## Chapter 9: Burt Township Citizen Opinion Survey

A citizen opinion survey was conducted in Burt Township in the summer of 1991. Surveys were distributed to township residents, who were asked to return completed surveys to any of seeral locations in Grand Marais.

Ninety-seven households responded to the survey. The responses were slit evenly between parttime and full-time residents, with 49 from part-time residents and 48 from full-time residents. The 1990 Census shows 202 households in Burt Township, plus a high number of seasonal residences. The 48 full-time residents who responded represent about on e quarter of the permanent households.

Most respondents, both part-and full-time residents, have lived or owned property in the township for more than 15 years. Of the 48 part-time residents who responded, 19, or 39.6 percent had owned property for more than 15 years, while 66.7 percent of full-time residents who responded had lived or owned property in the township for that length of time.

Demographic information gathered from the survey closely parallels information from the 1990 Census. Most of the respondents represented one- or two-person households, with only one household having as many as five members. Twenty-five household, or 25.7 percent, were one-person households.

Respondents were primarily over the age of 45, with none under 25. This would be consistent with the relatively high median age shown in the Census. Twenty-nine persons, or 29.9 percent, were over 65; 37, or 38.1 percent were 46 to 65 years of age; and 24 or 24.7 percent were 36 to 45 years old. Later questions regarding occupation reinforced this statistic, as a high number of respondents listed "retired" as their occupation.

When asked what factors influenced their decision to live in the township, most chose answers which reflected the ability to make lifestyle choices based on factors other than simply economics. "Natural beauty of the area" was selected by 83.5 percent of respondents, while 49.5 percent said a "preference for rural living" influenced their decision. "Close to outdoor recreation activities" was the third most common influencing factor. Part- and full-time residents showed little variation in the reasons for choosing to live in Burt Township.

Factors such as "quality of schools," "Close to work," and "affordable housing" were relatively unimportant in influencing respondents' decision to live in the area. These are factors which are commonly most important to households with young children, or households who are dependent on local employment as their primary source of income.

Most of those surveyed lived either in a platted subdivision on a parcel of five acres or less. No respondents lived on parcels of 40 acres or greater.

Responses to questions regarding occupation may be of limited usefulness because of the manner in which questions were worded, and because of the number of part-time residents. Only 29, or 29.9 percent of all respondents said the head of the household worked in Grand Marais, while no respondents worked in Seney, Shingleton or Munising. The remaining 60 persons who answered this question chose "other;" however, 38 of these persons also noted that they were retired, meaning that only 22 of the 50 were actually employed in another location. In other words, of the 51 employed persons who answered the question regarding place of employment, 29, or 56.9 percent, worked in Grand Marais, while 22, or 43.1 percent worked in other locations. Locations specified as "other" included Marquette, various cities in lower Michigan, Minnesota, Arizona, New Mexico and other states. As would be expected, most part-time residents are employed outside of the area if they are employed. Only 3 part-time residents said that they worked in Grand Marais.

The question regarding the occupation of employed persons offered "retired" as a choice, which may have created some confusion on the part of survey respondents. Some listed an occupation, then noted that they were retired, and it is probable that, since 38 people volunteered that they were retired when answering the previous question, compared to 36 people counted as retired in this category, some persons marked the occupational category which was appropriate before they retired.

Among part-time residents, the most commonly-selected occupations were professional (26.5 percent) and educator (16.3 percent), while full-time residents listed professional (12.5 percent) as the most common occupation. For both groups, retired was the most common choice, despite the fact that the question mentioned employed persons. Twenty , or 41.7 percent, of full-time residents and 16, or 32.7 percent, of part-time residents said they were retired.

Some major differences of opinion on the subject of development are evident between part-time and full-time residents. A series of questions regarding residential development revealed that full-time residents favor provisions for new residential development, while part-time residents are about evenly divided on the subject. Both groups seem to oppose the development of more condominium units. Full-time residents are more tolerant of mobile homes than part time residents.

