

BALDWIN TOWNSHIP

Sherburne County, Minnesota

2014 Survey Results and Comments

Past Survey Results and Comments



BALDWIN TOWNSHIP SHERBURNE COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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*BALDWIN TOWNSHIP WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THAT HELPED PREPARE AND WORK ON THE TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY SURVEY.
WITHOUT YOUR HELP, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN SO MUCH LONGER. A SINCERE THANK YOU!*

2013 SURVEY RESULTS

OVERVIEW

The Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors created the Baldwin Township Planning Commission on the 7th day of March, 2011. The Planning Commission consists of a group of five – seven (5-7) citizens from different parts of the Township and representing differing points of view. The Planning Commission began their work by understanding their roles and some of the rules for Planning Commissioners and continue to update themselves in their respective roles. In addition, the Commissioners were charged with the completion of the Comprehensive Plan for the community. This Plan will be used as a guide to understanding their place in the timeline of the Township and then offer a guide to the future to follow. Their views reasonably represent the community since the whole community cannot sit down at the table and be involved.

To date, the Planning Commission has prepared the necessary research on different areas to understand their historical background, the community characteristics of the Township, the fiscal and infrastructure needs and their role in the more regional picture with their neighbors. The Commissioners have communicated to the Township residents about what they have been doing through different media methods, such as emails, the Township website, newsletters, newspapers and open houses to help educate the public. However, no matter what communication methods were used, the Planning Commission felt that they could not get enough responses liked they wanted.

Therefore in the fall of 2013, the Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors authorized the Planning Commission to do a community wide survey to find out the views of the community on certain subjects. The Planning Commission designed a simple anonymous survey to get basic information along with some controversial questions. They kept the questions to a minimum in order for the citizens to respond quickly. The Planning Commission also inserted a self-addressed envelope into the initial survey for a more efficient and quicker response to the survey. When it was found that there might be some gaps in the initial survey, the Town Board authorized the Planning Commission to do an amended survey for those oversights.

The results are now history and are discussed in this report. A sincerely thank you to all that replied to the Township's survey and we hope it helped you to state your thoughts and comments. The results are identified in the following report.

Sincerely,

Baldwin Township Board of Supervisors and Staff
Baldwin Township Planning Commission and Staff

INITIAL SURVEY

The first initial survey was sent out at the end of November with a request to return by December 5th, 2013 in order to be counted. One thousand, nine hundred and seventy-three (1,973) surveys were sent out to households. All surveys were sent out with an introduction at the top stating that their answers would remain anonymous. Six hundred and eight (608) surveys were returned before the end of the deadline or within days after. This number reflects a 31% return on the initial survey sent.

AMENDED SURVEY

It was discovered after the first set of surveys were sent out that there were possible holes in the coverage of the community. Therefore additional mailings were done to the following groups: Seasonal residents/landowners (62 surveys sent by “green” mail, aka to identified email addresses), people that lived out of town but would have ownership in the Township (209 surveys sent) and finally, for some reason, it was felt that the mailed survey may have missed a whole Township section. Therefore, the survey was also sent to the residents again in Section 35 (138 surveys sent). The dates were changed on the survey to request a similar time return and the returned emails were identified by a note in the right hand corner as email.

Below are the returns from each grouping:

	<u>SENT</u>	<u>RETURNED</u>	<u>% OF EACH</u>
Landowners (by “green” email)	62	17	27%
Returns from out of Township owning property	209	55	26%
Section 35	138	18	13%

FINAL SURVEY RESULTS

When you add this in with the initial survey, you get the following: Two thousand three-hundred eighty two (2382) surveys sent with six hundred ninety eight (698) returned for a total of 29% overall. While this is not a “bad” survey return, and in fact is higher than most surveys completed, there are some items that could possibly have made for a better return than this.

1. The survey process was slightly flawed in sending them out. The recommendation here would be to get an updated address listing from Sherburne County, without parcel and name duplications, and then use this as the basis for a fully functional survey that covers all of the Township.
2. More prior notice in the local newspaper and newsletter as well as on the website well in advance of the actual survey stressing the importance of the citizens of Baldwin to use their voice and pen to tell us their thoughts. There was some work done in this area; possibly a heavier emphasis might have helped the returns.
3. Some parties suggested a “survey monkey” situation wherein the Township citizens could go “online” to make their feelings noted. While this is being used more and more for taking surveys, there are still a great deal of parties who do not or don’t

want to use a computer or other devices. In addition, there would be no way to detect repeat parties who wanted to stress a certain agenda.

Sometimes the old fashioned way of hard work in sending out a paper survey is the best method to be as fair and impartial as possible. And in fact, as you review the questions, answers and percent of return on each of these below, it is noted that it tracked with the research data that the Planning Commissioners put together in their research. While it does not give you a direct route to understanding the issues and the direction that Baldwin should go into the future, it does not say you are heading necessarily in the wrong direction either. Your Comprehensive Plan is just the guide to a "better" Baldwin Township with ideas and actions to create a healthier and more improved version for the future Baldwin Township and their citizens. It is hoped that this survey helps the Township to make choices and head in the right direction.

SURVEY QUESTIONS / ANSWERS

1. Would you please identify yourself as one of the following?

Initial Survey

A. 585 Full-time Resident of Baldwin Township

B. 0 Seasonal Landowner

C. 6 Commercial Owner

D. 12 Agricultural Landowner

E. 0 Industrial Owner

F. 3 Renter

G. 1 Other: Second Home

Amendment

A. 46 Full-time Resident of Baldwin Township

B. 17 Seasonal Landowner

C. 8 Commercial Owner

D. 5 Agricultural Landowner

E. 0 Industrial Owner

F. 3 Renter

G. 10 Other: 2 Second homes
2 Sold
2 Landlords
2 No ownership in Twp
2 not used/ one unfilled and one
not in good taste

Question No. 1 as well as Question No. 2 (below) sets the base for the original and amendment answers to these Surveys. These two questions helped to also set the tone to show that the majority of the responses to this survey were full time residents that showed the most interest. This is an ideal situation in that this gives the survey more weight to the answers. After full time residents, the next largest categories were agricultural and seasonal landowners with the commercial and renters following. The renter and landlord category was very small along with the commercial businesses. There is a past survey that is identified later that does show that the commercial does follow the trending in the Township. NOTE: This survey followed the census data found in the research by the Planning Commission. It seems to show that the majority of the Township is settled and residential in nature which helps to provide a more stable tax base and similar cultural values.

