Crookston for the purpose of dividing the four miles of the town line between the two townships situated north of the city limits of the city of Crookston.

In 1908, B. H. Cochrane was chairman of the board. A. J. Kelly was town clerk. In June, 1918, Louis J. Regimbald was appointed clerk to fill the vacancy of A. J. Kelly, who passed away after serving 25 years. In 1920 Joseph Amiot became chairman with Adolph Heydt, treasurer and Louis J. Regimbald town clerk, and Stephen Altepeter, Poundmaster. Many petitions for roads were brought to their attention, but not all were granted. Edward Lestoc resigned after being a supervisor for 15 years. Dr. H. H. Hodgson was chosen the health officer in 1923. In 1938, Martin T. Larson was made a supervisor with R. W. Meyer and H. P. Briden and Louis J. Regimbald. Meetings were held in the city hall of Crookston. Willard Hedyt was named assessor in 1939.

Harry Herberg became road overseer, a position he held for 36 years, being replaced in 1975 by Willis LaPlante. The Township purchased four machines to combat the grasshopper plague. In 1943, Dr. O. K. Behr was appointed health officer when Dr. H. H. Hodgson resigned at the clinic due to poor health. Joseph Brunelle became town clerk in June 1944. At the present time, he is still serving in that capacity. Theo Amiot was appointed treasurer to fill the unexpired term of Adolph Heydt in 1950. R. W. Meyer resigned as township supervisor in 1950. George Hodgson was appointed to fill the vacancy. Thomas Brubakken became a board member in 1951. Leo Keller was constable for many years. In 1953, a special meeting was held for the purpose of purchasing school district number 181 for use as a town hall. About the same time the town board got the authority to sell school district number 255, which the township owned. It was sold to Tony Elbinger. The township had many good roads and equipment to maintain them. In 1960, John Baird was appointed to replace Tom Brubakken who resigned. In 1961, the board decided to notify the people in the township of fire protection. This protection comes through the fire department of Crookston. Vernon Bratvold replaced George Hodgson in 1961. One hundred or more farm numbers and posts were purchased for the resident of the township of Crookston for fire protection in 1962. Mr. Joseph Kraft replaced Martin T. Larson in 1967. Mr. Larson served faithfully for 29 years as a board member. Theo Amiot was elected chairman of the board in 1967. Joe Kraft rendered his resignation in January 1971. The board appointed Claire DeBoer to hold the office till the next annual meeting in March. In 1972 Rosaire Boucher replaced John Baird. The present board consists of Theo Amiot, Vernon Bratvold, Joseph Brunelle, Claire DeBoer and Willis LaPlante, Road Overseer.

RURAL SCHOOLS
IN CROOKSTON TOWNSHIP

By an Act of Congress in 1849, when Minnesota was made a territory, sections 16 and 36 were set aside in each township as "school sections." This was to encourage the establishment of schools for the education of the children of the early settlers. Crookston Township was organized in 1876 and in the same year District #1 was established in the City of Crookston. Christopher Steener was appointed the first County Superintendent that year with a salary of $50 a year.

The first rural school in Crookston Township was in District 55 organized in 1881. The school was located in the southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of Section 34, south of the Red Lake. It also in District 55 was formed north of the river. This school was located in the northeast corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 27 on land now owned by Erick and Marvin Askar.

In 1885 another school was erected south of the river. District #140 built its school in the southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of Section 36. The next year, in 1886, District #181 was established. There the school building was located in the southwest corner of the Northwest quarter of Section 9 and was known as the "Walker School". In 1932 a new school building was built to replace the old one, but on the west side of the road, which was the southeast corner of the Northeast quarter of Section 8. School began in this building in 1933, and is the same building now used as the Crookston Town Hall where elections and town board meetings are held and also meetings of the North Star 4-H Club. The old school building was moved to the Hulst farm, where Roger Janssen now lives, and was used as a chicken house.

As more people moved into the area it was necessary to have yet another school, so District #255 was formed. In March, 1900 school opened in a school building located in the southwest corner of the Southwest quarter of Section 12, and was known as the Valley View School. The same building was used for all the years the school was in operation. After the school closed, the building was moved to the Dorothy area where it was remodeled into a home.

School was in session only six months out of the year in the early days. September, October and November in the fall, and March, April and May in the spring. Some people remember when teacher's wages were $35 a month and they did their own janitor work. In the depression years of the 1930's one former teacher told of wages going from $75 a month down to $66.50, then to $50, and finally to $40 a month. The supply of teachers was plentiful so they were glad to have a job at any wage, as there were no unemployment checks, food stamps or welfare assistance at that time. Schools in the early days had no indoor plumbing and no electricity. The heating system was a round heater usually in one corner of the room, sometimes with a circular bench around part of it where children sat to thaw out in the morning. They carried their noon lunches from home. These often froze on the way, and some times hardly thawed out by noon. On extremely cold days these buildings just could not be kept warm. The fuel was mostly wood as it was plentiful. Water was often carried from the nearest farm home and pupils drank out of the dipper. Later wells were dug on the school ground and a hand pump installed. A step ahead in sanitation was the invention of the water fountain but water still had to be carried and poured into it. Most rural schools of that time had barns located on the school grounds where horses that pulled a sled or buggy, or were ridden by the pupils, could be kept during the day.

As roads improved, some of the districts close to Crookston discontinued school in their local schools and took their children to the school in town. Then in 1953, all five districts decided in an election to consolidate with Crookston District and since then have been a part of the present District #593.

JOSEPH AMIOT

Joseph's father J. B. Amiot was born in 1852 in Quebec, Canada and came to Polk County in 1879 to homestead on Section 12 of Gentilly Township. His wife (the former Celina Bouthelier) was born in St. Urban, Quebec, Canada. In 1852.