



City of East Gull Lake  
10790 Squaw Point Rd  
East Gull Lake MN 56401

MAYOR  
Dave Kavanaugh

COUNCIL MEMBERS  
Carol Demgen  
Dennis Lang  
Scott Hoffman  
James Ruttger

**Fall 2014**

## Welcome Rob Mason

Dear Residents of East Gull Lake,

I am honored to have been selected by the City Council to serve as your new City Administrator and Planning and Zoning Administrator. Many of you already know me as I have lived and worked in East Gull Lake for over 38 years!

I was born and raised in Rochester Minnesota, graduated from Rochester Mayo High School and attended Rochester Community College earning an AA degree in Hospitality Management. Looking for a job after graduation, longing to work in the lakes area and enjoy the lifestyle, fate brought me to Madden's Resort where

I started in May of 1976 as a desk clerk at the Madden Inn and Golf Club. I progressed into management and spent 38 years working for Madden's Resort. My longest tenured job was as Director of Sales recruiting many different companies and various groups to enjoy our beautiful area. Other positions I held at Madden's included Assistant Manager, Resident Manager, Director of Maintenance and several more.

Along the way the Madden organization encouraged their employees to be involved in the community and I enjoyed the networking opportunities. I have been fortunate to serve on the Nisswa Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, on a number of Brainerd Chamber Committees, as President and Chairman of the Minnesota Hospitality and Marketing Association, a Boy Scout Volunteer, and other things as well.

One day in 1991, Sherman Kavanaugh of Kavanaugh's Resort who was on the City Council asked me if I would be interested in serving on the Planning and Zoning Commission of East Gull Lake, I said yes, and a few meetings later I was named Chairman of the Commission, serving in this capacity for over 18 years. I was elected to the East Gull Lake City Council in 2010 and served until this appointment in May of 2014.

I consider myself lucky to be able to work and live in a city and area I love very much. My wish is to retire here when I complete this journey as many of you have also chosen to do. I hope those that don't know me already will stop by and say hello at City Hall or I may introduce myself to you as I travel the city checking on construction projects.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve the City of East Gull Lake.

*Best Wishes to all of you,  
Rob Mason*



*Pictured Left to Right: Rob Mason (City Administrator), Kathy Schack (Administrative Assistant), Gregg Struss (Maintenance/Wastewater Operator), Joel Jasmer (Wastewater Superintendent), Joe Janson (Wastewater Maintenance Technician)*

### IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome Rob Mason	1
History Update	2
Vintage Voting	2
Election Information	2
2015 Budget	3
Planning & Zoning	3
Staff Corner	3
Trail Update	4

## History Project Update

As autumn approaches, photos and stories continue falling in place on the city website. By clicking on the “EGL History” tab and exploring various sections, a variety of items added since early summer can be found.

In the “**Family Story**” section, Wallace and Joanne Anderson’s generational history on Squaw Point covers nearly a century. Earliest recorded ownership of property in that area was by Northern Pacific Railway. A collaboration of memories from eight children of another Anderson family, Werner W. and June, documents how they were the first year around residents on the big section of Gull, off Green Gables Road. Daughter (Susan) Kristi writes about her experiences attending the East Gull Lake one room school. Her comments about that building’s history can be found in the section “**Memories over Time.**”

Also in the “Family Story” section, Jack Hickerson shares information going back to about 1920. He represents the third generation of his clan in East Gull and other environs and currently owns a place on Ruth Lake with his wife Mary. Earlier Hickersons built cabins and homes along Birch Grove Road. Jack shares “... *fond memories of the area ... as a boy, buying popsicles at the resort store; marveling at the coldness inside the log-sided ice house in mid-summer with its slabs of winter lake ice packed in sawdust; playing in the woods behind the resort only to discover a grave replete with carved stone, and farther on, the remnants of copper coils and wooden frame that once served as a still for a neighboring banker who went to prison for banking irregularities; and visiting an old Finn named Mike Setula (whose wife had been buried in the woods behind the cabin) who had two log cabins at the south and southwest corners of the lake and outbuildings composed of cement and brightly colored bottles.*” Jack relates other “artifacts” unearthed as well.

Quotes from the original journal of Nicollet’s cartography (map making) expedition up the Mississippi, Crow Wing and Gull Rivers can be read under “**Historical Information**”. One entry documents the August 11, 1836 arrival on what is now Government Point. “**Photos**” posted under “**Events**” were taken nearly 176 years later, on August 4, 2012, when the 100 year anniversary of the Army Corps of Engineers Dam at East Gull Lake was celebrated.

If memories or ideas come to mind when navigating the history section of the website, or while reading stories and glancing at photos, a submission form has also been provided for your convenience. When the main page is opened by clicking the “**EGL History**” tab, a link to that form is provided which can be downloaded for use. All ideas are welcome, as we are all part of the ongoing history of this wonderful city!

Links to businesses "afloat" on the lake this summer can also be accessed via the website.

*Linda Engel, EGL History Writer*

## Vintage Voting Recollections

November elections are on the horizon, and once again City Hall will be staffed with volunteer election judges while residents file in to cast ballots. For decades, this scenario has repeated itself fairly consistently because the building has been East Gull Lake’s designated polling facility.



Voting machines, delivered for the August primary, sit ready to collect ballots for the upcoming general election. Voting stations will be assembled for privacy. While voters, volunteer judges and divided

stations have been staples for this democratic process, there was an era when ballots were color coded to match vintage metal bread boxes!

