

# Stanford Township

By Earle Stoeckel

The first records that we have of the township are from 1869. In the records, the sheriff posted the notice of the meeting on Dec 18, 1869. There were three supervisors, one clerk, one treasure, one justice of the peace and two constables. The meeting was held in the home of the chairman, J.B. Smith. F.J. Bird was the first clerk. J.A. Bird was the first treasure.

The Assessment was four days work on the road for each adult male. At this time many of the roads were dedicated, by easement or perscription.

In 1972 I became clerk of Stanford Township. I received \$5.00 per meeting, when I started as clerk. At this time the township had its own building inspector. The constable was also an elected position. Walter Springer was the building inspector. Adolph Schleif was the constable. The supervisors were Ray Stoeckel, Carlton Anderson and Walter Springer.

In 1976 the boat ramp was put in on the east side of blue lake. It was poured concrete. It was put in by Jerry Kelly for \$800.00.

At this time the township received funding from the Federal Government by revenue sharing and the Anti Recessional Fiscal Assistance Fund which funds could be used for roads or equipment.

The first new grader, a Champion (make of grader) was purchased in January of 1973. Part of it was paid with Revenue Sharing Funds. The total price was \$30,170.00.

In 1974 the clerks compensation, \$5.00 per meeting and \$4.00 per hour for extra book work. The cost of gravel spread on township roads was \$2.00 per yard. Building inspection fees were \$4.00.

In 1978 a resolution passed to look into the possibility of buying some property for a site for a Town Hall. There were four properties looked at. One

was Sullivan Woods which was owned by Emma Durham. Another was across from Mau's Corner. Another was property owned by the Federal Government, the old Niki Base which was built to intercept missiles. The other was 360 acres, owned by Lyndon Cedarblade.

A committee was formed to select a site for the Town Hall. The committee selected the property owned by Lyndon and Helen Cedarblade.

The Town Board met with Mr. Cedarblade in his home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Mr Cedarblade was interested in selling the 350 acres to Stanford Township for park purposes, which is to remain in its natural state, with no improvements and never be developed. He would sell the other ten acres to Stanford Township for a Town Hall and recreational purposes.

Ray Stoeckel was a member of the 7E Regional Development Commission in Mora. He had heard of grant money available to Townships to purchase land for park purposes. The funding was a State and Federal Program called LOCON.

The first offer to Lyndon and Helen Cedarblade was \$65,000.00. Mr Cedarblade indicated that this offer was much too low. At a Town Board meeting and looking at sales of other properties, another offer was made for \$110,00.00. Mr Cedarblade was pleased with this offer.

Now the Township had a figure to use for the application for the grant from LOCON. The application was submitted to the Federal and State offices of LOCON. The officers of the Township appeared in persons, to a meeting of all applicants for the LOCON grant money. The officers of the Township presented the project and made a plea for the money to pay for the Lyndon Cedarblade property. When it was mentioned that this was a large acreage property and it was to be used for park purposes, we received a indication that we would possibly get the grant. The sum of \$110,00.00 was requested. We were informed that this grant is for 75% of the cost. The Township would have to

put up the rest of the money. We received notice that our application was approved, that we could proceed to complete the purchase of the property.

The proposal and the acceptance of the application from LOCON was presented to Lyndon and Helen Cederblade. They agreed to the price. Lyndon and Helen Cederblade proposed that they would give \$22,000 to Stanford Township for their 25% of the project price, for which the Cederblades would have a tax writeoff. The grant from LOCON was for \$87,500.

The agreement with Lyndon and Helen Cederblade was that the 350 acres for park was to be named Lyndon Cederblade Park and that it would be kept in its natural state. The ten acres that Stanford Township purchased could be used for a site for the Town Hall, and the remainder could be used for recreational purposes.

The property was acquired for the Town Hall. Plans now were made for the location and size of the Town Hall. The Planning committee suggested a building 30 feet by 60 feet. After much discussion and planning it was decided to build a building 30 feet by 72 feet. Thirty feet by 30 feet would be the town hall and 42 feet by thirty feet would be the shed for the motorgrader. The cost of the building was \$30,170.00. The first meeting was held in the new Stanford Town Hall was, March 1, 1980. Prior to this, the Town Board meetings were held in the home of the clerk. Annual meetings and Board of Review and special Town Meetings were held in the basement of Hierlingers General Store, which is now the County Line Restaurant and Bar.

