



Thirty-six years ago a family man and farmer, Eugene Greene approached Town Clerk, John Jackson with his filing fee to contend in the March 12, 1974 election for a three-year term as Town Supervisor in Franconia Township. The sensitive issue of the day was whether a vacated one-room school house should be saved and converted for use as the first official town hall or if land should be acquired and a new building erected. Until this decision was made regularly scheduled meetings were rotated between the homes of the members of the Board. Mr. Greene was quite familiar with the old school house, intimately you could say with his daily attendance at class through the sixth grade. At this time the school's doors closed and the children of the area were bused across the St. Croix River to Osceola, Wisconsin.

But for a brief period following his convincing win, Supervisor Greene would be nominated Chairman where his astounding strength in leadership maintained order and protected the rights of the citizens of Franconia. It was through his leadership (and not the number of his relatives☺) which would stave off competition for his seat and title of Chairman for more than three decades.

When asked why he chose to not seek election in 2010, Chairman Greene stated simply that it was his time to retire. He is a man of character and wants only what is best for his community. When asked if he would be willing to "sit in" on a temporary basis until Supervisor Wes Herberg returns from a brief absence, Mr. Greene simply smiled and answered "temporarily."

The structure of the Board has changed over the years and no longer will you find a seat for Constable or Justice of the Peace on the ballot, the Treasurer is an appointed position, and the County once again handles the zoning administration.

The township is a two-thirds partner in the Shafer Franconia Fire Department, has installed a 20,000 gallon tank beside the town hall for quick access to water in fighting fires in the southern area of the township, has enacted a uniform process for land development, approved a town park plan, accepted the Franconia Monument parcel honoring the early settlers of the community and most recently participated in four blacktopping projects in which two included partnerships with the Minnesota Department of Transportation or the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Not only has Mr. Greene served the citizens of Franconia as Chairman and Fire Warden, prior to his inauguration on the Board, he also devoted his service as a member of the county planning commission, variance committee, and participated in the development of snowmobile trails in the county.

As you drive along Minnesota Trunk Highway 95 just south of the bridge to Osceola, you will see the old one-room school house known to many as Woodlawn School, and to an earlier generation as the Rochel School. A sign on the belfry proudly displays the name Franconia Town Hall.

Chairman Greene, thank you for your devout service to our community.