



**Meetings & Events
@ Town Hall
(unless otherwise noted)**

Presidential Nomination Election - Tues. March 5
Voting Hours 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Township Board*
1st Wed/month @ 7 p.m.
Next meeting Wed, 3/6
In person & Zoom

Township Board Annual Mtg*
3/12 @ 7 p.m. In person & Zoom

Planning Commission*
Meets Quarterly @ 7 p.m.
(3/25, 6/24, 9/30, & 12/16)
In person & Zoom

***Meetings via Zoom and open to the public**
MEETING ID:
841 1114 6136
PASSWORD: WabanaMtg2

Exercise - SAIL (Stay Active & Independent for Life)
Tues & Fri /wk @ 10 a.m.

Cribbage
Every Tues @ 1 p.m. (\$3 to play)

Community Fund Meeting
5/20 @ 6:30 p.m.

Paper Shredding Event & Community Garage Sale
June or July; watch for date

Note: Any changes to Meetings and Events will be posted on the website and at Town Hall.

Wabana Warbler

A newsletter for residents of Wabana Township

Attend the Town Board Annual Meeting Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m.

Residents may participate in their township government at the Wabana Township Annual Meeting on Tuesday, March 12 at 7 p.m. The annual meeting will be held in person and by Zoom. At the annual meeting, permanent residents can vote on the recommended levy. At the January budget meeting, the board discussed the 2024 budget and will consider the following recommended levy at the March 12 annual meeting:

General Fund	85,045
Road & Bridge.	37,150
Fire	<u>32,000</u>
Total	\$154,195

The increase includes +\$3,000 for fire protection (\$29K to \$32K) and +\$6,000 for the three elections paid for by the Township (Presidential Primary, Election Primary, and General) The 2023 levy was \$150,595.

Wabana Recreational Complex

Did you ever watch that show as a kid ‘Where in the World is Carmen Sandiago?’ Are you thinking ‘Where in the World is that new Wabana recreational complex?’ Well, my friends, good news is on the horizon. I know, I know, we’ve been at this for 3 years. Seems like a lifetime ago. But we are on the cusp of turning a big corner.

After a major pledge drive, several fundraisers, and awarded grants, we have broken the \$310,000 mark! Our complete project goal is \$480,000. You can see we are about \$170,000 off our goal. The support from the township has been overwhelming. Thank you all so very very much. The committee members have averaged 10-12 people/ meeting and are committed to seeing this project achieve its goals.

Now refer to the Insert for the diagram (or the third page of this file if you’re viewing electronically). This is what the playground will look like. Yes, that’s a zipline, and a double wide slide! Not a huge playground but a lot of fun pieces I’m sure the kiddos will enjoy. A huge thanks to this committee of 19 volunteers and all their hard work. Also, to school district 318 for the donated central playground structure. Saved us a huge amount of additional costs.

Recreational Complex continued on Insert

Recreational Complex, continued from page 1

We've been working with an engineering firm and now have gotten the exact details needed to obtain estimates for the overall project. A huge thank you to Steve Bjerke, Wayne Speedling, and Gary Oja for getting the numbers together for that all important *next step*....The attachment shows the playground has been moved to the current tennis court location. A kiddy rink has been added to the west end of the hockey rink (+ lights), Tennis and separate Pickleball courts have been added to the north side of the hockey rink, a 30' x 30' cement pad has been added for Basketball, and an ADA accessible walking trail has been included to connect all these areas. Whew.

Next step: We are in the process now of applying (again) for a grant from the DNR. We were told that we were very close to being awarded this grant last year, so we will try one more time. If we are successful, then all the above becomes a reality.

So now for some more good news. Most recently we've had an anonymous donor step forward and offer a dollar match up to \$15,000! What a gift! \$15 turns into \$30. We want to thank everyone that has already pledged or donated. We would like to use this matching donation to ask for any additional donations or increase your pledge so we can leverage this matching donation. The donor is even willing to contribute \$100 for every person who donates time (volunteers) during the rebuild (kids included!). So, a family of 4 = \$400. Maybe you can rake, paint, or swing a hammer, there will be plenty of opportunities to help. And just last week we had **another** anonymous donor gift us \$10,000 (they don't live here anymore but have fond memories of this area as children). Maybe there are others who want to invest in Wabana's recreational future too?