2. How long have you owned your property in Baldwin Township?

Initial Survey

A. 18 0-1 year

Amendment

A. 5 0-1 year

- B. 52 2-5 years
 C. 123 6-10 years
 D. 414 10 + years

- B. 13 2-5 years
 C. 13 6-10 years
 D. 58 10 + years

Question No. 2, which had the same number of responses as No. 1 verified that the data work was correct in the number of responses. It further showed that the average period of ownership in the Township is ten years or more. The second largest is 6-10 years with 2-5 years and 0-1 year groups showing that the Township continues to grow, albeit trending more slowly these days possibly still due to a slower economy. Again, long term ownership indicates a more stable tax base and population. There is a generational trend meaning that those common names heard in the Township, have lived here many years and may have passed their properties down from generation to generation. This shows a rich history and strong ties to a community.

The census data also shows that family households are by far the largest and most stable group in the community and that many families came into the Township in three large groups at three different times in the history of the Township. The largest group was from 2000-2009 during the boom development period, the second group was 1990-1999 and the very first increase in families was from 1970-1979. This tracks with the above data for length of time living in the Township.

The average age from the Census data shows thirty-eight (38.4) years. This means that you are just beginning to reach the top of the bell curve which is an opportune time within the Township's age to do what is necessary for infrastructure work and cultural items that makes Baldwin Township a place to stay and raise a family.

3. Are you reasonably satisfied with the level of services and the quality of life in Baldwin Township?

Initial Survey

- A. 539 Yes
 B. 65 No

Amendment

- A. 79 Yes
 B. 6 No

Question No. 3 reflects the overall feelings regarding the culture and life of the residents within the Township. The Township physically impacts their residents in many ways such as roads, fire and ambulance services, community activities, and voting annually on the levies which ultimately shows on their property taxes and allows the Township to provide those services. In a manner, this is a circular state wherein satisfied landowners may tend to want more services and be willing to pay for them.

In both surveys (initial and amended), this answer provides the Township Board with a yes that they are satisfied with the quality of life in the Township. This probably corresponds somewhat to the

longevity of ownership that remains steady in the Township. Those that responded in the negative stated problems such as roads, taxes, town board issues and poor development processes and procedures as their concerns.

4. What do you feel are the biggest concerns and what changes would you like to see for the Township in the next five-ten years? You can attach a sheet to this survey.

Question No. 4 showed some interesting comments and are included as part of this report. They are attached to the back with the other data. The biggest concerns in the next five years, identified by the respondents, are the following issues:

- Roads - to continue to upgrade and repair
- Taxes – too high corresponding to the decrease in property values or just too high
- Land use – better zoning to deal with nuisances, preserving open spaces, support building code rules, protect green spaces and sewer and water hook-ups.
- Business – promote existing as well as new businesses/ need more infrastructure
- Stay the same – many wanted to maintain the current system
- Change – comments on dealing with growth, annexation, incorporation and hostile takeovers in the future.
- Miscellaneous – citizen participation is needed, uninformed citizens, junk and lower crime.

The amendment to this survey reflected some of the same such as:

- Change – do not become a city and no annexation
- Roads – to continue to upgrade, improve snowplowing and consider walk/bike trails
- Taxes – similar to above
- Government – keep communications open with residents, spend tax money wisely, and infrastructure soon
- Miscellaneous – promote community events and monitor bonfires
- Crime – be vigilant regarding drugs and youth, ugly signs and litter, “parked cars” at Young Park

It seems that these are the main concerns of every Township and that includes Baldwin. There is a two way-street, called communications, in that residents and town board members must both communicate to each other on an ongoing basis.

Note: The best way to keep all residents informed is by the newsletter being completed on a quarterly basis by Baldwin Township staff. In addition, regular updates to the Township website are also a very important communication tool. It was discovered during the process of providing

results that there are a great many articles that could be used to educate the community. The only item here would be to recommend at least annual updating the address labels from Sherburne County for better coverage of the community.

5. Are you interested in knowing more about incorporation or orderly *annexation* for Baldwin Township?

Initial Survey

- A. 298 Yes
B. 262 No

Amendment

- A. 33 Yes
B. 48 No

Question No. 5 looks to have been the most confusing of the questions in the survey. However, it should be noted that the community is very aware of this issue and showed some strong feelings on the matter; however, the results show that they are equally split on their opinions (331 yes, 310 no). Some stated that they did not want annexation or incorporation; but would still probably like to discuss the issue.

Education on these options might be helpful to give the community a chance to understand, either in workshops or in newsletter articles or a combination of both. Example might be to do a newsletter on each idea and then schedule a workshop with an Attorney and the Supervisors to help landowners comprehend the complexity of the issue.

6. Baldwin Township has 78.58 miles of roads in the Township. The current annual road and bridge budget for 2013 is \$480,256.00 which is used for grading, sign work, chloride, road re-construction, paving, patching, brushing and snow plowing and mowing. What would you like to see done with the roads?

Initial Survey

- A. 316 Leave them as they are, we are satisfied with the roads
B. 231 Improve and repair more roads (paving) than are currently being done
C. 14 Chloride (dust control) more roads with a larger chloride program

Amendment

- A. 55 Leave them as they are, we are satisfied with the roads
B. 22 Improve and repair more roads (paving) than are currently being done
C. 1 Chloride (dust control) more roads with a larger chloride program

Question No. 6 was fun to collate. The totals were merged together from the initial survey and the amendment. They are below (639 answered):

- A. 371 Leave them as they are, we are satisfied with the roads
- B. 253 Improve and repair more roads (paving) than are currently being done
- C. 15 Chloride (dust control) more roads with a larger chloride program

Since most if not all of the roads are paved with the exception of a few, chloride was rarely answered. Again, leaving the roads as they are versus improving and repairing more roads than are currently being done may have brought on the idea of more taxes in the community's eyes. Therefore, the current program seems to fit the needs most of the time unless you review Question No. 4 & 11 comments. A bit of complaining still occurs as it should. This keeps the road staff on their toes and requires the greatest vigilance with the work to be done. After all, this is the most "visible" use of their tax monies. The next question below was to see what they would do if added roads were to be repaired and it too is revealing in its answers.

