

# Pine Lake Township

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2008

## Township Officials

Our regular monthly meeting is held the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at the Pine Lake town hall near the intersection of U.S. 10 and County 53.

You also may contact any of the following township officials:

**Supervisor Larry Bucholz – 346-3172**

**Supervisor Albert Jorgenson – 346-4821**

**Supervisor Ed Roberts – 346-5252**

**Clerk Margaret Mattfeld – 346-5480**

**Treasurer Ken Guck – 346-3456**

## Elections and Voting

Pine Lake Township will hold their election of officers at the Pine Lake town hall on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Voting hours are from 4 PM until 8 PM. The positions open for election are supervisor and clerk. The supervisor position is currently held by Albert Jorgenson and the clerk position is currently held by Margaret Mattfeld. Albert has decided not to file again. Let's get a good turnout at the annual meeting to thank him for his 33 years of service to Pine Lake Township.

September primary elections and the November general elections are held at the Perham Area Community Center. With the increasing costs to townships to hold elections we have been fortunate the past few years to share costs related to voting at the PACC with Perham Township.

## Future Projects

A major project township officials would like to accomplish in 2008 is the rebuilding of the Nitche Lake road. An engineer has been hired and he has begun the process of applying for permits with the Department of Natural Resources. With approval the road will be widened and the driving surface rebuilt. Blacktopping this road is not intended at this time. However, since the road is being rebuilt the costs to the township to blacktop Nitche Lake road would not be as burdensome. If you would like to discuss this project with your township officials please attend the annual township meeting in March.

## Capital Improvements

Other capital improvement projects are:

2009 – Build and crush gravel in pit.

2010 – Blacktop Nitche Lake road, overlay Haverbin Road

2011 – Build up 470<sup>th</sup> Ave.

2012 – Blacktop 470<sup>th</sup> Ave. with Otto Township

## Accomplishments 2007

Our budgeted receipts for 2007 are \$194,280 with budgeted expenditures at \$169,260. This difference allows township officials the ability to save funds for large capital projects without having a dramatic increase in taxes.

One of these projects was accomplished in 2007. A 2" overlay of asphalt was applied to 3 miles of blacktop road on the west side of Big Pine Lake. The project was done in conjunction with Perham Township which overlaid a mile of blacktop on 440<sup>th</sup> St. The project was placed on bids with Mark Sand & Gravel submitting the winning bid at \$190,911.56. In addition to the overlay many stumps were removed that were buried in the roadbed when the road was initially built. As the stumps deteriorated they would create large potholes in the road. This problem hopefully has been eliminated. Additional costs were incurred to bring the shoulders up to the level of the asphalt. A total of all costs associated with this project will be presented at the annual township meeting in March.

Other areas that receive a good portion of our township dollars are grading roads, mowing ditches, snow plowing and sanding, dust guard and road stabilizer, and miscellaneous road repairs. A complete breakdown of our township expenses will be presented at the annual township meeting in March.

## Annual Meeting

The annual township meeting is held at the Pine Lake town hall on the second Tuesday in March (March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008) following the township election (8:10 PM). All township residents are urged to attend.

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With the increasing costs associated with maintaining our roads your township officials would like to take this opportunity to officially adopt township procedures regarding the application of chloride to township roads and the procedure to blacktop a township road. Examples of the procedures are listed below and will be discussed at the annual township meeting in March. If you have any questions or comments regarding these procedures please contact your township supervisor or attend the annual meeting.

## **Policy for Applying Chloride to Pine Lake Township Roads**

1. The Township Board of Pine Lake Township will publish a notice the first week of April of each year to advise residents of the Township of the deadline for petitioning for chloride applications to any section(s) of road within the Township.
2. Property owners desiring dust control on their road must make request of the Pine Lake Township Board by submitting a petition prior to May 1 of any year signed by at least 90% of the property owners within the starting and ending points of the area of road where dust control is desired. The petition must include:
  - a. The beginning and ending coordinates of the area to be sprayed as well as the specific area by each person's signature;
  - b. A signature by each person next to the person's printed name, address, and telephone number;
  - c. A contact person's name, address and telephone number of the petitioners who will be in charge of the project.
3. The cost of dust control shall be shared equally between the Township and the property owners on a 50:50 basis. The Township will obtain quotes from reputable sources for the cost of the chloride and application. The Township will determine the cost to the petitioners for half of the cost. Full payment of the petitioner's portion must be made to the Township prior to June 1 of the same year as the petition is presented. The contact person for the petition will be the responsible party for collection and payment of the necessary funds to the Township.
4. Because some roads may not be suitable for dust control, the Town Board, solely, shall determine whether to grant the petition for dust control.
5. Upon determination that a section of road is appropriate for dust control, the Town Board shall contract with the designated company to apply either calcium or magnesium chloride on the road.
6. In the event that insufficient property owners sign a petition and the remaining owners still desire dust control, the remaining owners may pay for the entire cost of dust control of the petitioner's portion, but must request permission from the Pine Lake Township Board to assure that the section(s) of road in question can be properly prepared prior to applying chloride.
7. The contact person will be responsible for marking the beginning and ending points of the road to be sprayed with chloride.
8. A new petition must be presented each May 1 during the year that residents wish chloride to be applied.