Here's one last suggestion for us older folks. One way to contribute to the recreation project is called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) from your retirement plan like an IRA or 401(k). When you reach 70 ½ years of age, the tax law allows you to transfer your distribution yearly to a charity, tax-free. If you have not contributed to the Wabana Recreation Project, this would be one way of doing that. If you have contributed already (thank you), then this can be another way to make an additional contribution. If you are considering this way of contributing, please contact your tax advisor to make sure you are eligible, and the proper procedures are followed. Oh, **and if you've made a pledge and not paid the pledge yet...now's the time.**

There are two ways to donate (both are tax deductible) -- make a check out to:

1. Wabana Township

30980 Clearwater Road, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

memo line: Recreation project

2. Grand Rapids Area Community Foundation

350 NW 1st Ave. Suite E, Grand Rapids, MN 55744

memo line: Wabana Recreation project

Or Online Donation: https://gracf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create/fund?funit_id=3199

We **WILL** break ground in August 2024. It's time to see the complex come together. Whether we get all the funding or not, we have enough money now to get the lion's share of it done. If we need to scale back, we will go back to the committee and make the necessary adjustments.

Thank you once again for all the support you've shown over the years. Your financial support has been amazing, your volunteerism has been humbling, and your encouragement has been motivating.

We are leaving a legacy to our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

On behalf of the Wabana Community Recreation Committee,

Kim Oja



8632 EAGLE CREEK CIRCLE
SAVAGE, MN 55378

PHONE: 1.800.747.1452
EMAIL: playscapes@earthlink.net

EQUIPMENT SIZE:

USE ZONE:

AREA:
see plan

PERIMETER:
see plan

FALL HEIGHT:
8'

USER CAPACITY:

AGE GROUP:
5-12

- ASTM F1487-17
- CPSC #325

PROJECT NO:
MW102723-1B

SCALE:
1" = 10'-0"