7. If additional roads are to be paved and repaired, how would you like the additional road work to be financed?

Initial Survey

- A. 69 Annual tax levy
- B. 102 Assess the affected property owners only when that road is to be paved/repaired
- C. 172 Have the Township implement a larger Capital Improvement Plan for roads
- D. 105 Have the Township bond to pave the most traveled roads
- E. 55 Other? _____

Amendment

- A. 9 Annual tax levy
- B. 14 Assess the affected property owners only when that road is to be paved/repaired
- C. 23 Have the Township implement a larger Capital Improvement Plan for roads
- D. 18 Have the Township bond to pave the most traveled roads
- E. 4 Other? Work within your means/ no more taxes

Government grants / Pull tabs

Question No. 7 seemed to show that you do have a very astute community and it was pleasantly surprising in the answer. The Planning Commission has discussed this matter at their meetings. The totals for both surveys were put together and they are below:

- A. 78 Annual tax levy
- B. 106 Assess the affected property owners only when that road is to be paved/repaired
- C. 195 Have the Township implement a larger Capital Improvement Plan for roads
- D. 123 Have the Township bond to pave the most traveled roads
- E. 59 Other? See below and on spreadsheets attached.

The answers above suggest that the community considers a Capital Improvement Plan as a good way to keep costs down (since the Township does not have to pay the costs for borrowing and interest). This also allows you to stage in road construction to your benefit. The second best answer was to pave the MOST traveled roads which also makes sense because they get the most use. When property owners are in unison and the road is not on the schedule for that year, assessing the landowners on the road is also another method to get the road done. Many roads do have unique issues in reconstructing the road before paving and this is another means to do them. Lastly, the annual tax levy was the most onerous answer, and here it may mean that they don't want them to be increased. The miscellaneous answers included some of the following:

- Use the money you already have
- Don't do any more – leave them as they are
- Don't do any unless they need them (question is how do you know when it is needed?)
- Widen the shoulders on certain roads
- Speed limits...and paint road lines

8. Should Baldwin Township consider managing the land use and permitting within the Township?

Initial Survey

- A. 259 Yes
- B. 275 No

Amendment

- A. 29 Yes
- B. 40 No

Question No. 8 is of interest to many in the community. They are compiled together below (603 answers):

Yes 288 No 315

There is a difference of twenty-seven (27) respondents out of a total of six-hundred and three (603). It seems that there may be some misunderstandings regarding taking on planning and zoning within the Township that could change those numbers if the concepts of planning and then taking on zoning are understood better.

Again, a series of articles in the Township's newsletter and informational meetings to have a dialogue with landowners and residents in the Township may help this to change or it could stay the same. Either way, it helps the Township to understand what their community is thinking.

While the answer garnered more in the negative, there is not a wide gap there. This may show that the Township is evenly mixed. This is just one of them that has a strong tendency to polarize a community when many unknowns are there. It would be wise to educate in different media formats to help landowners understand the world of managing their Township.

9. Sherburne County is required to set money aside for **park improvements** within the Township as part of any development work. Should Baldwin Township consider a Capital Improvement Plan for parks and trails in order to acquire, build and/or repair existing park and trail amenities?

Initial Survey

A. 294 Yes

B. 262 No

Amendment

A. 40 Yes

B. 35 No

Question 9 was also very interesting. While question 8 was answered in the negative, question 9 was in the positive by 37 votes (334 yes, 297 no). Maybe it was the idea of the capital improvement plan and the fact that Sherburne County has some tax monies for the Township to be used in the Township. This would minimize the costs to the Township residents.

These funds come from Developers who do their subdivisions in the Township and choose to dedicate park monies to the community as a whole rather than have individual parks in their subdivisions. These monies are for construction and improvements and cannot be used for general operating expenses.

While this is a great idea to use the monies to construct more parks and place equipment in them, the Township would then need to operate and maintain the parks and park trails and amenities which would ultimately need to be done by increasing the Township levies. One must consider the whole picture and maybe the community did; however, it does add future costs which is shown in Questions 4 and 11, lower their taxes or stay the same are stated. Great articles to use in the newsletter and to educate the public. Park and bike trails need to be kept up and while the community stated that they would like more, they need to realize that short term funds are great to get started, but that long term funding is needed to keep the trails maintained and in great shape long into the future. They don't go away or sunset sometime in the future like other projects.

10. The qualities most important to me are:

Initial Survey

A. 358 Natural Resources

- B. 469 Low crime
- C. 278 Friendly people
- D. 25 Community activities
- E. 92 Business opportunities
- F. 129 Near to public services
- G. 45 Other: 6 – Privacy
 - 3 – Parks
 - 8 – Lower taxes
 - 1 – Bike Trails
 - 2 - Lack of Ordinances
 - 1 – Hunting
 - 1 – Fiscal Responsibility
 - 10 – Rural Space / Country living
 - 3 – Fire Department
 - 5 – Road Upkeep
 - 3 – Property Rights Freedom
 - 1 – Hospitals/Schools
 - 1 – Honesty within Town Board

Amendment

- A. 51 Natural Resources
- B. 62 Low crime
- C. 50 Friendly people
- D. 16 Community activities
- E. 20 Business opportunities
- F. 15 Near to public services
- G. 4 Other: 1 – Lower taxes
 - 1 – Rural space / Country living
 - 1 – Bike Trails
 - 1 – Safe roads

Question No. 10 asked the community what they found to be the qualities most important to them when living in the Township. The top three qualities in the Township were:

- Low crime 531
- Natural resources 409
- Friendly people 328

Public services came next and then the rest fell in below that. Some "Other" ideas were stated as well. Fiscal responsibility, safe roads, and honesty within the Township were also values that the community stated. The answers above still show that the community seems to feel fairly settled with living in Baldwin Township. So while more people stated their answers in the positive and it means that that they value these ideals, not all felt that way.

