

FIRE: Township residents protected through March

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January 20 to allow the township time to figure out their next steps. The township responded to the city with a proposal with two options:

Option A states the township will pay the city a base amount of \$10,000 and give them \$2,000 per fire with a cap of \$24,000. Option B would be to give them the \$20,044 for 2022 and 2023 and then in 2024 the township would agree to an increase following the cost-of-living increase provided by Consumer Pricing Index.

After further discussion, the township agreed to pay \$5,011.11 for fire service for the first quarter of 2022. This will allow the township and city to consider the fire formula for 2023 and determine if they can come to an agreement for the rest of 2022 and into 2023.

SANDSTONE TOWNSHIP CLERK GIVES MORE BACKGROUND

At the annual township meetings, all 1,790 townships in the state of Minnesota are told by their electors how much they can levy (tax) for the next year. Their residents determine how much their taxes will be. It's up to the township board to be good stewards of that money and spend it accordingly, with every attempt to see into the next year's needs. Only the township's residents can raise the levy.

Sandstone township's electors only increased the levy in 2021 by \$10,000 and had increased expenses of \$26,000 which included the new grader payment and the \$13,000 increase in fire service costs. They had an additional

unforeseen cost of \$14,200 to extend the grader warranty in case of a serious breakdown.

The townships get some extra dollars from the county from timber sales and tax forfeited properties that sell to build a reserve for unseen emergencies like the floods in 2016.

According to Sandstone Township Clerk Ailene Croup, Sandstone Township Board has been trying to get a handle on the ever-growing increases in the City of Sandstone's yearly fire service bill. The township was charged approximately \$14,000 in 2019 and \$31,000 in 2021 for fire service from the city.

The township has averaged three fires per year over the past eight years. They have offered the City of Sandstone \$20,000 a year for three years with a consumer price index increase on the third year. They also gave the city a choice of \$10,000 per year plus \$2,000 per fire with the total not to exceed \$24,000.

The township board is trying to extend the contract over a 3-year period so they can build reserves after the 40 percent increase in the fire formula depleted existing reserves.

For those who want to be involved in their township's government, March 8, 2022 is the day of the annual meeting and your chance to be heard and give input on what your township taxes will be in 2023.

The Sandstone City Council meets next on January 19 at 6 p.m. at the Sandstone City Hall. Sandstone Town Board meets the first Thursday of each month at the North Pine Government Center in Sandstone.

CAUCUS: Getting involved in local elections

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WHAT HAPPENS AT A CAUCUS?

The caucus meeting starts promptly at 7 p.m. Attendees are asked to register when they arrive. According to the Secretary of State website there are three main activities at a precinct caucus.

Choosing volunteers who will organize political activities in the precinct. This could include maintaining contact lists, holding political meetings and helping with campaign efforts.

Discussing issues and ideas for the party to support. A person can present an issue or idea for the party to support, called a resolution. If they convince other attendees to support their resolution, it will be taken to the next political convention. Eventually, the resolution could become part of the official party platform.

Choosing delegates and alternates who will endorse candidates at future conventions. At future conventions, party delegates will endorse state and federal candidates, including for Governor. Political parties have different ways of choosing delegates at the precinct level caucus—contact the party for more information.

WHAT DOES A PRECINCT DELEGATE DO?

The elected delegates will meet with other delegates from around the county/district at the county/district party conventions and represent their precincts for a two-year term. Different tasks are performed depending on if it is an even or odd year. When meeting in the even year, they: 1) elect delegates and alternates to represent the county/district party at district conventions and the state convention; 2) consider resolutions from the precinct caucuses to amend the state party's platform; and 3) endorse a State House candidate and a State Senate candidate. When meeting in the odd year, they: 1) elect the executive committee of the county/district party; 2) amend the county/district party's constitution as needed; 3) elect delegates and alternates to represent the county/district party at the State Central Committee which is the committee that elects the state party officers.

Whether you are a Republican, Democrat or anything in between and wish to be more involved in the choosing of elected officials, attend this year's caucus. To find out where your local caucus is being held, use the precinct finder on the Minnesota Secretary of State website at <https://www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/how-elections-work/precinct-caucuses/>.

It Pays to advertise in the Pine County Courier!

ICE: Over 200 climbers converged on Sandstone for Ice Fest 2022

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softer. It's more difficult to get the ice ax in when the ice is hard. It was about 20 degrees at the festival and the ice was solid.

