



**Becker Township**  
**Established January 21, 1871**



**A History**

The following document was found in  
Township Records.

It is a copy of the flier handed out for the  
Becker Township Centennial Celebration in  
1971.

IBECKER

on

CENTENNIAL

1871 1971

One century has passed since the Township of Becker was organized. The early settlers of the Township worked hard to bring about many changes we take for granted.

The settlers mentioned in the book The Upper Mississippi Valley who settled in our township came from many parts of the world. They came for various reasons, and remained to make history for our town. Andre Anderson & Lewis O. Lind were natives of Sweden; Edward T. Cox of Cornwall, England; Noble Crawford of New Jersey; William Corley of Toronto, Canada; Peder C. Jensen of Denmark; William Portland of Maine; Henry Stiles of Montreal, Canada; Orland Stiles of Vermont; Rev. Shepardson of Massachusetts and John Wagner of New York City.

The first settler was Mr. Vadnias, who located on the banks of the Mississippi in 1855. The following year John Wagner, Noble Crawford, John Sadley, and

and John Curtis settled northeast of the Becker station (as it was then called.)

In 1866-67 a large number of Scandinavians settled in the central part. The Danish settled in one section and the community is still called Danetown. The Danish Cemetery is a resting place for many of these early settlers. The Norwegians and Swedes settled to the northeast in Snake River. Shortly afterward a group of Germans settled in the hilly country north and east of the Becker station. This was, and still is known as Germantown.

The first birth was in the Vadines family in 1856. The first death was Mrs. Stiles in 1857. The first marriage was Ezra Stiles and Mary Wagner in 1858, and the second marriage was John T. D. Sadley and Elizabeth Crawford in 1858. The first school was taught in the John Sadley residence during the summer of 1860. The teacher was Sarah Evans of Clearwater. The railroad came to Becker in 1867. A platform was built for the few who had

occasion to take or leave the traing.

Later a house was erected by the railraod company for the use of emigrants stopping in searoh of land. It was called the Emigrant House. This was later used as a store by Fridley and Merritt. The first depot was built in 1868.

The first religious service was held at :

Noble Crawford home 1858 by Rev. Palmer.

Mrs. Crawford organized the School in 1856. The American Baptist Church was organized in 1867. It was then called the Pleasant

Valley Church. There was no pastor, and only occasional preaching, till Rev. Joseph Shepardson arrived in 1869. He filled the pulpit for many years. A Swedish Baptist Chu was organized in 1872, A Swedish Lutheran Church was organized in 1876.

Prior to 1871, all the land between ranges twenty-eight and twenty nine was a part of Big Lake Township and all land west was in Clear Lake Township. In 1871 the Becker Township was organized. The first town meet-

ing was held in the schoolhouse in Dist. 5 on Jan. 21, 1871, for the purpose of electing officers. A total of forty-seven votes were cast. The first officers were:

Supervisors: George Eaton, Lucuis Pratt and Charles Astergren.

Clerk: Joseph Shepardson.

Treasurer: J. T. D. Sadley.

The records for the hundred years since the township was organized have been preserved. They were well written and though the ink has become very faded, the letters are legible and reveal many many interesting events over this period of time.

The first year the board found need for bridges over the Elk and Snake Rivers.

The first to be built was the Sadley bridge which was erected in 1871. It was erected in 1871. It was a short distance north of what is now called the Mile Bridge. The bridge on Elk River at the Curtis Rapids (now Co. Rd. 23) was built in 1875 by Charles Grapman at cost of 105 dollars. Another bridge was built in 1875 across the Snake River at a cost of \$245.

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Each male citizen of the township gave two days labor for road work per year, or paid \$1.50 per day for hire. A man and team could earn \$3.00 for a ten hour day.

Payment of \$3.00 was made to John Murphy for straw to repair the road across a marshland. Payment of \$5.00 to Moulton for strawing road from R.R. to Seymour Hill.

In November of 1886 the supervisors met to take action on opening of the U.S. Military Road through Becker Township.

An epidemic of scarlet fever and diphtheria occurred in 1888. The Duffy, Foster, Angell and Wagners were quarantined. One child in the John Wagner family died.

The board met in special session in 1891 to authorize town clerk to write to the Attorney General to see if the board could borrow from the Road and Bridge Fund to build a town hall. Later Charles Pratt, who had the lowest bid built the two story building which was completed by Oct. 1, 1891. Cost was \$1,165. This building burned in 1911



and was replaced in 1912 by the present town hall.