11. Please submit any other comments about the Township below: You can attach sheet.

Question No. 11 had the same reflections and comments as No 4. In this section the biggest concerns were:

- Roads (some general themes on some road about repairs)
- Government in general has both positive and negative answers.
- Annexation and incorporation again showed strong feelings one way or the other.
- Business and a main street - had good comments
- Had some comments on crime in the Township - both good and bad

There were a lot of positive comments regarding the Township and there were some strong sentiments regarding some recent issues as well. This section gives up some great ideas to use for improvements to Baldwin Township.

A vibrant and active Township with good communication will help to keep the community content with life and living. The Township has great assets in their citizens and the perceptions are that they are doing the best that they can. There is always room for improvement and the survey provides some clues to get there.

OTHER PAST SURVEYS

Community Surveys

- ❖ Community Visioning Session done in 2005 / 2006
- ❖ Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2011
- ❖ Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2012
- ❖ Community Visioning Session done in 2010
- ❖ Community Survey done in 2013 – see above pages for results

Survey Response (2005) and Community Visioning Session (2006)

December 2005- January 2006 Survey Results

A survey was sent, through the township newsletter, out on December 12, 2005 and was asked to be returned in January, 2006. On January 9th, 2006, the results were presented to the Baldwin Town Board for their review. At that time, 3,340 received the newsletter with the survey in it, and 96 residents returned the survey with 7 additional following the deadline of January 1, 2006 for a showing of approximately three (3) percent return. The survey results showed the following:

- ❖ That the homeowner category responded to the session and the average age ranged from 36-54 years. This fits with the current census data of 2012.
- ❖ That the majority were interested in a Comprehensive Plan which is in the final stages.
- ❖ The idea of keeping the township rural and natural was their priority along with their idea that the township should be friendly and personable and that government should be open and communicative with their residents; however, that needs to be a two way street. Both need to do this communication to move forward.
- ❖ Planning ahead and the need for more public services were high on their list.
- ❖ Change for the township would entail more diversity including businesses, amenities such as hiking and biking trails, and safer roads.
- ❖ The township had received a donation of park land and the majority responded to how it should be used with athletics, exercise, family oriented pursuits and equipment for children to use. This currently is Young Park. A new park (Goose Lake) is added in 2013.
- ❖ Final survey comments were that infrastructure be considered, a transportation plan should be done and that there was no need for an elementary school in the township.

It was interesting in the aspect that those responding to the above survey had some strong ideas regarding specific questions. The idea of self-independence seemed to be a theme within the survey. This early survey shows the township residents that replied had a strong sense of community.

February 4, 2006 Community Visioning

A Visioning Session was then held on February 4th, 2006. The survey originally showed one-hundred and four (104) returns with 8 additional returns given during the visioning session. Approximately seventy (70) parties attended the visioning session. The results are attached to the final report.

What was interesting about the results in comparison to the above survey in 2013 is that while the words might be different, the overall responses ran parallel to the answers in the most recent survey. The values of the township have not changed over the period of time. There was some concerns about

the rapid growth of the township and that governmental services needed to catch up with it. In addition, the respondents felt that growth was happening very fast in the township and there was some concerns about developing the township's identity. Overall, the respondents loved the green space, the location to the cities, the amenities and services available, wanted to feel safe, felt promotion of the Highway 169 corridor should be done with more public services. Another theme that showed up in all of the community surveys suggested over and over that the Baldwin community needed to deal with Princeton in some manner. There was no general consensus on what that would be.

Baldwin Business Luncheon Surveys 2011 & 2012

May 2011

In May of 2011, there was a business survey given out at the luncheon and asked to be filled out and returned. The final returns (22) showed that most of the business owners lived in the township, had differing numbers of employees, and served the local population with the exception of a few. That they were not looking for change at this time and most were happy with their location. The business owners stated that they would be interested in a Baldwin Chamber of Commerce, wireless availability, and some social networking together bi-annually. Many of the businesses belonged to other service industry organizations.

May 2012

In May of 2012, the Baldwin Volunteer committee held their annual business luncheon. They had implemented what is called a survey monkey online and asked the business sector to respond to ten (10) questions asked. This is probably one of two surveys that TARGETED just the business community itself. A previous one was done, but not conclusive or clear enough to generate much information. While the response was very small with only nine (9) parties that replied, the responses again reflected similar values and gave the township interesting ideas to work with. Examples are the following:

- ❖ Those answering the survey had businesses in the Township at least 5-10 years in age
- ❖ Many answered had home businesses
- ❖ Most were self-employed showing entrepreneurship
- ❖ They need additional media and infrastructure needs
- ❖ The business owners stated that they would like to do more social networking
- ❖ Their primary interests were in financial topics and possibly marketing assistance; but they were also open to a possible chamber of commerce. Many go to the Princeton Chamber of Commerce right now; and
- ❖ They preferred the "downtown" business look and wanted to keep it

All of these responses reflect the larger community in Baldwin Township. If nothing else, these two prior surveys reinforce the larger survey that was completed. These earlier survey results will be attached to the final report on file at the Town Hall in the Planning & Zoning files.

Overall Business Community Remarks:

In general the remarks and general characteristics of the business community are as follow:

Even though each survey did not have the same specific question, in general the following comments were made:

- The answers stated that they have had their business here for a long time

- That there was a large home based business group interested in many items such as:
 - More internet access
 - Social Networking
 - Need more infrastructure and media needs
 - They liked the “small downtown” feel
- Many were self-employed operators showing a strong sense of entrepreneurship
- They had minimal time to do “outside” work. Suggest that semi-annual meetings would be good
- Most businesses were located here because they were township residents meaning that these businesses are probably vested in the future of the township.
- The businesses felt that this was a good place for them to conduct business
- There were issues with the roads
- They did not care for the big box types of development, but were very much for economic development and job creation

In the recent general survey, there were two places to comment (one relating to the immediate period) and the other related to general comments.