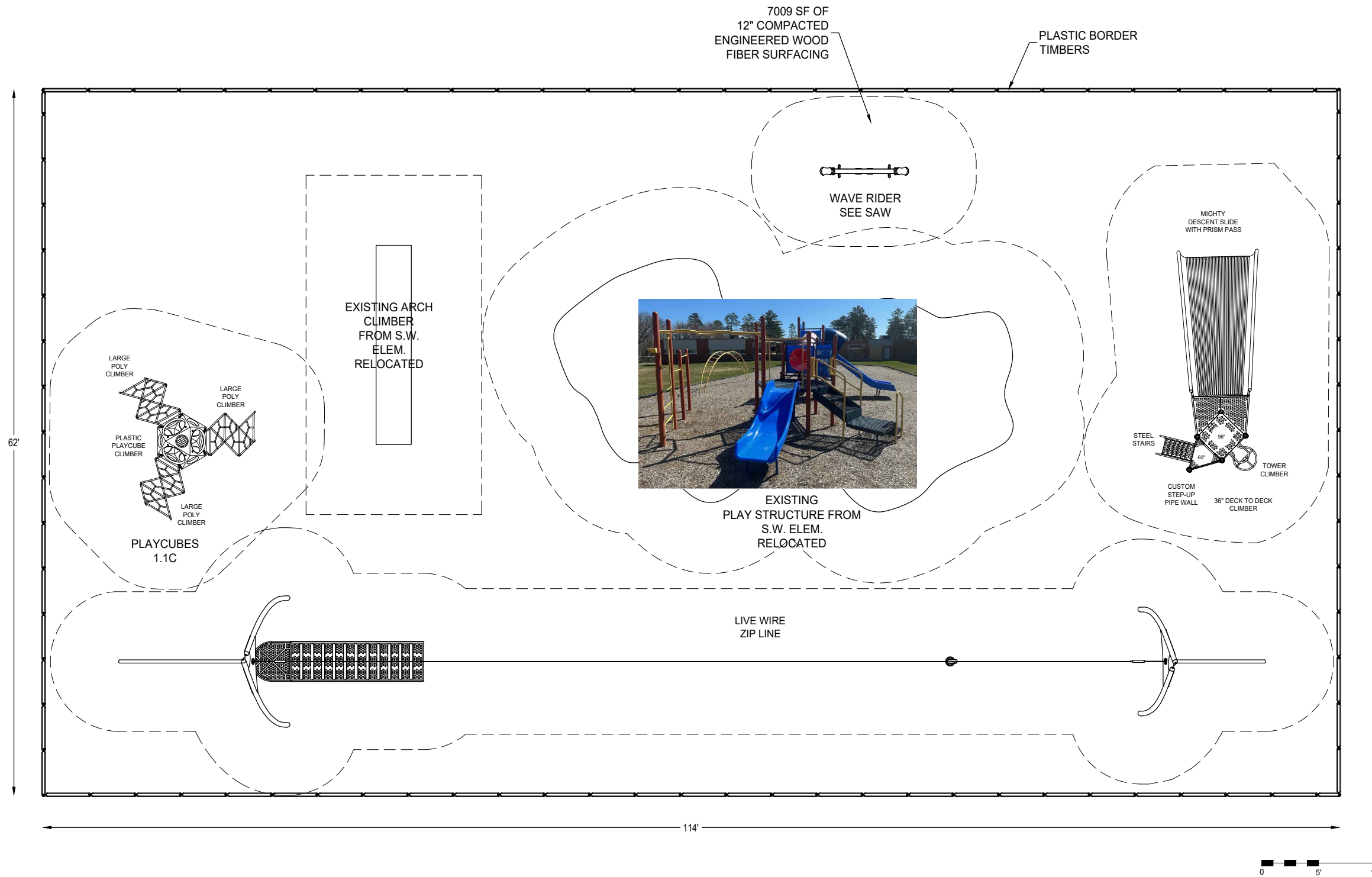
DRAWN BY:
TKA

Paper Size

DATE:
11-6-23

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Wabana Township
Wabana, MN



*PLAYGROUND SUPERVISION REQUIRED

Wabana Community Scholarship Program Applications Due April 19

Applications for the Wabana Community Fund Scholarship are available on the Wabana Township website at <https://wabanatownship.com/wabana-township-community-fund-scholarship/>, and at the counselor's office at Grand Rapids H.S. Applicants must be a resident of Wabana Township and be pursuing the first or second year of post-secondary education in the Fall of 2024. Applicants may receive the scholarship only one time. Applications must be received by April 19, 2024. Funding for the scholarship comes from the proceeds of the annual Hunter's Supper. For more information, contact Jean Koewler at 218-326-4302 or email djkoewler@paulbunyan.net.

Hunter's Supper results

The Wabana Community Fund's 2023 Hunter's Supper raised a whopping \$3,357 that will be used to support scholarships, the annual ice cream social, and funeral lunches. The turnout was higher than hoped for. The tasty, affordable meal was enjoyed and appreciated. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this annual event. Without your help, it would not have been such a great success!

Community Fund

Join the Community Fund at its next meeting on May 20 at 6:30 p.m. This non-profit organization supports Wabana Township in many ways. We look forward to having new members share their ideas. We are a friendly group of neighbors who will welcome your participation. Please help support your community.

Cribbage Players Welcome

Are you interested in coming to the Tuesday afternoon Cribbage Club for a couple hours of card playing fun, and a chance to meet new people? But maybe your cribbage skills are a little rusty or you have never played cribbage, but would like to learn? Well now is your chance. All you have to do is pick up the phone and call or text Jean at 952-250-6690. Let her know you are interested, and a few class sessions will be scheduled at a convenient time to get you up to speed on the game of cribbage. No charge, but any free-will offering will be donated to the Recreational Complex Project.

The Wabana Cribbage Club currently plays on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Jean and her husband Tim live in the Township and run the Tuesday game. Players are welcome to join in on the fun!



Stay Tuned for Summer Events...

Paper Shredding Event - Watch the website and E-news (sign-up info on p. 3) for the date and details of the first paper shredding event to be held at town hall. Residents will be able to bring sensitive documents for on-site shredding. This event will occur on a Saturday in June or July.

Community Garage Sale - Discussions are underway for a community garage sale this June or July to support the recreational complex project. We will be looking for donations of items in good condition. Volunteer helpers will be needed. Watch the Website and E-news (sign-up info on p. 3) for more details.

Wabana Beach

You may or may not be aware that Wabana Township manages a beach and picnic area on the south shore of Wabana Lake. It is located about 2 miles west of Town Hall on Co. Rd. 60 (Clearwater Road), turn on McLaughlin Drive, just a short drive in you will then see the sign and gate for Wabana Beach. Wabana Township leases the land from Itasca County and is responsible for the area's maintenance. The Township keeps the grass mowed, the picnic tables in good shape, places sand at the beach area as needed, repair the grounds as needed, and pump the holding tank. Yes, there is a small blockhouse there with a toilet and changing room. The beach has a nice gentle sandy slope into the water for swimming, a few picnic tables and a fire ring for eating. Whether you use the beach area in the spring, summer, fall or as access to the lake in the winter, the township thanks you for keeping all trash picked up and disposed of properly to help maintain a clean beach area and lake.

