3. The board has been meeting at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept.

Hubbard County Board sales have declined 23 percent as well. There were only 6,795 foreclosure sales during the first half of this year. That is a total of 2,284 fewer sales than the same period a year ago, according to the Minnesota Homeownership Trends report from the Hubbard County Museum.

While the housing recovery in outstate Minnesota may be on track, foreclosure levels are not. In fact, more foreclosure sales have declined 23 percent as well.

Positive factors in helping the housing recovery include low interest rates, improving employment and an improving housing market in general.

Housing demand is beginning to stabilize or increase because home sales are recovering. An improving housing market is a good deal for both buyers and sellers.

MEETING
Hubbard County Board of Commissioners
The Hubbard County Board of Commissioners will meet at 9 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 3. The board has been meet-

IN the basement of the Law Enforcement Center due to a major renovation of the one-story building. The agenda includes: an Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force report and Hubbard County Museum report.

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EDITORIAL
Housing market trends contain good news

More details needed about pipeline

The study in St. Anthony’s Em- pirise about the proposed oil pipeline from North Dakota to Min- nesota spoke glancingly about the economic benefits. However, there are details we still need to know.

With the pipeline there could be a tar sands oil site. There’s a big difference between conventional oil and tar sands oil.

Crude oil spills are horrendous enough for them to clean up, but bitumen spills could be left uncleaned. It is up to them and the government to keep them from doing so.

More details needed about pipeline

Recent tax increases discourage business

During the last Minnesota election campaign the Democratic candidates promised to balance the budget, increase state and federal education, counties, and cities; cut real estate taxes and in- crease income taxes on the rich. The people believed them and gave them control of both houses of state government and the gover- nment. They have fulfilled their promises and they also did a few things they didn’t promise. They have increased spending, increased taxes and fees and approved some state marriage, which they did not promise.

Here is how they fulfilled their promises:

Cigarette taxes were increased $1.09 per pack. The fourth income tax that affects small business; expanded sales tax to Internet purchases, DirecTV and Dish Network, and a 2 percent sales tax on Internet insurance; new tax on farm, min- ing and logging equipment, pipelines and pairs; new estate taxes; increased tax on rental cars; and increased fuel fee increase; motor vehicle sales

tax increase on certain vehicles; new gift taxes; new warehousing tax on businesses; new wholesale tax, which enables counties to tax citizens on extra tax on every fami- ly vehicle.

Why you suppose is going to pay the bulk of these tax and fee increases?

Rep. Roger Erickson had a radio ad for several weeks talking about what a wonderful job he and Gov. Dayton had done for Minnesota. Our Sen. Skoe is chairman of the tax committee. Ask them to explain the rationale and logic of their actions. Ask them to explain how the rich are being punished and the rest of us are benefiting from their actions.

The state government does not collect real estate taxes. They are levied and collected by local agen- cies such as cities, towns, townships and counties who all getting state aid increases in the recently approved budget. The Democratic rationale is that these agencies will decrease state aid because state aid is only their last few min- utes. There may be a few exceptions but real estate taxes will decrease when coffee and bananas are grown locally, which may not be the case. According to the State Controller.

Legislators and the governor in- creased state spending and in- come by about $4 billion, resulting in a $3.8 billion new state budget. This is a 6 percent increase in spending with each new budget. Minnesota is among the top 5 states in the nation getting state aid increases in the recently approved budget. Ask your legislators who they don’t concentrate on cutting rather than increasing spending. The recent increases in taxes and fees will discourage business from coming to the state and accelerate the tax flight of those who have already left the state.