The township requested more funds from LOCON. One was for \$7,500.00 to build the ball fields with the backstops and fences. The chain link fences were donated by the Foley Manufacturing. They no longer needed the fences. Much of the labor or 50% match was donated by ball teams.

Another grant was applied for from LOCON to lay out hiking trails in Lyndon Cederblade Park. The township was to give a 60% match for this grant. The big cost would be for engineering, Stanford Township contacted

Isanti County for help in engineering the layout of the trails. Isanti County engineer, Chuck Gronberg, agreed to lay out the trails in exchange for the fill dirt from the hill, which is now used by sledders, which is adjacent to Isanti County Highway #8 west of the picnic shelter west of the Stanford Townhall. The fill dirt was hauled on Isanti County Highway #8 when it was rebuilt. The grant for this project was \$6400.00 (hiking trails).

Going back to 1979, the position of constable was eliminated. Ray Stoeckel, supervisor, died in January of 1986. Dorothy Stoeckel, Ray Stoeckels wife, was appointed by the town board to fill the unexpired term of Ray Stoeckel. Dorothy Stoeckel resigned from the town board effective March 11, 1986. Wayne Anderson was elected to the board of supervisors at the annual meeting held on March 11, 1986. Bernard Larson and Walter Springer were the other two supervisors. Theressa Whittlef was treasure. Earle Stoeckel was clerk.

In August 1986 action was taken to hire Isanti County Highway Engineer, Charles Gronberg, as lead person to apply for funds to pay for address and safety signs, from the Hazard Elimination Safety Program.

In March 1989 Stanford Township made an agreement with the Isanti County Red Cross, that they can use the Stanford Townhall, to treat victims of disaster.

The first well to serve the Town Hall was a driven well. In June 1989 the driven well failed. The new well now serves the Town Hall, is a drilled 4 inch well, put in in July 1989 for \$2,287.00.

In August the Stanford Town Board sent a resolution to the Isanti County Commissioners, opposing the locating of a large airport, north of the Twin Cities.

In December 1<sup>st</sup> 1989 Bernard resigned from the Stanford Town Board. James Jensen was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Bernard Larson at the December 20<sup>th</sup> 1989 special meeting.

*Citation Cable Co. requested permission to put cable in the roadbanks, for cable television. Permission was granted with the Township receiving 5% of the billing to Citation's customers.*

*Robert Kriesel, who operated the Champio Motorgrader from 1973 to 1990, died. Leonard Bergeron was hired on a day by day basis to operate the grader, which now was an 1985 Cat.*

*Cleanup of appliances, tires and furniture is done in the spring with residents paying for the items they bring to the township.*

*The members of the Stanford Town Board in 1997 were Wayne Anderson, Loren Daudt and James Jenson, were the board of supervisors. The treasure was Irene Springer and Earle Stoeckel was the clerk.*

*Lakewood Drive on the east side of Long Lake was reconstructed and blacktopped in 1997.*

*On December 1, 1997, Stanford Township accepted the road into Royal Oaks Development as a township road.*

*Stanford Township has received grants from the Isanti Lions Club for tables for the refreshment center, the blacktopping of the area around the town hall, black topping of the basketball court, and funding for rolling dock put into Blue Lake on the east side, which is the Stanford Township Public Park Blue Lake. We are grateful to the Isanti Lions Club for these grants.*

*A grant was received from the Isanti SWCD to control erosion on the steep banks in the Stanford Township Public Park Blue Lake. The grant was for \$6,457.00.*

*Fire protection is received for Stanford Township from the city of Isanti fire department and the city of Zimmerman fire department.*

*Patricia Ehne was elected treasurer of Stanford Township on March 11, 1999, at the annual election.*

A new Sterling truck with a plow and wing was authorized to be ordered from Boyer Ford of Rogers, with the plow and wing to be purchased by J-Craft.

The new shed which has four stalls for equipment, was built in 2000, by home design inc. for a cost of \$95,000.00. The building is 48 x 88.

A grant will be received from DNR for \$75,000 to help rebuild 277<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, the roadway into East Side of Blue Lake.

Submitted by Earle Stoeckel

Clerk