The responses to the questions regarding residential development are summarized below.

		Part-time	Residents	Full-time Residents		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Provide for a new residential development	Yes	23	46.9	35	72.9	58	59.8
in Township	No	21	42.9	8	16.7	29	29.9
Provide for new residential development in	Yes	18	36.7	27	56.3	45	46.4
Grand Marais	No	27	55.1	16	33.3	43	44.3
If more single family residences are built, should	l that						
be:							
Within Grand Marais?		15	30.6	16	33.3	31	31.2
Concentrated in established districts?		14	28.6	16	33.3	30	30.1
In suitable undeveloped areas?		15	30.6	19	39.6	34	35.1
Adjacent to bay area or shoreline?		1	2.0	2	4.2	3	3.1
Do not want more homes to be built		14	28.6	5	10.4	19	19.6
If more condos and apartments are built, should	they						
be:							
Within Grand Marais?		1	2.0	3	6.3	4	4.1
Concentrated near present condos/apts?		0	0.0	1	2.1	1	1.0
In suitable undeveloped areas?		9	18.4	15	31.3	24	24.7
Do not want more condos to be built?		38	77.6	29	60.4	67	69.1
Where would you like to see mobile homes locat	ed?						
Within Grand Marais?		2	4.1	4	8.3	6	6.2
Concentrated by existing mobile homes?		5	10.2	3	6.3	8	8.3
In suitable undeveloped areas?	3	6.1	12	25.0	15	15.5	
In established mobile home parks?	17	34.7	17	37.4	34	35.1	
Do not want to see more mobile homes.		25	51.0	18	37.5	43	44.3

Most residents, both part- and full-time, said that a home on a smaller lot in a residential area, close to community facilities, was the best living situation for them. A large parcel in a rural area, away from community facilities, was preferred by 34 percent of all respondents, while non expressed a preference for condominiums or apartments. Only two part-time residents said that a mobile home park would best meet their needs.

Full-time residents appear to be somewhat more in favor of increased commercial development in the township. When asked what type of businesses they would like to see located in the township, commercial goods (such as drugs and groceries) and professional services were most often mentioned. Part-time residents were considerably less enthusiastic than full-time residents about locating tourist facilities in the township.

Approximately 87 percent of part-time and full-time residents said they purchase everyday needs in Grand Marais. For professional services, however, full-time residents go to Munising and Marquette, while part-time residents go to Marquette and other locations. Overall, Marquette is the most popular location for professional services. It should be pointed out that many part-time residents, especially those who spend only a short period of time in the area, probably obtain these services in the area where they spend the remainder of the year.

When asked what recreational activities or facilities they would like to see developed in the future, both part-time and full-time residents expressed mild interest in a number of activities and facilities. Nature trails and cross-country ski trails were the only facilities that received support from more than 30 percent of respondents.

Only 30.9 percent of respondents said they would support an additional millage to fund recreational activities or facilities, while 57.7 percent said they would not support a millage increase.

Most community services received high ratings from both part-time and full-time residents. Ambulance service, fire protection, churches, community center, and recycling were rated good (on a scale of good-fair-poor) more than 50 percent of the time by all respondents.

Roads and streets were rated better by part-time residents (40.8 percent good, 32.7 percent fair) than by full-time residents (45.8 percent fail, 33.3 percent poor). Overall, 29.9 percent rated streets and roads good, 39.2 percent fair and 27.8 percent poor.

Police protection received better ratings from full-time residents. Thirty-five percent of full-time residents thought police protection was good, 41.7 percent thought it was fair, and 20.8 percent rated it poor. Part-time residents rated police protection good 35.7 percent of the time, fair 26.5 percent, and poor 30.6 percent.

Part-time residents rated the National Park Service good 49 percent of the time, compared to 37.5 percent of full-time residents. Differences of opinion between part- and full-time residents concerning solid waste disposal were small, but overall, only 39.2 percent rated solid waste service good.

