

Pine Lake Township News

January 2018

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:

Chairman/Supervisor: Ed Roberts – 346-5252

Supervisor: Bob Sieling – 346-2626

Supervisor: Tim Lachowitz – 346-3127

Treasurer: Ken Guck – 346-3456

Clerk: Susan Schmid – 346-3436

Twp Elections and Voting

Pine Lake Township will hold their annual town board election at the Pine Lake town hall on Tuesday, March 13th, 2018. Voting hours are from 5 PM until 8 PM. The positions open for election are for one supervisor and township Clerk. The supervisor position currently held by Ed Roberts is for a regular 3 year term and the Clerk position currently held by Susan Schmid is a two year term. **Filing for town board positions can be done at the home of the clerk. The filing periods begin on January 1st and end January 15th. The filing fee is \$2.00.**

The current town board would like to take this opportunity to thank those that attend the annual meetings; giving their interest and attendance in local government. We consider ourselves fortunate to represent the people of Pine Lake Township.

Annual Township Meeting

The annual township meeting will be held at the Pine Lake town hall on March 13th, 2018 following the township election (8:15 PM). It is vital that residents of the township attend the annual meeting to set the township portion of the 2019 tax levy. It also gives township residents an opportunity to share any concerns they may have with the Board and other township residents.

2017 Activity

460th Street

Pine Lake and Perham townships teamed up for the township line road project. The current housing development and potential future developments have changed 460th from a low maintenance status to a frequently traveled road. 460th Street has been improved for safety reasons. The curve to Grand View Road has been eliminated and replaced with a "T" intersection. Part of the housing project plan is to pave the development road. At that time the townships will pave the stretch of 460th and complete the project.

Golden Eagle Road

The Golden Eagle Road is a township road that serves 189 seasonal campers and is an extremely busy road April through October. Pine Lake Township accepted an offer from Golden Eagle Campground to pay for the paving on this road if the township would pay for the road preparation before paving (as per past practice) The road prep and paving was completed last fall. Some ditch work will need to be done this spring to complete the project.

In 2017 a total amount of \$3,000 was donated to the following: Perham Area Community Center, Perham Public Library, Cultural Center New York Mills, Perham Center for the Arts 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.

Other areas that have received a good portion of our township dollars are fire protection and 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 income and expenses is presented at the annual township meetings in March.

Gophers and Beaver

Pine Lake Township currently pays a bounty on pocket gophers and beavers trapped within the township.

Pocket gopher bounty is currently set at \$2.75. In 2017 the township paid \$3,513.25 in pocket gopher bounty.

Trappers must complete and sign a form indicating the section of the township in which the gophers were trapped. Forms can be obtained from the township clerk. The board also requests that the gopher feet be displayed on a board or cardboard in pairs. This can be done by stapling or tacking the feet to the board.

Beaver bounty is currently set at \$25. The township did not pay out any beaver bounty in 2017. Beaver bounty is paid only when the township supervisors request that beaver be trapped in a particular area. Residents of the township that are aware of beavers affecting township roads are encouraged to contact a township supervisor.

Noxious Weeds

If your property has a noxious weed problem you will receive a notice from the township supervisors. Failure to comply with the notice is a misdemeanor and upon conviction, a fine of \$1,000 and imprisonment of 90 days is possible. In addition, failure to comply means that the weed inspector serving the notice may hire the control or eradication work done and the costs may be entered as a tax lien upon the land. For more information on noxious weeds in Minnesota refer to the document on the Otter Tail County website at www.co.otter-tail.mn.us/land/forms/NoxiousPlantsMinnesota.pdf.

Road Ditches

Township officials would like to remind all township residents to refrain from planting crops or trees in ditches on town road right-of-way. There have been a number of incidents where this has been a sight hazard while traveling in our township. It is also difficult for farmers to make turns with their machinery if trees or crops are planted too close to the road. The township may apply for a land use fee for crops planted in township road right-of-way.

It is unlawful for anyone to deposit any snow or ice in a public road right-of-way or to otherwise obstruct a public road. Minn. Stat. §§ 160.27, subd. 5(a)(1); 169.42, subd. Depositing snow or ice in a road also increases snowplowing costs, creates a potential public safety hazard, and could damage equipment. It is additional unlawful to have any rocks, landscaping ornaments, park any vehicles, equipment or recreational items in the road right-of-way. This presents a potential serious safety hazard to anyone traveling in the ditch on snowmobiles or other means.

2018 Annual Township Levy

At the 2017 Annual meeting township residents agreed to set the 2018 levy as follows:

General Fund: \$35,000

Road and Bridge Fund: \$200,000

Fire and Rescue Fund: \$30,000

If you would like to have input in setting the township portion of the annual levy please attend the annual township meetings.

Discussion on Projects for 2018

*At the Annual Township Meeting the Board wants to discuss the possibility of rebuilding and paving 455th.

*Tree trimming on the Niche Lake Road in 2018.

*Another point of discussion will be the joint paving project on 460th and Grandview.

*Additional shoulder work on the Golden Eagle Road.

*Three culverts in the township will possibly need to be replaced.

Township supervisors will conduct an annual road inspection this in the spring. Please report to any of the Supervisors concerns with township roads. Funds are planned each year for these expenditures and are set aside in order to accomplish road maintenance and repairs without further impacting township taxes.