In 1903 the town voted to restrain cattle. Until then they were allowed to roam at large.

In 1908 the board issued a lease for 99 years to the village, for the erection of fire house. This was on the site where the band stand is now. This building was later purchased by the late James Leverton and moved to his farm east of town.

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed the contents of this Centennial Phamphlet.

Many of the historical events were

taken from a book, History of the Upper Mississippi Valley, published in 1881

by the Minnesota Historical Society. It was loaned to us by Avery Cox Sr. Other information was in the first town clerk's record. He was Rev. Joseph Shepherdson, who held the office for many years. Mrs. Jenny Leverton also contributed valuable data.

A vote of thanks is due Lila Amundson, who typed the booklet, and the Becker School for the use of the duplicator.

TOWN BOARD

Chairman-Clayton Anderson

Clerk- Bernard Nelson

Treasurer- Lester Olson

Supervisors- Merlin Cox

Floyd Olson

The following document was found in  
Township Records.

We believe the previous clerk assembled the  
data with the help of several community  
members. It is presented in its entirety.

## BECKER TOWNSHIP

Becker Township is located in south central Sherburne County, and consisted of 64 sections, the largest in Sherburne County.

Peter Vadnies, who came to the area in 1855, was believed to be the first permanent settler in Becker, which he originally named Marsailles. This was the first established trading post in the Becker area and was located near the present NSP Plant.

A year after Vadnies settled, Nobel R. Crawford, John Wagner, John Sadley and John Curtiss came to the area and made claims just northeast of the present City of Becker. Curtiss settled close to the Elk River and the rapids on the river near his claim still bear the name, Curtiss Rapids.

Crawford, who was the first to settle in that area, brought his wife, Lucinda, and a family of seven children. The Crawfords opened their home for Sunday worship services. A Rev. Palmer was called in to conduct the services. Mrs. Crawford promptly organized the areas first Sunday School.

In the 1857 census the population was recorded as 35 persons.

The railroad reached Becker in 1867. The first depot was built in 1868, and a new, more modern depot was built about 1917 which served the traveling community until 1969 when it was sold and dismantled.

Other early settlers were Andre Anderson, 1866; Jens Peter Anderson, 1869; Edward T. Cox, 1877; William Carley, 1881; Peter C. Jensen, 1875; William Lyon, 1878; Peter Lind, 1870; Henry Stiles, 1873; Swan Swanson, 1870; Rev. Joseph Shepardson, 1869; Andrew Swanson, 1870; Neils Larsen, 1872. The area was originally called Pleasant Valley.

On January 21, 1871, a group of citizens met at School District No. 5 and organized Becker Township. The township itself was named after the Honorable G. L. Becker of St. Paul, who was a real estate agent for the railroad. The first officers elected were George Eaton, Chairman;

L. H. Pratt, Charles Ostergren, Supervisors; J. D. Sadley, Treasurer; Rev. J. H. Shepardson, Clerk; G. W. Knowlton, Assessor; Joseph Crawford, Constable; Wm. Eaton, Overseer of Roads; L. S. Stevens and T. E. Stiles, Justices of the Peace. The board met for 20 years in the District 5 School House. In 1891 a Town Hall was built in the area which is now in the City of Becker. This was a two-story 24'x40' building which cost \$1165.00. The bottom floor was rented out for a store and the top story was used for meetings. It burned in 1911 and the present town hall was built in 1912. In 1985 the township board, along with the support of the citizens, decided to let the Great River Regional Library use the town hall as the Becker Branch Library for 5 years. The board now meets at the Becker City Hall.

The first action of the board was to build a bridge across the Elk River on the road leading from Becker to Princeton. The cost of the bridge was \$350.00. The board adopted laws of the state regarding fence viewers, cattle running at large, and other articles. Under that law, cattle were allowed to run at large during the day from April 1 to October 15. This law was repealed in 1903.

The annual meetings were well attended by the citizens of the township in the earlier years. Many residents looked forward to attending the meeting after a long winter. The election in 1918 for the U.S. Senator between Charles A. Lindberg, Sr. and Frank B. Kellogg was such a close race that poll watchers from both political parties were at the Becker Election. This was one of the few times that there were poll watchers present at any elections.