When asked if they would support an additional millage to improve any community service, 47.9 percent of full-time residents and 34.7 percent of part-time residents said yes, for an overall percentage of 41.2.

Part-time residents strongly opposed expansion of the Grand Marais water system and development of a sewer system within Grand Marais. Full-time residents were about evenly divided on both issues, but the opposition of part-time residents kept the total proportion of those opposing such developments above 60 percent.

Encouraging and promoting industrial development was favored approximately two to one by full-time residents, while part-time residents opposed it by the same margin. Overall, 48.5 percent of residents favor industrial development, while 49.5 percent opposed it. Those supporting industrial development agreed that it should be located in an industrial park, or along Highway M-77.

Full-time residents also favored commercial development by a two-to-one margin, while parttime residents were evenly divided on the topic. Overall, commercial development was favored by 53.6 percent of all respondents, and the preferred locations for such development were Grand Marais and along Highway Ml-77.

Lands suitable for use by the forest industry should be protected from residential development, according to 57.7 percent of respondents.

Development of the tourist industry was favored by 72.9 percent of full-time residents, and opposed by 53.1 percent of part-time residents, for an overall proportion of 57.7 percent in favor and 35.1 percent opposed to tourism development.

Both full- and part-time residents overwhelmingly felt that zoning was an appropriate way to regulate land use (92.8 percent), and that billboards and advertising signs should be regulated and/or restricted (87.6 percent).

The three final questions in the survey dealt with general development issues, and allowed respondents to offer suggestions rather than choosing from pre-determined responses. A brief discussion of the answers to these three questions follows; however, in order to better understand the context and intent of residents' comments, local decision makers should read the individual comments on the survey forms.

When asked how the land along the bay to Coast Guard Point should be developed and/or preserved, the majority of the responses were in favor of preserving this area (52.6 percent). The 30 people (30.9 percent) who offered comments favoring some sort of development often included comments such as "minimal development," "residential only," "single family housing," "no more condos," and "no buildings on beach." Seven people offered no response. A reasonable conclusion would be that while the majority of respondents would like to see the area preserved, most of those who favor development also favor restrictions on the amount and type of development.

Similar responses were received to the question of developing and / or preserving land along the lakeshore. A slight majority of respondents (51.6%) offered comments such as "no more development," "preserve," or "ok as is," which were interpreted to favor preservation. Comments in favor of some level of development included "considerable setbacks," "no buildings on beach," "no condos or multi-family," "no more mobile homes," and "monitor development." As with the previous question, those who were in favor of development of the area were also in favor of restrictions of such development. Nine people did not comment.

The final question pertained to the development and/or preservation of road H-58. Approximately half of the survey respondents favored preservation of the road as it currently exists, ie: narrow, winding and unpaved. Numerous comments were offered in support of this position. Those who favored some development ranged from comments supporting upgrading to a roadway similar to the Blue Ridge Parkway or other major scenic drive, to paving all or parts of the road. Many of those in favor of paving also said that the roadway should be kept as narrow as possible, the canopy should be maintained and/or speed limits should be posted and enforced. Seven people offered no comments regarding H-58.

In summary, the survey results show that local residents value the rural nature of the area, and support for further development is lukewarm at best. Year round residents seem to be generally more supportive of residential, commercial, and industrial development than part-time or seasonal residents, but all residents shared concerns about the location and type of future development.

