of the Board Supervisor seats, to three year terms. In addition, Supervisor A's Board seat is up for election in March 2015. The new election cycle for the Board Supervisors, under this outcome, is as follows:

March 2015: Elect Supervisor A
Special Election 2015: Elect Supervisor D and E
March 2016: Elect Supervisors B
March 2017: Elect Supervisor C and D
March 2018: Elect Supervisors A and E
March 2019: Elect Supervisors B
March 2020: Elect Supervisor C and D; and so forth.

Both the Switch to November Election Cycle and the Five-Member Board are Passed

If the Town Electors pass both Ballot Questions 1 and 2, the Board has an implementation plan to elect the new Supervisors, and facilitate the change in the election cycle. Again, Ballot Question 1 moves the general election date to the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of odd-numbered years. Ballot Question 2 creates a five-member Board.

To successfully implement both of these Ballot Questions, the Board's resolution provides that the two new supervisor positions, Supervisors D and E, will be elected at a special election held on _____, 2015. Pursuant to Minnesota law, Supervisor D would be elected to a two year term initially, serving until November 2017. Supervisor E would be elected to a three year term initially, serving until November 2018. After the initial two year term by Supervisor D, any person elected as Supervisor D will be elected to a six year term, like the other Board Supervisors.

Because the law mandates that Supervisor E have an initial three year term, the Town must have a special election during November 2018, so that the town can elect a person to Supervisor E's seat. Because, in this scenario, the second election for Supervisor E's seat is during a non-general election year, the person elected during the special November 2018 election, will only serve as Supervisor E for three years. After the person elected to serve as Supervisor E in 2018 finishes his/her three year term, the position will align with general election cycle. At this point, any person elected to Supervisor seat E will serve six year terms, like the other Supervisors in this outcome.

The reason for having Supervisor E's seat serve two three year terms is twofold. First, the second three year term puts Supervisor E's seat back on a the general election cycle, meaning that the town will not need to continually have special elections to elect someone as Supervisor E. Second, the additional three year term will allow for staggered elections of Board seats. Staggering Board Supervisor elections in this way will prevent a majority of the Board from being up for election in any one specific election year.

In addition, as mentioned above, someone will be elected as Supervisor A during the November 2015 second general election. After this initial election and the 2018 Supervisor E term, all subsequent terms of future Supervisors will be for six years. The staggered voting will look as follows:

Special Election 2015: Elect Supervisors D and E
November 2015: Elect Supervisors A
November 2017: Elect Supervisor B and D
November 2018: Elect Supervisor E (Special Election; Three year term)
November 2019: Elect Supervisors C
November 2021: Elect Supervisors A and E
November 2023: Elect Supervisor B and D
November 2025: Elect Supervisors C, and so forth.

Creation of a Single Clerk/Treasurer Position

For purposes of this outcome, assume the Town Electors vote to approve Ballot Question 3, combining the offices of the clerk and treasurer.

If Ballot Question 3 is adopted by the Town Electors, the clerk and the treasurer will both have their employment terminated with the Town on _____ date. After the terminations, the positions of clerk and treasurer will be combined and the Board will appoint a person it sees fit to do the duties of the new clerk/treasurer position within ___ days of the terminations or by _____ date.

Because Ballot Question 3 is not contingent upon the other two Ballot Questions, if Ballot Question 3 is passed, this will be the procedure regardless of the outcome of the other two Ballot Questions.

Conclusion

We hope you find this information helpful in understanding the Board's implementation plan for the three Ballot Questions listed above. Under Minnesota law, the Board was obligated to create these plans in conjunction with the Ballot Questions. This communication is not intended to persuade voters in any way, in regards to the upcoming March election. Rather, the goal of this communication is to inform the Town Electors as to the Board's plan for implementing any passed Ballot Question. Please feel free to attend the public Board meetings to ask any questions or present any concerns you may have.

Continued →