The following comments were made regarding business:

- Community would like to see growth
- Possibly want a main street to identify with
- Internet speed increased
- Promotion of job opportunities
- Expand and attract businesses to the area
- More infrastructure for business / streets, water and sewer where necessary
- Manage commercial, but don't have a lot of regulations
- Need more light commercial
- Decrease impact of lighting / more consistent and uniform
- Retail stores
- Have businesses that the residents can use all of the time

General Suggestions:

1. Business community redevelopment plan which could also lead to business retention and expansion
2. Consider an “incubator” business option to attract and allow local home based businesses to grow
3. Review and implement plans for improvements for all types of infrastructure inclusive of more wireless opportunities
4. Consider a road improvement plan for just the business area / inclusive of tree planting and walking trails for residents to use the retail stores that are available.

2010 Community Visioning Session

There was a Community Visioning Session done June 29th, 2010 with clustered outcomes identified. It is not known how many were at the meeting and participated in the discussions. It seems the goals of the session, similar to 2006, were to provide a broad consensus about the communities overall priorities and to help the township board chart the future direction for the township.

Overall, there were recurring themes to the comments and they reflected the best and the least likes for Baldwin Township. Six areas were identified in the final survey report for review and comment: governmental functions, governmental structure, parks/environmental, transportation, social capital and economics. The main responses in each category were as follows:

1. **Governmental Functions:** Stick to a road maintenance plan and make sure 911 emergency signs are up.
2. **Governmental Structure:** Preserve township independence through planning and remain a township
3. **Parks/Environmental:** Complete development of Young Park and clean up junk and blight
4. **Transportation:** Again, stick to road maintenance plan and improve public transportation (bus line, North Star routing).
5. **Social Capital:** Community Center with activities for all and an annual community festival.
6. **Economics:** Economic development and job creation and a large business park to produce revenues.

These themes are very well demonstrated in all of the surveys and would be the foundation to begin work from. The Comprehensive Plan gives you the background research, goals and ideas on how to get those viewpoints realized. This survey further supports those positions with more details and continues to tell the township what the community is thinking about their future.

ATTACHMENTS

ANSWERS TO QUESTION NO. 4 / INITIAL SURVEY & AMENDMENT

ANSWERS TO QUESTION NO. 11 / INITIAL SURVEY AND AMENDED

SPREADSHEET RESULTS / INITIAL SURVEY AND THE AMENDMENT SURVEY

PAST SURVEYS – RESULTS

- **Community Visioning Session done in 2005 / 2006**
- **Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2011**
- **Business Community Survey (Business Luncheon) done in 2012**
- **Community Visioning Session done in 2010**

MAIN SURVEY – Question No: 4

4. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE BIGGEST CONCERNS AND WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE TOWNSHIP IN THE NEXT FIVE-TEN YEARS?

ANSWERS: Alphabetical Order

Business:

Business growth
Reduce unreasonable restrictions on businesses
Promote larger industrial base
Promote high speed internet / Wi-Fi (3)
Expand business
Attract more business
Internet speed increased
Promote job opportunities (2)
Promote natural gas / too many woodstoves (2)
Do more commercial
Need a business park
Better cell phone coverage
Poor internet services
More businesses – get sit down restaurant
More infrastructure / streets
Keep commercial in one area

Change:

Become a City. No annexation
Pay more for education
Repair infrastructure
Merge with the City of Princeton
Improve relations with City
Orderly Annexation
Princeton taking over / pros and cons (2)
Lack of Ordinances & enforcement
Meet regularly with Princeton
Resolve conflicts with Princeton
Consider regionalization
Growth
Merge with Princeton (3) w/o loss of tax base
Do not incorporate the Township
Annexation is a big concern
Do not turn us into a city

Thirty year (30 year) Annexation Agreement with Princeton. Protect Baldwin interests
Incorporate. Protect our borders
Concerns about annexation with Princeton (2)
Planning / Enforcement. Orderly and environmental friendly growth. Safe changes to make Township attractive
Big concern – water and sewer
Incorporate ASAP
Property increases with seniors

Crime:

Nuisances in developments (cats and dogs)
Junk
Noise levels
Golf Course vandalism
Need more speed patrols (Co. Rd. 19?)
More police drive byes
Gun fire in neighborhood. Need more regulations or Ordinance. Safety and noise
Crime in area
Good 911 response times
Crime concerns
Foreclosed properties

Government/Miscellaneous:

KISS
Need better cooperation between board members
Township leadership needs to review basics
Fire Department response time
Keep government small for all people
Quit wasting our money
New to Township. How to find out more?
Quit tabling items. Address them
"Turtle Crossing" signs on Co. Road 45
Less bickering of Township officers
More education for Township Supervisors
Quit fighting among yourselves
Supervisors promoting self-interests
Supervisor must go (cover up on new roof)
Re-pave 296 & 297yh walking paths
Don't make laws you cannot enforce
Balance fiscal responsibility
Support Fire Department
Citizen directed leadership (2)
Nuisances
Swimming pool
Hold the line on costs with potential growth

Too many junk cars in yards. Enforce
Pursue a property clean up code
Be fiscally responsible with our tax dollars
Minimize additional services
Need Athletic Complex
Less government controls
Remove Supervisor (2)
Need a Youth Center for young adults
Consider junk ordinance (2)
Less Sherburne involvement / more Township decisions
No progress
Clean debris from Rum River
Make Princeton the first call for NE corner
Stay up to date with technology
Fear that Township will become a money sucking government like state and federal
Stop the spending. Less government intrusion
Board that can work together
Chinese Elm infestation – needs chemical removal
Spend wisely. Don't be wasteful
Common sense for the common good
Board should listen more to residents (2)
Family centered activities
Public beach at Caitlin Lake or others
Compensate Fire Department. Get improvements

Land Use:

More parks for families (3)
Every cornfield does not have to grow houses
No more developments. Hurts rural way of life
Handle growth
Clean up public accesses / Little Elk Lake
Outdoor hockey rink, baseball fields
Better playground at Young Park
Need ball field at Young Park
Finish boardwalk!
Overdevelopment jeopardizing natural resources
Fill up existing development
Limit high density development (2)
No more developments
Regulate developments
Long term plan for parks
Improve parks and trails (2)
More parks – keep costs down (4)
Get the bike path done from Princeton to Elk River (3)
Need bike paths (4)
Continue work on Young Park