• - Count • - Percent

## CITIZEN OPINION QUESTIONNAIRE - BURT TOWNSHIP

1.1.1

1 Part-Time Full-Time GENERAL INFORMATION A. How long have you lived or owned property in the Township? a. less than one year b. 1 - 2 years c. 3 - 5 years d. 6 - 10 years e. 11 - 15 years f. 16 - 20 years g. over 20 years 1. 2 2.06 5 5.15 1313.40 1313.40 1212.37 0.00 2 8.16 1 18.37 4 18.37 4 14.29 5 18.37 12 20.4120 4.17 2.08 8.33 8.33 10.42 04997 2121.65 9 3030.93 10 25.00 41.67 2. How many months a year do you live in Burt Township? On the map that accompanies this survey, please circle the number of the area in which you live. 3. 4. Including yourself, how many people are in your household? 2525.77 5354.64 8 8.25 9 9.28 a. b. 12 8 8.25 9 9.28 1 1.03 0 0.00 0 0.00 0 0.00 c. d. 3 4 5 e. f. g. h. more than seven Please indicate which of the following age categories is correct for you. 5. 0.00 0.00 8.33 20.83 41.67 29.17 0.00 0 4.08 4 28.5710 34.6920 30.6114 18 years or younger 19 - 25 years 26 - 35 years 36 - 45 years 46 - 65 years 0 0.00 0 0 0.00 0 6 6.19 2 2424.74 14 3738.14 17 2929.90 15 a. b. c. d. e. f. 66 years and older Which of the following factors influenced your decision to reside an the 6. Township? p? Quality of the Schools Close to Work Affordable Housing Close to Family and Friends Neighbors Not Too Close a. b. c. d. e. f. Lower Taxes Lower Taxes Prefer Rural Living Hatural Beauty of the Ares Close to Outdoor Recreation Activities Other (please specify) g. h. i. j. Where is your residence located? a. Platted Subdivision b. Group Housing d. Parcel of Less Than 5 Acres e. Parcel of 6 - 10 Acres f. Parcel of 11 - 40 Acres g. Parcel Over 40 Acres 7. 
 3839.18
 21
 42.8617
 35.42

 3.09
 2
 4.08
 1
 2.08

 3232.99
 16
 32.6516
 33.33
 111.34
 4
 8.16
 7
 14.59

 8
 8.25
 4
 8.16
 4
 8.33
 1
 1.03
 0
 "0.00
 1
 2.08
 In which community does the head of the household work? 8. 2929.90 3 6.1226 0.000 0 0.00 0 0 0.0 0 0.00 0 0 0.0 0 0.00 0 0 0.0 0 0.00 0 6061.86 41 83.6719 Grand Marais 54.17 ۵. 0.00 0.00 0.00 39.58 Seney Shingleton Munising b. c. d. е. Other (please specify) Prom the list below, insert the letter on the appropriate line which describes best the occupation of each employed person in the household. Head of Household \_\_\_\_\_\_ Other Persons \_\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Managerial Skilled Labor Unskilled Labor b. c. d. Agricultural Logger Salesperson Clerical e. 1. g. h. Service Worker Retired 1. j. Government Employee 1. Educator Other m.