The road maintenance in those days was done by the local people working off their poll tax. Each male citizen of the township gave two days labor for road work per year, or paid \$1.50 per day for hire. A man and team could earn \$3.00 for a ten hour day. Road overseers were appointed and were in charge of carrying out the orders of the town board.

Because of wet and low land the Snake River residents had to travel north and northwest up to what is now County Road 16 in order to get to Becker. Generally, the roads were laid out the most practical route, that is, on the higher land rather than following the section lines. Many of the low swampy areas they had to go through were corduroyed, which meant cutting yellow tamarack in lengths and laying crosswise, then covering with dirt. Some of these still exist and are still in use today. The ditches were dug by hand, the material thrown into the road and when dry the road was finished by horses, dump wagons, and scrapers. Later on the roads were built with six to eight horse drawn machinery. The first road was established by Petition of seven legal voters on November 6, 1871. It started at the Curtis Rapids Bridge (somewhat west of present Cty. Rd. 23), north to 30th Ave., Fern St., 35th Ave. to Elm St., south on Elm intersecting with County Rd. 4, plus a short branch from the corner of 35th and Elm to the corner of Eagle St.

Carl Tinquist bid \$180.00 to build 3/4 of a mile of road which is now County Road 11, then built 1/4 mile on his own at no cost in order to get the road established. Carl Erickson petitioned the road from the Santiago-Becker town line to Santiago.

Gas taxes were collected by the county and in return the county took care of all of the snow plowing and the building of a portion of the roads.

In the early days Becker was known as the hay capitol of the county. So bountiful were the lush hay meadows a hay press was installed by St. Paul businessmen as early as 1867. For many years over 2000 tons were shipped annually. After the turn of the century farmers started planting more and more potatoes. During the digging season it was not unusual to see wagon loads with potatoes lined up for two or three blocks. Potatoe farms have become a large part of the township industry today.

In the late 1800's an application was made for a charter for a bank which was known as the Becker State Bank. This closed in 1925.

A newspaper called The Record was printed in the town in the late 1800's and in 1913 it was sold and renamed the Becker Herald. Editor and Publisher was S. E. Wright.

Becker Township celebrated 100 years of existence in 1971 with a Centennial Celebration. Board members were Clayton Anderson, Chairman; Floyd Olson, Merlin Cox, Supervisors; Bernard Nelson, Clerk; and Lester Olson, Treasurer. Activities included threshing bee, tug-of-war between the city and township, parade, street dance in the evening, pudding eating contest (with blindfolds), costume contest, and many other activities. Their float was awarded first price at the Sherburne County Fair Parade.

The Northern States Power Co. Sherco Plant was originally established in Becker Township. On April 19, 1974 the City of Becker annexed 6 sections where the plant is located. This was done primarily because of the services the city could render to the plant.

At the annual Town Meeting and Election in March, 1978, the township voted to expand the board from 3 to 5 supervisors. The members at that time were Francis Pouliot, Chm.; Melvin Jaconson, C. Jean Clitty, Jerome Edling, and Lester Olson, Supervisors; Alan Myers, Treasurer; and Bernard Nelson, Clerk.

Current members of the board are Michael Bowatz, Chm.; Francis Pouliot, Howard Johnson, Kyle Johnson, Lester Olson, Supervisors; Alan Myers, Treasurer; and Judy Shermak, Clerk.

The following dates were assembled by the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk in 2020 and 2021. They have been pulled from a variety of sources and assembled for your enjoyment.



*Edited photo above by Karah Hawkinson, 2020. Electric poles and such were edited out.*



## **What do Becker Township Supervisors Do?**

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Road Maintenance

Contract Negotiation and Execution

Records Management

Fire Protection

Provide for Elections

Road Inspections

Culvert Maintenance

Signs & Fire Signs

Budgeting

ADA Compliance

Levy Recommendation

Adopt Ordinances

Adopt Resolutions

Authorize Expenditures

Set fee schedule

**Sit as the Board of Appeal & Equalization** - Determine if all taxable property in the township is on the assessment list and properly valued. Hear objections from property owners regarding valuation.

**Sit as Board of Canvass** - Review and certify the results of the election.

**Sit as Board of Audit** - Review financial records of the Township and create a report to be posted prior to the annual meeting. Estimate the amount of money needed for the next year and settlement of all expenses.

