

Pine Lake Township

Volume 1, Issue 3

January 2009

Township Officials

Our regular monthly meeting is held 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 10th. 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 Ed Roberts and the treasurer position is currently held by Ken Guck. Both Ed and Ken have filed for their respective positions. As of this printing no other members of the township have filed for either of these positions. Please take the time to vote in our township election.

September primary elections and the November general elections were again 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 2009 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.

Fire Protection Notice

Some township residents have homes built in secluded areas. These homes may have to be serviced by pickup type grass rigs rather than conventional fire trucks and tankers. Residents should consult with their insurance agents to assess coverage.

Accomplishments 2008

Our budgeted receipts for 2008 are \$223,100 with budgeted expenditures also at \$223,100. Actual receipts were \$237,362.89 and actual expenditures were \$260,498.59. Included in the disbursements was the purchase of \$125,000 worth of CD's to be used for large capital projects. Purchasing these CD's increases the interest rate on township funds and reduces the likelihood of significant tax increases because of the cost of capital projects.

The past year the we were able to rebuild and stabilize 470th avenue. Total costs for this projects were \$10,614.15. 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 2008 annual meeting members of the township voted to donate \$600 each to the East Otter Tail Historical Society, the Perham Area Community Center and the Perham Public Library. In the past it has been township policy to have organizations send a representative to the annual meeting to give an update on their organization and to make an official request for donations.

Annual Meeting

The annual township meeting is held at the Pine Lake town hall on the second Tuesday in March (March 10th, 2009) following the township election (8:10 PM). Come early to the annual meeting and exercise your right to vote in the township election.

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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 ice and snow removal from township roads. Excerpts from the official policy are included in this newsletter. To examine the official policy in its entirety or if you have any questions or comments regarding these procedures please contact your township supervisor or attend the annual township meeting in March.

1. Because the Town obtains snow and ice control services through a non-exclusive contract, it does not have direct control over the availability of personnel, equipment, or the timing of the service delivery. The Town indicates through this policy and the service contract the work to be performed and the performance expectations, but the contractor must remain free to exercise initiative, judgment, and discretion in how best to perform or provide the services.
2. Snow and ice control operations will be conducted only when weather conditions do not endanger the safety of operators or pose an unreasonably risk of damaging equipment. Once initiated, operations will be suspended if conditions deteriorate to the point that operations become unsafe for operators because of factors including, but not limited to, severe cold, significant winds, limited visibility, accumulation of ice, or rapid accumulation of snow. Operations will also be delayed or suspended if existing or anticipated conditions indicate the operations will not be effective.
3. The Town must consider the cost, environmental impact, public safety, and availability of staff and equipment when deciding if, when, and to what extent to apply sand and salt. Furthermore, the state legislature has imposed the following limitations on the use of salt by road authorities:

“In order to:

- (1) minimize the harmful or corrosive effects of salt or other chemicals upon vehicles, roadways, and vegetation;
- (2) reduce the pollution of waters; and
- (3) reduce the driving hazards resulting from chemicals on windshields;

road authorities, including road authorities of cities, responsible for the maintenance of highways or streets during periods when snow and ice are prevalent, shall utilize such salt or other chemicals only at such places as upon hills, at intersections, or upon high speed or arterial roadways where vehicle traction is particularly critical, and only if, in the opinion of the road authorities, removal of snow and ice or reduction of hazardous conditions by blading, plowing, sanding, including chemicals needed for free flow of sand, or natural elements cannot be accomplished within a reasonable time.” Minn. Stat. § 160.215.

4. 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. 1. Depositing snow or ice in a road also increases snowplowing costs, creates a potential public safety hazard, and could damage equipment.

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