Complete Great Northern Trail
Pave bike paths (5)
Lake health and quality
Maintain 2.5 acres for new lots / nuisance issues
Environment – wetlands – curb development
Bike trails (4)
Take care of lakes in Township
Address vacant homes and junk filled properties
Playground for kids – west side of 169
Allow decrease of lot size from 2.25 to .25/acre
Overdevelopment. Overpopulation. Jeopardizing natural resources
County in crisis
Work with Developers to enforce management and covenants
Need more parks
Use public land for recreation and hunting opportunities
Too many housing developments
Parks and trails at Young Park
More parks/trails/recreational areas
Filling up the empty houses in the Township

Positive:

Overall ok
Roads are good
Roads in better shape
Happy with Township – fiscally responsible and spends money only when needed
Less rules and regulation – not like County
Everything is ok!
Like the area
No problems. Very satisfied
Roads. Great job!
Keep going. Keep Township beautiful. Thanks
Thanks for the survey and appreciate it
Township easy to deal with

Roads:

Concentrate on road repairs. Not parks
Fix roads
Stop ATV and snowmobile use in Township
Many roads need upgrading / need more repairs (2)
Snowplowing rules not being followed
Street safety – especially in bad weather. Very bad road maintenance (29th Avenue / East side)
Put a paved shoulder along S. side of Co. Rd. 19 to Young Park
Fix roads – forget parks
Hire grader operator that knows how to do roads
Speed limits on 136

Pave 122 S. off 313th
 Mow ditches – better road maintenance
 Stay within project budgets
 Dead end sign. 289th Street end of Co. Rd. 45
 Putting too much sand on roads in winter
 136 – widen and replace (4) make smoother
 136 put paving on back burner
 Mailboxes getting hit by snow plow
 Cut road employee hours during spring and fall
 Do a better job of plowing cul-de-sacs
 Better Snow removal (7)
 Have snowplows put blades down to remove more snow and ice
 Road work on 100th Street
 Plowing on 306th. Speeding Co.Rd. 38
 New roads!
 Roads need resurfacing
 Live on a gravel road. 1-2 times a year grading
 Add road shoulders (3)
 100th Street – potholes (2) Like to walk
 Rename 311 Ave. NW / cars keep turning S. on 31st Avenue
 Snow plowing/faster response (6)
 Change paving companies
 Roads repair / increase maintenance (9)
 Junk cars (2)
 Noise levels of race cars, radios, motors
 Paint lines on roads (2)
 Need another snow plow / waiting too long (2)
 Roads and Plowing (10)
 Stop 4 wheelers from using ditches and driveways
 Improve street maintenance
 Better roads (5)
 Better snowplowing
 Long term plan for roads
 Quit using so much salt on roads
 Don't fix roads like 116th
 Elk Lake roads are going to be a big problem
 New Street signs (Co. Rd 38 & 116th- faded)
 36 needs work (2)
 Use money for fixing roads – forget head walls
 Don't plow when no snow
 Traffic light at Burger King and Conoco Gas
 Need road signs for roads off Co. 38 & Kingston
 Need street light from service road onto Co. Rd. 2
 Prioritize road repairs
 Repair / fix roads and mark centerlines (2)
 Plowing – leave drives open
 Paving / faster and more dangerous roads
 Keep kids off roads

116th & 300th – asphalt patches are not done well
 285th & 97th – neighbors fix road before Township shows up
 Pine Bark needle concerns. Township fix this?
 Mowing, salt and sand smartly
 Snowplow one lane within hours
 Need well maintained roads
 Improve roads (5)
 Equal road maintenance for all residents
 Oak Wilt issue
 Patch sidewalks?
 More efficient snow removal
 Plowing better and faster (6)
 Shoulders on roads
 No snowmobiles in ditches
 Road sign replacements
 Road shoulders widened
 Blacktop gravel roads
 Be respectful of property!
 Maintain roads – snowplowing. Late to work
 Blacktop my gravel road – runoff into my yard
 Decrease speed limits
 Only pave when you have extra money
 136th Street (3) fix / dogs in yards
 No more traffic on Hwy 2
 Township Engineer identifies roads for improvement. Board should act on it
 Buckthorn along roads
 Street light at corner of Co. 19 & 2
 Better care of gravel roads
 Repairs at 100th between Co. Rd. 38 & 28
 Stop drag strip on Co. Rd. 38!
 Fix gravel road by commercial
 Sand more
 Dangerous winter roads
 Summer – rebuild roads (County?)
 Flashing stop light on Co. Rd. 38 & 19 intersections
 Plowing sooner. Fifteen (15) homes on street. Do before noon
 Blacktop ½ Streets
 #45 needs upgrading
 Need better use of road funds
 Snow plowing – Farm Hill. Lower road in front of house (put it back the way it was)
 Elk Lake Estates – fix roads
 Snowplows are damaging yards and landscaping
 Add more speed limit signs
 We want our turnaround back, nobody asked

Stay the same:

Keep area rural (5)
No Annexation (11)
No change!
We wish to remain a Township
Oppose annexation
Small town / Township feeling
Protect property rights
Live in city / stay in city
Maintain Township charm
Leave as is / status quo (3)
Do not become a part of Princeton
Secure a "no-annex" agreement with city
Don't let City annex west side of 116th St. /b/w Co. 2 & 38
Carefully study the annexation issue
Hometown feel (2)
Avoid Annexation
No new rules
Do not incorporate the Township
Why would you want to annex to a town that's going nowhere?
No concerns or changes
Quit trying to make the Township like the city
No annexations (3)
Going great!
No annexation. Why do we have to do this?