**View Fences** - Settle disagreements between neighbors if the two landowners own livestock (Law changed to this in 2017). Supervisors DO NOT determine boundary locations. Only disagreements relating to the building, maintaining, type and payments/reimbursements.

**Noxious Weed Inspections** - See that control or eradication of noxious weeds is carried out by landowner. Issue permits for transportation of materials or equipment infested



with noxious weed propagating parts. Examine all land and public ground over which jurisdiction exists to ascertain if noxious weeds are controlled.

## Management of Township Assets

### Set the Gopher Bounty Rate



# January 21, 1871

## **Below is an abbreviated account of the first Town Meeting.**

The first Becker Town meeting was held January 21, 1871 at 9 am at the Becker School house – District 5.

J.H. Shepardson was chosen clerk pro-tem and called the meeting to order. He called for choice of moderator for the meeting.

George A. Eaton was made moderator and opened the business of the meeting for the following officer's election:

Three Town Supervisors, one to be designated chairman  
One Town Clerk  
One Town Treasurer  
One Assessor  
Two Justices of the Peace  
Two Constables  
One Overseer of highways for each road district.

George A. Eaton, J.T.D. Sadly, and J.H. Shepardson were appointed judges of the election and took their oath.

The following individuals were elected:

Town Supervisors

George A. Eaton, Chairman

Lucius H. Pratt

Charles R. Ostergren

Town Clerk

J.H. Shepardson

Town Treasurer

J.T.D. Sadly

Town Assessor

G.W. Knowlton

Justice of the Peace

L.S. Stevens  
E.T. Stiles  
Constables  
Joseph M. Crawford  
Horatio Blasdell  
Overseer of roads  
William Eaton

Those in attendance voted to hold the Annual Town Meeting March 14<sup>th</sup> in the Emigrant House near the Depot-Station.

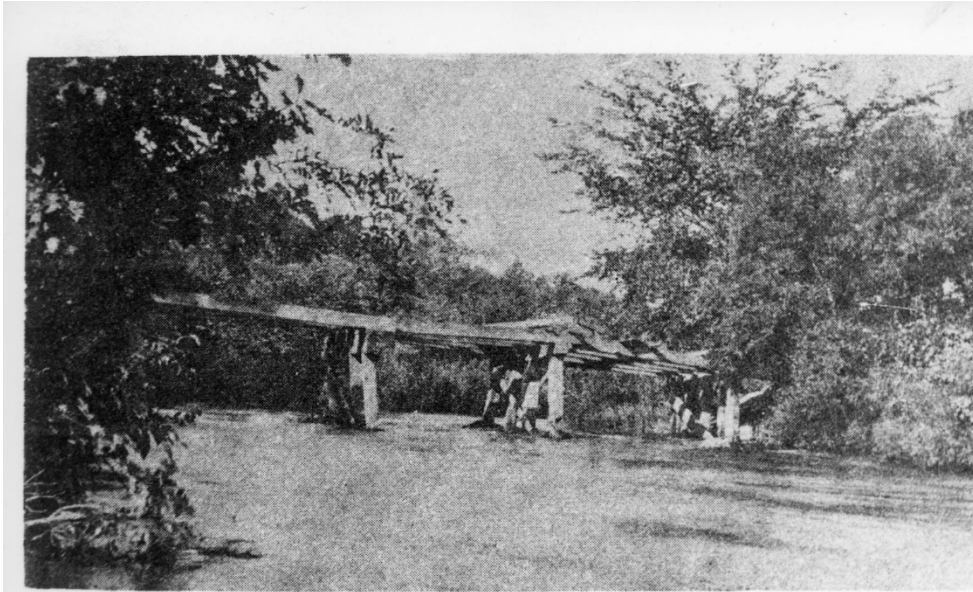
**Roads and Bridges are a large part of a Town Supervisors duties.** At the second meeting, they met to begin drawing up plans to build a bridge across the Elk River on the county road running from Becker Depot to Princeton. The plans are detailed in the minutes from January 26, 1871 with anticipation of opening proposals at their February 11<sup>th</sup> Town Board meeting.

Four proposals were opened and the Board decided to divide the Town of Becker into three road districts.

- District 1 was two sections wide east to west running the whole length of the town from North to South.
- District 2 was three sections wide running the length of the Town from North to South.
- District three was three sections wide on the west side of the township, running North to South.