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## Policy for Resident Requested Blacktopping of Pine Lake Township Roads

1. Property owners desiring blacktopping of their road must make request of the Pine Lake Township Board by submitting a petition signed by at least 50% of the property owners within the starting and ending points of the area of road where blacktop is desired. The petition must include:
  - a. The beginning and ending coordinates of the area to be paved as well as the specific area by each person's signature;
  - b. A signature by each person next to the person's printed name, address, and telephone number;
  - c. A contact person's name, address and telephone number of the petitioners who will be in charge of the project.
2. The cost of blacktopping shall be the sole responsibility of the affected property owners. The Pine Lake Town Board will make the determination as to whether the property owner should share in the cost. These costs include but are not limited to; engineering, special meetings, notices and construction. Pine Lake Township will be responsible for the costs of road preparation up to the point of blacktopping. The Township will obtain quotes from reputable sources for the cost of blacktopping. The Township will determine the final cost to the property owners. Payment of the property owner's portion of the cost must be either paid upon completion or assessed to their property taxes over a 5 year period. Any costs assessed to property taxes will be subject to interest, the rate of which will be determined by the Township.
3. Because some roads may not be suitable for blacktopping, the Town Board, solely, shall determine whether to grant the petition.
4. Upon determination that a section of road is appropriate for blacktopping, the Town Board shall open the project for bids. The Township shall contract with the winning bidder for construction.
5. In the event that insufficient property owners sign a petition and the remaining owners still desire blacktopping, the remaining owners may pay for the entire cost of blacktopping, but must request permission from the Pine Lake Township Board to assure that the section(s) of road in question can be properly prepared.

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The following article was written by Sara Rudolf of Perham Township. Sara was selected by the Minnesota Association of Townships to receive a \$1,000 scholarship. It is reprinted with her permission:

## Power with the People

Participation in township government is essential because every resident has one equal vote. Annually, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of March, township residents revisit the pure, simple democracy that America's first government built its foundation on. Residents come from the corners of their township to voice their concerns on how to maintain and improve their community. Here, electors join together to set laws and ordinances. For instance, they may order animal bylaws, deeming fines and penalties for any violations to these regulations. Using the revenue money from road taxes, appropriations from the State government, and property taxes, they set the levy for the year. Together, electors determine the amount of money issued to fix roads, maintain police and fire facilities, and help public services such as the library and summer recreation programs. Every decision made that night is determined by a majority vote. The clerk presides as the only elected official only to record statements at the meeting. Also, electors collectively decide on a resident present to be the meeting's moderator. He or she is responsible to walk through the agenda, call for a vote, and maintain order. From start to finish, power lies exclusively with the people at that meeting.

City governments on the other hand, work with elected officials. A resident's only input on city issues is merely voting an officer onto the city council. These voters can only hope that who they chose will improve their city. Once the officials are chosen, the people have no say in city matters until the officials' terms are over. Then, their only action in city government would be to replace those in office. No annual meetings are scheduled to give people a voice in matters such as levying taxes, or city ordinances. Although city residents are welcome to attend the Council meetings, they are not allowed to vote on any of the issues acknowledged.

A city as large as Minneapolis, for example, would never be able to hear all the complaints or suggestions their residents might propose. Therefore, townships, with their small populations, give every resident equal opportunity to plan and care for their territory.

My father had a history professor in college that challenged the class to, if at all possible, get involved in township government. "It is the only form of Pure Democracy left in our country today," he said. "But you must remember it is not a democracy unless you take part." So many Americans today seem to put the government on a backburner assuming other people will rise to the responsibility. Unless we involve ourselves now, pure democracy will just be another topic added to our history and government books. I am excited to see where my generation will take us. Will we rise to the challenge in keeping Pure Democracy a present force in America?

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