Various colored sheets of paper were printed with names of either local, state, federal or school district candidates. After marking their choices, voters folded and deposited the ballots into slits made in the tops of the respectively color coordinated kitchen antiques.

This might be hard to visualize if you’ve not been voting here long enough to actually remember those days. Kind of like 8 party telephone lines; but that’s a story for future sharing.

**Election Day:  
Tuesday, 11/4/14**

**Voting Hours:  
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

If you need to update your Minnesota Voter Registration or pick up Application for Absentee Ballots, they are both available at City Hall.

## 2015 Budget

We have submitted our Proposed Levy for 2015 to Cass County as required by State Law. The proposed levy may be adjusted between now and the end of December 2014 when we submit the final levy. You may reduce the final levy but you cannot raise it.

The levy we submitted for 2015 is \$634,907; this is \$107,237 higher than our final levy for 2014.

Some explanations for this increase are:

Four years ago the Wastewater Department began repaying the General Fund for an in house loan that was generated to finish some of the wastewater expansion projects. As of this year that loan is paid off. Great news for wastewater, but the General fund will also not be receiving the revenue that held down that levy for the last four years.

With the Change of City Administrator it was decided to bring some more services in house by having myself serve as the Planning and Zoning Administrator rather than contracting with Cass County. This has required us to extend a part time Staff member to full time status to cover the hours that City Hall is open and allow me to be available to conduct site inspections and personally visit with you onsite to discuss your projects or issues. We only have two people in City Hall to cover the hours, Kathy Schack and myself, and we intend to not close the office during business hours and we also intend to answer the phone in person without an automated answering machine as much as possible. This has not been the case in the past with 1 ½ people. It is our hope to get decisions made in a more timely manner and not have delays created by multiple levels of decision makers.

Our Health Care costs have increased between 35% and 45% for the 4 staff members that have this benefit, I will be exploring different company plans, coverage's, etc to do my best to reduce this cost between now and the final levy.

We underestimated some of our weather related expenses in plowing, sanding, freeze ups in the wastewater department, and other things in the past year that offered some special challenges. We also used up a portion of the reserve funds that require us to add additional dollars to the Road and Street levy.

As we evaluate our expenses between now and December, we will make every effort to identify every possible additional reserve funds to see how we might reduce the proposed levy further.

*Rob Mason, City Administrator*

<u>Fund</u>	<u>2015 Proposed Levy</u>
General Fund	\$147,000
Public Safety	\$41,300
Roads, Streets, & Highway	\$90,000
GO Bond 2007 Road Improvements	\$62,000
GO Bond 2008 Road Improvements	\$72,000
GO Bond 2011 Road Improvements	\$30,000
GO Bond 2013 Road Improvements	\$50,000
Planning & Zoning	\$72,000
Parks & Recreation	\$3,000
W.W. Plant Expansion	\$67,607
<b>Total Levy</b>	<b>\$634,907</b>

### Planning & Zoning

Below is some interesting data on construction improvements in East Gull Lake:

<b>2013 permits</b>		<b>2014 permits as of 9-09-2014</b>	
Land use Applications (7 New Homes or Substantially Remodeled homes constructed)	35	Land Use Applications (6 New homes or Substantially Remodeled Homes constructed)	32
Lot Line adjustments	5	Lot Line adjustments	5
Conditional Use Permits	1	Conditional Use Permits	1
Variance Permits	1	Variance Permits	1

**Note: City residents can drop off leaves at 11800 County Road 18. Only leaves and grass clippings can be disposed of at this site. We do not take garbage or branches. There is no fee. Please respect the area and only dispose of leaves and grass clippings.**



City of East Gull Lake  
10790 Squaw Point Rd  
East Gull Lake MN 56401

---

Phone: (218) 828-9279  
Fax: 218-825-8422  
Email: [ctyegull@scicable.com](mailto:ctyegull@scicable.com)

---

Sign up for email alerts:  
[www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com)

---

## Trail Update

The forecast this morning mentions the awful four letter word “snow” as a possibility this week which would be highly unusual. It is certainly a reminder that fall is definitely on the way very soon. Fall can also be the best time of year to enjoy the trails we have within the city and take in the beautiful fall colors soon to come.

The trails are in generally very good shape with the exception of a few areas that have received run off of sand and gravel from driveways that adjoin the trail. As this happens frequently with some of the recent heavy rains, we would appreciate any help some of the landowners could give us to try to keep them clean and safe. A small amount of effort would help us to keep the trails safe for all to enjoy.

One of our residents has asked permission to install a nice bench very near our trail as a memorial for his wife who recently passed away. We have given him the OK and he is preparing the site where they both enjoyed some spectacular views and I am sure great memories that will last forever. This will be the first to be installed and we will have more information and pictures when it is complete. Our hope is that others will consider this as a special tribute to someone they love or to simply add a resting place at their favorite place on the trail. We have researched some pricing and considered some specifications to make sure we have some consistency and for around \$800 we can get a nice bench that can be cemented in place and last for a long time.

The Park and Trail Committee is also working on some new improvements for the trails for next year. The first would be all new signage to standardize and comply with the State guidelines for our trails. The second is that they are looking at creating a trailhead at the East Gull Lake Airport as well as making improvements to the existing ball field there. They are currently exploring several grant options to help with this project.

### **East Gull Lake Council Meetings:**

First Tuesday of month, 6:30 p.m.,  
Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>, Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup>,  
March 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 7<sup>th</sup> at City Hall.

**See the Calendar section on the  
website for additional meetings  
and updates.**

[www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com](http://www.eastgulllake.govoffice.com)