They also put forth notice for public hearing to add a road between T.M. Jordan and J.W. Dots land. The County surveyor was asked to survey the road proposed in the petition using a compass and chain to properly lay out the road as closely as it could to the written petition.

At a later February meeting, Joseph Foster and the Town Board signed a contract at \$3.75 per foot for building the bridge. Receiving three hundred dollars in county-orders according to Resolution of County Commissioners of said county made September A.D. 1869, also an appropriation of the town of Big Lake, voted, April A.D. 1870.



**Curtis Rapids Bridge**

### **Curtis Rapids Bridge**

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Built in 1875 at a cost of \$105. It is located on the Elk River at the Curtis Rapids (now County Road 23). Building bridges was one of the first tasks of the newly formed Township. In 1871 they built the Sadley Bridge – just north of what is now known as the one-mile bridge. In 1875 a bridge over the Snake River was built as well.

April 8, 1875, the supervisors drew up plans and specifications for a bridge across the Snake River on the County Road Running from Becker Depot to Princeton. Sealed proposals were requested. The contract for the Snake River Bridge is written directly into the minutes book and signed.



### **Road Building in Becker Township**

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The Township was divided into three road districts. When roads needed to be built, persons living in the road districts were assessed.

March 27, 1871, the following assessments occurred:

Road District 1, 18 persons assessed 2 days labor each

Road District 2, 28 persons assessed 2 days labor each

Road District 3, 19 person assessed 2 days labor each

This gave the Township 150 days of labor to be bestowed on roads.

In 1872, the bridge over the Elk River was complete. They also increased to assessments for roads to 3 days of labor per year.

In 1873, they started listing out the names of the men charged to labor on the roads in the minutes book by road district.

March 10, 1874 - the Town voters at the annual meeting ordered that bulls were permitted to remain at large from Jun 1 until October 15<sup>th</sup> of the year.

March 25, 1875, the supervisors drew up plans and specifications for a bridge across the Elk River at what is called Curtiss Rapids. The location of this bridge was also a posting place for notices of events.

*Photo Courtesy of Sherburne History Center*





### **1892 - A New Town Hall**

1891 – The cornerstone of the Becker Town Hall was laid on August 21 at 11:45 a.m. in the presence of the Town Clerk and Justice of the Peace.

1892 – March 3, the new Becker Town Hall was dedicated. The Town Hall was built at a cost of \$1,165. They leased out the lower level for a store. The Town of Becker and Village of Becker used the upper floor for meetings.

By 1919 the Township and Village were considered separate entities.

*Photo Courtesy of Sherburne History Center.*

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### **Emigrant House**

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No photo, but it served as a meeting place for quite a few meetings in the early years of the Township. It was erected by the railroad company for use of the emigrants stopping in search of land. It was later used as a store.

## The Township and Fires

1890 – It made the newspapers of the day that there was a fire in the home of Justice of the Peace Sherpardson's home. All the Town Records were saved!

1904 – a new fire truck was purchased

November 2, 1911 - A building across the street from the town hall caught fire. Two children were in the top story of the Braizee Building.

Rather than save the Town Hall and several other buildings that caught fire, all rescue efforts went into an attempt at saving Marie and Edward Cox. The two young children perished.

Two buildings, including Town Hall, were completely destroyed and several other buildings were seriously damaged.



*Current Fire Hall, June 2021*





*2020 Photo of Becker Township Hall. From left to right, American Legion (old Fire Hall), Becker Township Hall, Gazebo (Photo by Town Clerk)*

**New Becker Town Hall Dedicated September 1912**

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Six months after the fire, Becker Township residents voted to replace the town hall. The new one was to be made of brick. While brick was not up for discussion, there was much debate over a single or double story building.

In 1917, the basement was enlarged a bit and a furnace was installed.

In 1918, light fixtures were added as the building was outfitted with electricity.

In 1918, the Gazebo was added for performances.

In 1928 a second door was added to the building as required by the State Fire Marshall.

In 1984, the steps were removed and a ramp was built on the exterior so the building could be handicapped accessible. This was prior to the mandates by the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The following images/captions are from *The Citizen Newspaper* which became what is currently named *The Patriot*.