Taxes:

Property taxes too high
Lower taxes / spending (17)
Stability w/o taxes
Rising taxes
Affordable property taxes (3)
Quit spending (3)
High level of services without loss of tax base
Market value of homes and tax-based businesses
No new taxes or government
Get money's work with our tax dollars
Lower taxes

MAIN SURVEY PORTION: QUESTION NO. 11

Please submit any other comments about the Township

Annexation:

No incorporation (2)
Be a part of Baldwin, not Princeton
No annexation (11)
Like it the way it is
No political games. Merge and quit fighting
Keep low key and quiet neighborhoods. No big City!
Township incorporation would be costly and redundant by duplication of services and additional
Services. Larger population would bring in state dollars
Do not let Princeton take any more of Baldwin. Become a City ASAP!
No changes (2)
Stay rural (2)
Like privacy
Keep Baldwin on its own. Nice place to live
People live in Baldwin to enjoy the country. Not a city
I enjoy Baldwin and love living here
Small town living
Going down incorporation path. Not in favor of annexation or incorporation
Merge with City to share services

Business:

Main Street?
More infrastructure / water and sewer
Decrease impact of lighting
Acceptable internet speed (2)
More business in Township (2)
More retail stores. Interest in this area
Underfunded infrastructure
Main business: being a home for people!

Crime:

Nuisances
Need more Sheriff Patrols
Too many cars piling up in peoples yards
Noise levels

Law Enforcement needed / drug issues (2)
Notify when pedophiles are coming to area
Value good roads and reduced crime

Government:

Honesty within the Town Board
Let common sense and logic rule the Township. Don't listen to certain people
Full disclosure on spending
Town Board that works for the people and not themselves
Come up with long-term solution unless we want to be annexed by Princeton
Concern about having enough capital to maintain infrastructure for a growing population
Supervisor Issue – see clipping
Open meetings!!
Why was the roof repaired on the Township buildings?
Encourage cleanup of some properties (Co. Rd. 9)
Board tables questions and deals with them at their private meetings
Deal with problems. Do your job
Need more local control, less County
Not afraid of more taxes if it means Township has better roads/parks/trail systems
Moved to Baldwin to escape extensive government
Need better cooperation between Township and Park Commission
Stop spending money. We cannot afford your own agendas
Disappointment with Board –not welcomed with issues
Young Park is a disaster (2) Do we need Young Park?
Treat all areas of the Township the same
Get new Township Board
Spend wisely
More recycle days (4/year) (3)
Fund Fire Department
Continue as you have been, do not let greed undo the progress. Thank you
Promote one day family events
Minimize the Townships plans
Complete hiking trail in Young Park
Need more bike/hiking paths (4)
Support resources used in developing bike trails and cross country ski trails
Continue supporting and promoting family friendly events
Need faster responses to citizen concerns
Protect natural resources and wildlife
Appears Township is on track with budgets and spending
Go regional for benefit of area
Projects done in a timely manner – attend to them
Reasonable attitudes of Town Board members
Ban firearms in Township – too populated
Trivial \$ on items-roads falling apart-junkyards- increased number of hoarders-properties in bad
Disarray
Retired fixed income set the tone

More people donations for the parks
Stop trying to be a city!
Add resources to trails
Honest government officials who do things in the best interest of the people
Swing set in Young Park
Quality of services
Don't spend money on unneeded luxuries
Need to manage land use. Especially residents who take liberties with regards to non-permitted
 Businesses and the noise factor
Noise ordinance. 238th Street. Resort enforcement on Elk Lake
Compensate Firemen
Fire Department. Get down rating so you can lower insurance for landowners
Bedroom community

Miscellaneous:

Mr. Carlisle is the only responsible person
Clean up inside of Town Hall (cluttered)
Quit spending the peoples' money
Enforce covenants
Write explanations to survey questions /publish Law
Reconsider bonfire times
Control oak wilt
Do more mailings for Township / School District
Control developments
Buckthorn out of control
Do not destroy the food of smaller government for a socialist state
Beach on Elk Lake
Fire services
Make the area more appealing to bring homeowners here
Bedroom community. Values are horrible. Increase amenities
Elementary school
Bicycle fees or through a club to manage trails
We have no nice parks
No housing developments

Positive:

Great place to live
I think things are going great in the Township
Thank you for valuing owner's opinions
Good survey
Privacy / birds chirping
Farms are a good thing
Township does a great job
Young Park is an asset (2)
Thanks! (3)
Country life
Park is fabulous. Love improvements. Use it more!
Thanks to Boards' representatives
Love living here (2)
Fire Department
Snowplowing people do a great job!
Country setting
Privacy (2)
Quality Environment
Small town feel
Love Recycle Day
OK overall
Thanks for all you do
Township direction good

Working fine
Glad to see people engaged in leadership and vision for the Township
Good Fire Department
Fantastic job on snow plowing
No problems. Leave as is for now
Wonderful great place to live. Keep it that way
Thanks to Board members for all of their time. Hats off to them
Appreciate all the work the Board does and the volunteer have done to keep things positive
Great job
Generally ok with Township
Great job at Young Park
Snowplowing has been great
Like to be close to amenities
What a beautiful, well-written survey / YES to Planning & Zoning, a liquor store and Incorporate!
Love living here and raising our kids / 35 years plus. Hope the Township survives for years to come
Snowplowing good
No concerns

Roads:

Too much money on Engineering fees and blacktopping
Big concern is road upkeep
Plowing on Co. Rd. 9 is slow
Pave All roads
Why when they paved a dirt road, they made it more narrow?
27th Avenue. Co.Rd. 45 & Co. Rd. 1. Plowing is bad. Joint road agreement? Switch to improve this
Weight limits abused. Elk Lake Road five (5) ton axle weights
Woodland Hills sign. In ditch since spring. Fix it!
Blacktop
Elk Lake Road. No shoulders. Very dangerous
4 way stop at Co. Rd. 38 & 19. Dangerous!
Not safe to ride on Co. Rd. 45 (2)
Cannot sustain roads at present budget
Township salt and sand eating up private driveways
Snowplowing on Elk Lake roads slow
Need more road grading south side of Sandy Lake
Need more weed control in ditches
Fix roads right the first time
Too many trucks on 313 / snow removal
Need wider shoulders on Co. 39/ push County
Roads need trash cleanup
Dust control. People to pay for it
136th from Co. Rd 3 to Co. Rd. 9—issues / reconstruct (2)
4 wheeling
Focus on snow plowing
Road repairs – quality is bad
300th (Long Pond) sinkhole – crumbling
Prohibit use of chloride where runoff goes into water
Street lights needed – law enforcement
Stripe and Paint fog lines on roads (2)
Fund roads
287 ½ Avenue – never plowed
97th Street NW – trees overhang
Snowplowing / repair roads (2)
Most residents can't afford to have roads paved
Improve road grading
Improve snowplowing in Elk Lake Estates
Use less chloride (affects lakes)
Widen shoulders (3)
Do traffic count on County roads / pave
Private roads / consider taking over. Not fair. Pay same taxes
Township road crew – do honest days' work
Too slow on fire signs
Poor communication with people on road work
136th need wider shoulders
Need better speed signs