Seeking Your Time and Knowledge

Do you have a talent, interest or skill that you can share with others in your township? If you are interested and willing to support the fundraising efforts for the Recreational Complex Project, we are looking for people in the township to volunteer their talents, skills, interests, and time with others. Perhaps you love to cook or bake; have a creative art or craft skill to share; a musical talent; fitness, health, wellness, or recreational interest; can help users with their electronic devices such as smart TV, tablet, cell phone, etc. The ideas are unlimited.

Please reach out to Diane Clough at 218-256-0925 or email ferncreek70@yahoo.com to let her know what class you would be interested in teaching. No ideas should be pushed aside – please consider sharing your time, talent, skills and interests to have a positive and visible impact in your township.

Sign up for Township E-News

Sign up to receive township news by e-mail on the Township website: <https://wabanatownship.com/wabana-warbler-newsletter/>. Simply provide your name and email address. You will receive the Warbler and timely news, events, and other Township activities by email. By signing up, your name will be removed from the Warbler's U.S. mail list; however, if you want to continue to receive the Warbler by U.S. mail, just notify Jean Panchyshyn, 952-250-6690 or email jeanonwabana@gmail.com.

Nominations Sought for Citizen of the Year Award

This award recognizes a citizen for outstanding contributions to Wabana Township such as leadership, providing services to residents, or other activities that enhance the environment or quality of life for residents. Send your nomination with a brief description of why you think your nominee is deserving of the award to the Board through the [Contact Form on the Website](#). Consideration of any nominations will be addressed by those attending the March 12 Annual Meeting.

Northwoods Arts and Crafts Shows

Northwoods crafters gathered at Wabana Town Hall for the third annual Northwoods Arts and Crafts shows. Two shows were held in 2023; the first on October 7, and the second on December 2. Both shows were well attended by area citizens and showcased talented artists from the township and nearby communities. Stay tuned for the 2024 fall/winter show dates.



Pearl Muskar with her handmade pine needle baskets & jewelry



Janeen Gueltzow, Craft Show Organizer and resident, with her amazing variety of handmade goods

Town Board Updates

Remembering Gary Oja - As you may know, Gary Oja unexpectedly passed away on January 26, 2024. His death is a great loss not only to his family, but also our community. Gary served as Supervisor and Chairman of the Town Board and was the Liaison for the Recreational Complex Committee. He will be greatly missed by many. His full obituary is available at: https://www.rowefuneralhomeandcrematory.com/obituaries/print?o_id=8834457. We offer our greatest condolences to Gary’s family.

Seeking Supervisor Applicants - The Town Board will need to appoint a resident to fill the remaining term of the vacant Supervisor seat, which goes through the end of 2024. If you are interested in this position, application materials can be found on the Township Website at <https://wabanatownship.com/>. Documents include an application, eligibility information, and the Comprehensive Plan. Deadline to apply is March 13, 2024. Also, this seat will be on the November 2024 general election ballot for the four-year term of January 2025 - December 2028. For questions, contact Wabana Township Clerk, Steve Melin at 218-256-5913 or email wabanatownshipclerk@gmail.com.

Wabana Township Officers and Staff

Vacant, Supervisor

Lloyd Adams, Supervisor (ph: 218-999-9749; email: lloyd2006@me.com)

Jane Moore, Supervisor (ph: 563-580-5253; email: b.jane.moore@gmail.com)

Steve Melin, Clerk (218-256-5913; email: wabanatownshipclerk@gmail.com)

Deb Kee, Treasurer (ph: 218-326-2115; email: dk317322115@gmail.com)

Carol Speedling, Deputy Clerk (text: 612-518-8992)

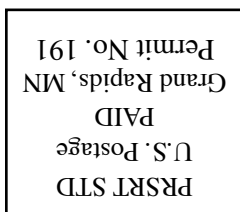
Ken Aho, Maintenance (ph: 218-256-7230)

Township Meetings are held the 1st Wednesday each month at 7 p.m. in person and via Zoom

Any changes to the meeting date/time will be posted at Town Hall and on the website.

Jean Panchyshyn, Newsletter Editor, 952-250-6690 or email: jeanonwabana@gmail.com

Return Service Requested



C/O Wabana Township
30980 Clearwater Rd
Grand Rapids, MN 55744