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L-R:  
Brian Levanduski, Supervisors  
Joe Danielson, Jamie Johnson,  
Brad Wilkening, Gary Hammer  
and Clerk Lucinda Messman

*BRIAN LEVANDUSKI (left) brought a speeding concern on 172nd Ave SE and a park request to the Becker Township Board Meeting on Monday, August 18. The Patriot, August 21, 2014*



*EURETTA SORENSON (far right) of CentraCare Health in Monticello gave an update on the goings on at the hospital and handed out her annual report at the Becker Twp. annual meeting Tuesday night. Becker Twp. Chairman Gary Hammer (left, inset) and meeting moderator Brad Wilkening (right, inset) gave a rundown on the proposed levy for 2015 and the dollars allocated for each department and special interest. The Patriot, March 14, 2014*



*SUPERVISOR KYLE JOHNSON (L) presented an acrylic statue to Phyllis Olson, the wife of Lester Olson who served the township for over 44 years. The Patriot, December 20, 2013*



*BECKER TOWNSHIP RESIDENT BRIAN LEVANDUSKI (R) pleaded with the Becker Twp. Board to do something to stop speeders from racing in their neighborhood and driving on private property. Sitting Chairman Brian Kolbinger (L) listened in on Levanduski's presentation as Clerk Lucinda Messman took minutes. The Citizen October 22, 2015*



*JEFF LAMBERT (L) took the oath of office then signed the form to become Becker Twp. supervisor, replacing Gray Hammer, who abruptly resigned last month. Jan 27, 2017*



*LESTER OLSON, 44-year supervisor with Becker Twp. will be recognized with a Snake River Crossing memorial this summer. He died in 2012. The Patriot, July 21, 2016*



*GARY HAMMER resigned his seat at Monday's board meeting. The Patriot, December 21, 2017*



Judy Shermack was the Becker Town Clerk for 28 years. She retired at the end of 2012.

She saw the Township through 911 Addressing system changes and Road name revisions

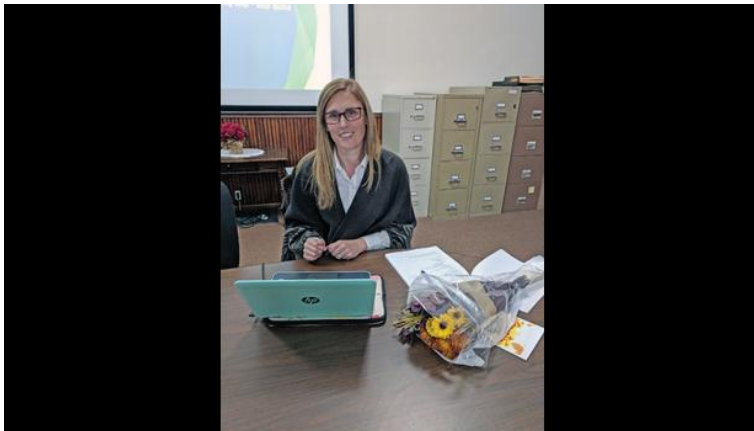
July 20, 1948 – June 25, 2016 Judy Shermak, *The Citizen* newspaper



L-R:

Supervisors Gcary Gilbert, Luke Babler, Joe Danielson, Brad Wilkening, Brian Kolbinger, Clerk Lucinda Messman

MEMBERS OF THE BECKER TWP. BOARD met Monday to discuss numerous topics including right-of-way issues, trails, splitting parcels, roads and town hall upgrades . (Photo by Susane Kuehne). *The Citizen*, October 19, 2018



**Kelli Bourgeois, township attorney,** accepts new position as city manager in Columbia Heights (Photo by Susana Kuehne) November 23, 2018



*Miranda Wagner presented the town board with information regarding establishment of native prairies within the township, while Deputy Clerk Fran Seeley takes notes in the background. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger). October 25, 2018*



*Becker Township supervisors, from left, Gary Gilbert, Joe Danielson, Brad Wilkening and Brian Kolbinger study their tablets as Clerk Lucinda Messman (right) demonstrates how to use the search functionality on the township website. With the completion of the digitizing of the town's records, minutes are now available online dating back to the township's beginnings in 1871. (Photos by Mark Kolbinger).*



***Becker Township ENGINEER** Wes Davis presented a copy of his scope of services estimate to clerk Lucinda Messman. The board will utilize this document moving forward as they consider future work plans and budgets. September 20, 2019*



**Planner Ben Wikstrom** fielded questions from the board in regards to accessory structures and the use of shipping containers as storage. (Photo by Mark Kolbinger) Dec 20, 2019

In October 2009 Becker Township began handling its own Planning and Zoning utilizing parts of the Orderly Annexation Agreement. City of Becker Planners Mary Roe and Jacob Sanders handle building permits for the Township.