1 1	1		1	1	в.	RESIDENTIAL ATTITUDES
스					1.	Should provisions be made for new residential development in Burt Township?
2929.90	23	46.94 42.86	35 8	72.92		a. Yes b. No
					2.	Should provisions be made for new residential development in Grand Marais?
4546.39 4344.33	18	36.73	27 16	56.25		a. Yes b. No
					3.	If more single family residences are added, where would you prefer they be located? (Circle one or more)
3131.96	15	30.61	16	33.33		a. Within the community of Grand Marais
3131.96 3030.93 3435.05 3 3.09	14	28.57	16	33.33		<ul> <li>b. Concentrated in single family districts established already</li> <li>c. Undeveloped areas suitable for development</li> </ul>
3 3.09	1114	2.04	2	4.17		<ul> <li>Adjacent to the bay area or along the shoreline</li> <li>Do not want more homes to be built</li> </ul>
					4.	If more condominiums or apartments are added, where would you prefer they be located?
4 4.12	1	2.04	3	6.25		a. Within the community of Grand Marais
4 4.12 1 1.03 2424.74	0	0.00	1	2.08		<ul> <li>b. Concentrated near the site of current condominium/apartment development</li> <li>c. Undeveloped areas suitable for multi-family development</li> </ul>
6769.07	38	77.55		60.42		d. Do not want to see more condominiums built
6 6.19	2	4.08	4	8.33	5.	Within the Township, where would you prefer to see mobile homes located? a. Within the community of Grand Marais
8 8.25	5	10.20	3	6.25		<ul> <li>b. Concentrated near mobile homes located in the Township already</li> <li>c. Undeveloped areas suitable for development</li> </ul>
1515.46 3435.05	17	6.12 34.69	12	25.00		d. Within an established mobile home park
4344.33	25	51.02	18	37.50		e. Do not want to see mobile homes located within the Township
				_	6.	What type of living situation meets your needs the best?
3334.02 5253.61	15	30.61	18	37.50		<ul> <li>On a large parcel in an rural area, away from community facilities</li> <li>On a smaller lot in a residential area, closer to community facilities</li> </ul>
2 2.06	2	4.08	0	0.00		c. Mobile Home Park d. Condominium or Apartment Complex
0 0.00	204	.0.00 8.16	2	0.00		e. Other (Please specify)
					с.	COMMERCIAL ATTITUDES
4				1	1.	Of the list of businesses that follow, which would you like to see located in
1010.31	3	6.12	-	14.58		the Township the most? a. Finance, Insurance, Real Estate
4445.36 2626.80 4142.27	21	42.86	23	47.92		b. Commercial Goods (drugs, groceries, etc.)
2626.80	10	20.41	16	33.33		<ul> <li>Comparison Goods (clothes, appliances, etc.)</li> <li>Professional Services</li> </ul>
2323.71 2525.77	6	12.24	17	35.42		<ul> <li>Tourist Pacilities (motels, restaurants, craft shops, etc.)</li> <li>Bed and Breakfast Accommodations</li> </ul>
					2.	On a regular basis, where do you purchase everyday needs?
8587.63	43	87.76	42	87.50		a. Grand Marais b. Marguette
1414.43	10	20.41	4	8.33		c. Munising
1616.49	9	16.33	8	16.67	3.	<ul> <li>Other (Please Specify)</li> <li>On a regular basis, where do you go to obtain professional services (doctor,</li> </ul>
					3.	dentist, attorney, etc.)?
1717.53 3738.14 2525.77	6	12.24	11	22.92		a. Grand Marais b. Munising
3738.14	10	20.41	27	56.25		c. Manistique
5152.58	21	42.86	30	62.50		d. Marquette e. Other (Please Specify)
1919.39	14	20.3/	2	10.42		
					D.	RECREATION ATTITUDES
					1.	Check those activities/facilities that you would like to see developed within the Township in the future.
1919.59 2121.65 1515.46 1717.53	6	12.24	13	27.08 20.83 6.25 14.58		a. Camping b. Canosing/Boating
1515.46	12	24.49	3	6.25		c. Charter Boat Service
1717.53 2323.71						d. Pishing e. Swimming
2323.71	9	18.37	14	29.17		f. Marina
3536.08	19	38.78	16	33.33		g. Nature Trails h. Bike Trails
2121.65 9 9.28	3	6.12	6	29.17 33.33 25.00 12.50		1. Horseback Riding
1 3.40	- 4	8.16	9	18.75		j. Tot.Lot/Playground k. Basketball Courts
9.28	2	4.08	17	14.58		

a.