112th width too narrow
Township road north of river and east of city is forgotten
No choice in bituminous
285th curve and 134th – obscures vision – dangerous curve! Current levy should take care of this
Plowing – poor
Snowplowing – dumping in driveways
133rd Street – plowed last (gravel portion)
133rd Street. Pave by Lake Diane
Employees sitting on side of road-poor use of tax \$
Winter travel on roads difficult
No centerlines. Narrow roads
Clearer ROW. Brush at intersections and roads (ex. Lake Diane Road)
Road improvements first.
Plow streets faster (301st Street). One of the last!
104th Street is never plowed until packed snow. 3-5 days later..Better?
Street light intersections – Co. Rd. 38 & 19 / Co. Rd. 38 & 100th Street
Address poison ivy in ditches (136th Street)
Review speed limits in Township
Too many weeds and junk in township
More money for road maintenance. Less for parks
Deer problem. Cannot see roads. Paint road lines on roads. Use white tar!
Speed bumps (3) at Prairie Lake Estates. Too fast..speeding

Taxes:

Lower Property taxes (7)
Focus on basic needs
Keep up with what we have, don't add
Property taxes too high – fixed incomes
Lower taxes – quite spending (2)
Stop the spending. Less government intrusion
Property taxes
Keep the taxes down with the poor economy

*Great job on County Road 9
Great Township! Some people should move

QUESTION NO. 4

4. WHAT DO YOU FEEL ARE THE BIGGEST CONCERNS AND WHAT CHANGES WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE FOR THE TOWNSHIP IN THE NEXT FIVE-TEN YEARS?

ANSWERS: IN SURVEY AMENDMENT (Not in a particular order), but in grouped headings.

Stay the same:

Stay Country
Spend money as if it was your own
Don't need changes
Maintain current budget
Country atmosphere
Prioritize Needs

Change:

Dealing with growth
Annexation
Stay away from Princeton
Don't want to incorporate with Princeton
No annexation (2)
Concerns about hostile takeover from Princeton
Controlled growth
Orderly annexation

Roads:

Traffic control on 169 Entrances
Better salting and plowing in winter
Youth speeding on Co. Road 1
Make roads around Fairway Shores Twp roads
Road conditions – 285th
Pave all roads
Pave streets on Elk Lake
County Road 42 – stop patching and pave

Miscellaneous:

Uninformed residents
Citizen participation
Junk - cleanups
Lower crime / fix roads (2)

Need more information from Twp

Taxes:

Property taxes
Property taxes too high
Decrease in land values
High taxes and still increasing
Lower taxes (2)
Control taxes

Business:

Promote New businesses/ hometown business events
Need more infrastructure and light commercial

Land Use:

Better zoning to address trash and junk
Support building code rules
Water health/protect
Preserving open spaces
Protect remaining green spaces
Sewer / sewer and water hook-ups (2)
Walking trails
Add baseball and soccer fields

Positive:

Doing a great job!

SURVEY AMENDMENT PORTION: QUESTION NO. 11

Please submit any other comments about the Township

Annexation:

NO city
NO annexation

Roads:

Snowplowing has improved in recent years
Roads!
111 ½ Street – took top off last year snowplowing
112th is a racetrack now that it is paved
Walk/bike trail to Princeton – so people can bike to work and feel safe

Taxes:

No taxes
Ag land taxes have increased by 5 times in 20 years
Return unused land to Green Acres /protect from Urbanization
Lower taxes on lots
Low taxes

Government:

Keep communications open
Use all methods to inform seasonal people
Septic soon!
Spend tax money wisely

Miscellaneous:

Evict obnoxious citizens from Township
Promote more community events
Monitor and police outdoor bonfires and fireworks

Crime:

Concerned about meth and drugs creeping into area
Ugly signs and litter
Less funding for police –no crime / put that money towards other projects
Keep tabs on “parked cars” at Young Park

Thanks for the survey!

Yes	7	8	11	0	7	33
No	10	13	8	6	11	48
						81
6. Baldwin Township has 78.58 miles of roads in the township. The current annual road and bridge budget for 2013 is \$480,256.00 which is used for grading, sign work, chloride, road re-construction, paving, patching, brushing and snow plowing and mowing. What would you like to see done with the roads?						
Leave them as they are, we are satisfied with the roads	11	17	13	6	8	55
Improve and repair more roads (paving) than are currently being done	3	4	6	2	7	22
Chloride (just control) more roads with a larger chloride program	0	0	0	0	1	1
7. If additional roads are to be paved and repaired, how would you like the additional road work to be financed?						
Annual tax levy	4	1	3	1	0	9
Assess the affected property owners only when that road is to be paved/repared	2	3	5	1	3	14
Have the Township implement a larger Capital Improvement Plan for roads	0	8	6	2	7	23
Have the Township bond to pave the most traveled roads	2	5	5	1	5	18
Other? Work within your means / no more taxes	2	1	0	0	1	4
Government grants / Pull tabs						68
8. Should Baldwin Township consider managing the land use and permitting within the Township?						
Yes	4	4	11	4	6	29
No	8	14	6	3	9	40
						69
9. Sherburne County is required to set money aside for park improvements within the Township as part of any development work. Should Baldwin Township consider a Capital Improvement Plan for parks and trails in order to acquire, build and/or repair existing park and trail amenities?						
Yes	8	8	11	4	9	40
No	7	10	9	3	6	35
						75
10. The qualities most important to me are:						
Natural Resources	11	9	15	4	12	51
Low crime	13	15	13	7	14	62
Friendly people	8	13	12	6	11	50