"The festival is hosted by the MCA and all of the money raised from the clinics, gear rental and raffle goes to stewardship and infrastructure projects at climbing recreation areas," said Stritch. "The MCA

also runs the Sandstone Ice Park, so a lot of the money goes back into making sure we can make great ice for the ice climbing community. There's also rock climbing in Robinson Park and we hope to do some

trail improvement and sustainability projects this summer."

The ice park is free and open to the public from late December to early March, as long as the weather cooperates.

Next year's festival dates are

already set for January 6, 7 and 8, 2023.

BACK IN THE DAY

1996: Sandstone receives more than a foot of snow

75 YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1947

- Svend Andersen and Richard Davis have unloaded a truckload of baled hay on their new lot next to the post office and announce that they expect to start building operations at once. The hay will be used to cover the concrete foundation if the weather is cold. The new building will be 50x75-feet and a big improvement on Main Street.

- Bernard Hedlund was presented with the Edison Electric Award for saving the life of Arthur Nelson of Sandstone. While working on power lines between Sandstone and Askov, Nelson received a charge of current that nearly took his life. Mr. Hedlund applied artificial respiration to the unconscious man until medical help arrived.

- The U.S. Veterans' Administration will be located here to serve all territory between the Twin Cities and the Twin Ports.

- The hard-fighting basketball team from McGrath went down to defeat at the hands of Sandstone. The Panthers emerged with a 67-23 win.

- The Wahlbergs were just too strong for the Lundorff "town boys" and won the family basketball game 37-23.

- Panthers defeated Finlayson 71-9 and Willow River defeated Askov 56-18.

50 YEARS AGO JANUARY 13, 1972

- Mayor Jokela makes council committee appointments. Two new members, Mayor William Jokela and Chris Thorvig, Trustee, took office. Fire and Civil Defense committee includes Joe Seitz, Chris Thorvig and Larry Welsh. Environmental Improvement committee members are Warren Larson, William Jokela and Chris Thorvig.

- The Clerk of Court Case Nieboer and his staff, Eileen Baum and Mrs. Jim D'Aoust demonstrate their new equipment. State law now requires an eye check and a colored picture for all driver's license.

- Mrs. Donald (Louise) Ryan received awards for her entries into the East Central Minnesota Art Exhibition at Stillwater.

- The Sandstone Panthers dropped two games this week losing to Willow River 44-37 and to Moose Lake 84-43. Tom Laursen was high point man with 11. Tom Brabec had 10 for Willow River.

- Finlayson awarded trophies to the ten highest scorers in Finlayson history at the Finlayson Alumni basketball game.

- David Phaller is the office manager of the new Delta Lines Terminal in San Bernardino, Calif.

25 YEARS AGO JANUARY 9, 1997

- Sandstone received more than a foot of snow on the weekend.

- Clarence Wattnem was re-elected chairman of the North Pine Area Hospital District Board of Directors.

- East Central Board of Education held a special meeting to discuss the recently defeated bond referendum.

- An auction is being planned as a fundraiser for Sandstone Junction Trail Extension. Contact Norman Lundorff if you wish to donate anything.

- Winners at the Moose Lake Federal Credit Union Youth and Teen Savers Club were Katie Pigman, Kortine Brown, and Rissa Davis.

- Gunny Lovgren is proud of her Swedish heritage.

- Athletes of the Week are Brandon Beise and Dana Fogt.

- Reader of the Week is Laurann Johnson in Mrs. Loken's first-grade.

- Lady Eagles capture the holiday tournament with winning scores of East Central/Cook 55-47, East Central/Ely 55-47, East Central/Indus 79-34, and East Central/Carlton 61-45.

- Sign on the door of Maggie's Colonial Café we are closed because of the snow and my workers can't make it into work.

10 YEARS AGO JANUARY 12, 2012

- East Central will be looking for a new superintendent. The board unanimously approved not to renew Tamara Schulz's contract.

- Lane Roberts won the East Central Geography Bee.

- The One-Act Festival is January 21. This year the play selected is Judah's Daughter.

- The City of Sandstone has provided the North Pine Area Hospital District with a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to provide transition funds for the district. In December the hospital district voted to officially terminate its lease with Duluth-based Essentia.

- Bart Johnson and Kirsten Shank are Athletes of the Week.

- Gillian Fogt, Delaney Beckman, Simon Ecklund, Carly Watrin, Raina Zaudtke, Gabe Koland, Gunnar Fogt, Jacey Wickstrom, Brenna Miller and Tayah Schleret were Students of the Month for December at East Central Elementary (Soaring Eagles).

- Jeannette Kester was elected school board president.

- East Central Sports Boosters will have the annual Sloppy Dog Fundraiser Dinner before the Hinckley-Finlayson game.