

Pine Lake Township News

Volume 1, Issue 5

January 2011

Township Officials

Our regular monthly meeting is held at 7:00 PM on the 1st 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 Russ Palubicki – 346-2954

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 8th, 2010. Voting hours are from 5 PM until 8 PM. The positions open for election are supervisor and treasurer. The supervisor position is currently held by Russ Palubicki and the treasurer position is currently held by Ken Guck. Ken has filed for the treasurer's position while Russ has decided not to file for the supervisor's position. As of this printing no other members of the township have filed for either of these positions.

The board would like to take this opportunity to thank those present at the 2009 annual meeting for their attendance and interest in local government. We consider ourselves fortunate to represent people that are respectful and considerate of others and their opinions.

Annual Meeting

The annual township meeting is held at the Pine Lake town hall on the second Tuesday in March (March 8th, 2011) following the township election (8:10 PM). It is vital that residents of the township attend the annual meeting to set the township portion of the 2012 levy. It also gives township residents an opportunity to share any concerns they may have with other residents.

Remember to come early to the annual meeting and exercise your right to vote in the township election.

2010 Projects

Actual receipts were \$296,392.51 and actual expenditures were \$337,864.81. The receipts included tax receipts, interest, licenses, market value credits, FEMA disaster relief, gopher bounty reimbursement, gravel pit sales and dust control reimbursement.

Included in the disbursements were costs associated with building up the Nitch Lake road. 2010 saw expenditures on Nitch Lake road of \$20,918.50 for engineering and \$109,227.31 for road building. Ottertail Aggregate's total bid for this project was \$163,327 while the actual amount of the contract came in at \$144,607. After a final inspection and an agreement that there was some work yet to be done, the road work that is complete was accepted by the town board and payment was made.

Also in 2010 Pine Lake Township shared the costs of building up 460th Ave. (Otter Tail River road) with Perham Township. Pine Lake Township's share of the costs amounted to \$24,145.94. The township also had Kurt Schroer put gravel on 2 miles of 450th St. and 2 miles of 470th St.

Other areas that receive a good portion of our township dollars are emergency services, 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.

At the 2009 annual meeting it was decided to base township donations on a percentage of tax receipts. This allows residents of the township the ability to provide funds to various organizations in the community. A total of \$2,492 was apportioned to the Perham Area Community Center, East Otter Tail Historical Society, Perham Area Library, New York Mills Cultural Center and the East Otter Tail County Fair. In order to be eligible to receive a donation from the township, the organization must send a representative to the annual meeting to make an official request and provide information about their organization.

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Nitche Lake Road

At the 2010 annual meeting it was determined that the town board should continue with the Nitche Lake road project. Heyer Engineering out of Detroit Lakes was hired to design the road reconstruction and get the necessary permits. Bids were let for the construction of the road. The bid was awarded to the low bidder, Ottertail Aggregate. Road work was performed the summer of 2010 and completed in the fall.

In 2009, a petition was brought before the town board requesting the Nitche Lake road be rebuilt and blacktopped. It has been the town board's position that the township would be responsible for the reconstruction of the road in preparation for blacktopping. The area land owners would then be responsible to pay for the engineering fees, attorney's fees, cost of additional meetings and cost of blacktopping the road.

Now that the reconstruction of Nitche Lake Road is nearly complete the town board would like to know if blacktopping Nitche Lake road is still desired. If so, it is suggested that interested area land owners form a committee to investigate the costs related to blacktopping the road. The committee would be responsible for working with the town board in selecting an engineer. The engineer would be required to identify specifically, the residents that would be responsible for assuming the costs of paving the road. The engineer would also be required to provide an estimate for the blacktopping project and devise a method to distribute these costs equitably to the responsible land owners. Once a plan for blacktopping and cost allocation has been identified the engineer would bring this information before the town board for approval.

Please attend the annual township meeting in March if you have any comments or questions about this potential project.

Road Signs

The State of Minnesota has mandated that all road signs be updated to federal reflectivity standards. Local governments are required to have a road sign replacement plan in place by 2012. Currently it will be up to the individual townships to fund this project. Pine Lake township officials contracted the services of Anderson, Passe and Associates to document all road signs currently installed in the township and make recommendations on sign replacement. The contractor has determined that there are 344 signs currently in Pine Lake Township and that 102 of them can be eliminated. The remaining signs will need to be upgraded to the federal reflectivity standards. The board recommends that we accomplish this over a 4 year period. It is estimated that this will cost the township \$10,000 per year. More information on road sign replacement will be available at the annual meeting upon request.

Future Projects

Pine Lake Township is fortunate to have its own gravel pit. In 2010 the township set aside \$75,000 in a certificate of deposit at Farmer's and Merchant's State Bank in New York Mills for crushing gravel to replenish the pit. The town board has requested Ottertail Aggregate to begin crushing gravel in 2011. This will allow us to have a good supply of gravel for any road projects and road maintenance.

2011 Annual Township Levy

At the 2010 Annual meeting township residents agreed to set the 2011 annual levy as follows:

General Fund: \$35,000

Road and Bridge Fund: \$210,000

Fire and Rescue Fund: \$30,000

This is an increase of \$10,000 over the 2009 levy. The increase is in the Road and Bridge fund in order to prepare for the costs associated with upgrading road signs.