9 9.28	4	8.16 5	10.42		1. Baseball Diamond
2 .77 1	4	28.5711	22.92		m. Hunting Areas n. Picnic Areas
1 .49	7	14.29 9 8.16 6	18.75		o. Golf Course
3334.02 1	15	30.6118	37.50		p. Tennis Courts q. Cross Country Ski Trails
1717.53	82	30.6118 16.33 9 4.08 5 6.12 5	18.75	41	r. Ice Skating s. Snowmobiling
8 8.25	3	6.12 5	10.42		t. Other (Please Specify)
	1			2.	Would you support an additional millage to develop any of the above?
	12	24.4918 63.2725	37.50 52.08		a. Yes
5057773	1		52.00		b. No
		E 14		в.	COMMUNITY SERVICES ATTITUDE
				18.	To what degree are you satisfied with the following features and services within
					the Township? (Check the appropriate box)
8587.63 4	40	81.6345	93.75		Ambulance Service
6 6.19	4	8,16 2	4.17		Good Fair
0 0.00	0	0.00 0	0.00		Poor
					Streets and Roads
2929.90 2 3839.18	20	40.82 9 32.65 22	18.75		Good Fair
	11	22.4516	33.33		Poor
					Police Protection
3435.05 1	17	34.6917 26.5320			Good
2525.77	15	30.6110	20.83		Por
					Fire Protection
5657.73	25	51.0231	64.58		Good
2828.87	10	32.6512	25.00		Pair Poor
1.35 1		77.5538			Churches Good
0 0.00	6	12.24 6			Pair
	1				Poor
7173.20	37	75.5134	70.83		Community Center Good
2020.62	7	14.2913	27.08		Pair
1 1.03	1	2.04 0	0.00		Poor
4243.30	24	48 9818	37.50		Park Services (National Lakeshore)
4243.30	17	48.9818 34.6918	37.50		Good Pair
9 9.28	2	4.08-7	14.58		Poor
5556.70		<1. 1000	52.08		Recycling
2424.74	10	20.4114	29.17		Good Fair
1010.31	3	. 6.12 7	14.58		Poor
					Solid Waste Disposal
3839.18 3030.93	18	36.7320 30.6115	41.67		Good
2020.62	9	18.3711	22.92		Poir Poor
			1	b.	Would you support an additional millage to improve any of the above?
4041.24 4748.45	17	34.6923 53.0621	47.92	ь.	a. Yes
4/140.43	20	55.0621	43.75		b. No
				2.	Should the expansion of community water lines into areas of the Township outside
2828.87	6	12.2422	45.83		of Grand Marais be encouraged? a. Yes
eue1.86	41	83.6719	39.58		b. No
				3.	Should a sewer system be developed for the area of the Township within Grand
3536.08	12	24.4923	47.92		Marais? A. Yes
5960.82	36	73.4723	47.92		b. No

1 1			7.	GENERAL ATTITUDES TOWARD GROWTH
6			1.	Do you agree with the following statements? (Please indicate reason)
Y	1 11	1		Industrial development should be encouraged and promoted within the Township.
4748.45 16	22 6623	~		A. Yes
4849.48 33				b. No
				If yes, where should industrial development be located?
1 1.03 1	2.04 0	0.00		a. Within the Community of Grand Marais
1212.37 5		14.58		b. Along H-77
3232.99 12	24.4920	41.67		c. In an Industrial Park
6 6.19 2	4.08 4	8.33		d. Other (Please Specify)
1 1	1 11			Commercial development should be encouraged and promoted within the Township.
5253.61 21	42 8631	64 50		4. Yes
3637.11 21				b. No
3037.11 21	42.9013	31.25		
	1 1			If yes, where should commercial development be located?
2424.74 13	26.5311	22.92		a. Within the Community of Grand Marais
2222.68		29.17		b. Along H-77
8 8.25	2.04 7	14.58		c. Other (Please Specify)
				Lands suitable for the forest industry should be protected from residential development.
5657.73 28	57.1428	58.33		a. Yes
2626.80 13				b. No
				The development of the tourist industry should be encouraged and promoted within the Township.
5657.73 21	42 8635	72.92		a. Yes
3435.05 24				b. No
3435.05 24	53.00 0	10.0/		
				Zoning is an appropriate way to regulate land use within the Township.
9092.78 46	93.8844	91.67		a. Yes
4 4.12				b. No
	1 11			Billboards and advertising signs should be regulated and/or restricted.
8587.63 43	87.7642	87.50		A. Yes
6 6.19				b. Ho

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