Some Dates when Becker made the news

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**1876 – Becker Township shipped 80 railroad cars of Hay. Many people called Becker the hay capital of the County.**

In 1878 Becker produced

- 10,681 bushels of wheat on 597 acres
- 35,645 bushels of corn on 1,180 acres
- 2,037 tons of hay

In 1879, a newspaper article notice by one of the first settlers in the area wrote that Becker was

***Settled mostly by foreigners with no money, but strong arms and stout hearts. We have plenty of room for most good, honest willing hands.***

In 1885, Joseph Chapman opened a new drug store in Becker.

Becker assessed the 87 dogs living here at \$6.06 per dog.

1888 – Becker was hard hit with diphtheria.

1889 – Becker Pavilion was blown down by a cyclone. George Washington's birthday was celebrated at the opera house in Becker.

1890 – District 2 Roadmaster, E. Knowlton purchased a horse powered threshing machine. A cheese factory was started in Becker.

1890 – Northern Pacific Depot opened.

1890 – Becker Baseball club was organized with S.A. Black as captain.

1892 – Railroad Station built. Measured 10'x12'.

1893 – Becker held its Strawberry Festival

1895 – George Putnam shipped the first carload of rye from the Becker Station Railroad.

1897 – It made the papers that Townships barred people living in the area from voting on township matters due to citizenship.

1903 – Law repealed that allowed cattle to run at large during the day.



the



1907 - Bailey's Railroad Station Depot. A new station was built that measured 20'x32'. The Great Northern railroad abandoned it in 1948.

The Great Northern and Northern Pacific stations sat a few feet away from each other between Hancock and Willow Streets.

1942 - Farmers met at the Becker Town Hall to observe the 9<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ag Administration Act Farm Program. They listened to a radio broadcast by the President.

1950 - The 'large cumbersome stage' was removed from Becker Town Hall

1956 - Sherburne County Farmers Union meeting was held at Becker Town Hall

1957 - County road 4 and other roads in Becker Township were washed out

1958 - the new 4-H clubs started meeting in the Becker Town Hall.

1974 - The City of Becker annexed the 6 sections where the Sherco Power Plant is located.

1978 - The Township expanded from 3 to 5 Town Supervisors

1985 - The Town Board and Residents voted to allow the Great River Regional Library to use the town hall as the Becker Library. The Town Board met at City Hall during this time.

2009 - Becker Township began handling its own Planning and Zoning. A Planning Commission made up of Township Residents conducts public hearings. The Joint Planning Board is made up of two Town Supervisors, two City Council Members and one at large Township Resident.

2019 - The Township (and City) finished paying off the new fire station bond.

2020 - The Township completed replacement of all street signs in compliance with the federally mandated retro-reflectivity program.

2020 - The Township completed its most expensive road project to date. This 1.2 million dollar road project was completed without the need to assess the residents.

## **Fun Facts**

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Township government is the only level where you can directly vote on the amount of taxation you will receive. The Town's Annual meeting, held every year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in March, is where this task is completed.

When the township was first formed, town meetings were well attended as many citizens of the township looked forward to attending the meeting after a long winter. Today, with over 5,400 in population, our voter turnout at Township meetings often doesn't even meet the turnout in 1871 when there were only 48 residents!

For General Elections, it is not uncommon to have poll watchers attend. This started as far back as the 1918 election between US Senator Charles A. Lindberg, Sr. and Frank B. Kellogg. At that time, it was one of the few times that there were poll watchers present at any election.

Becker Township's website was launched in 2013. The color palette was determined by the election judges at the March Township Election.

Town Supervisors are elected in March each year, prior to the Annual meeting.

Becker Township currently maintains 69.2 miles of road (includes both paved and gravel). There are additional dedicated town right-of-ways that are not included in this number.

Becker Township is in the top 10 for largest townships in the State of Minnesota. Five of the largest townships in the State are located in Sherburne County.