

Pine Lake Township

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2010

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 9th, 2010.

Voting hours are from 5 PM until 8 PM. The positions open for election are supervisor and clerk. The supervisor position is currently held by Larry Bucholz and the clerk position is currently held by Margaret Mattfeld. Both Larry and Margaret have filed for their respective positions. 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 civility. This was a very productive meeting with many different opinions presented on a range of topics. 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 9th, 2010) following the township election (8:10 PM). Come early to the annual meeting and exercise your right to vote in the township election.

Accomplishments 2009

Actual receipts were \$305,783.35 and actual expenditures were \$196,366.50. Included in the disbursements were costs associated with the Nitche Lake road. So far this year we have spent \$32,970 on engineering and \$24,093.05 on road building.

Also the past year we were able to rebuild and stabilize 450th St. and 510th Ave. Total costs for these projects were around \$17,000. 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.

The spring of 2009 saw extensive flooding in many rural townships and many township roads were damaged. Fortunately Pine Lake Township was able to apply to FEMA for reimbursement of the costs to rebuild and repair these roads. Special thanks are extended to township chairman Ed Roberts in working with FEMA to acquire these funds.

At the 2009 annual meeting members of the township voted to donate \$600 each to the East Otter Tail Historical Society, the Perham Area Community Center, the Perham Public Library and \$400 to the NYM Cultural Center. It was decided at the annual meeting to set the budget for donations to a cap of 1% of the tax receipts identified on the annual report. Be sure to attend the 2010 annual township meeting to help decide where these funds should be spent in the future.

Mark Huber was present to give a report on weed control in Big Pine Lake. A donation was sought to help the Pine Lake Improvement District in the battle to control weed in the lake. It was decided the township would give a donation of \$3,500 to aid in the fight. These funds were given to the Big Pine Lake association for this purpose.

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Nitche Lake Road

At the 2009 annual meeting last March it was determined that the town board should continue going forward with the Nitche Lake project. It was suggested that a new engineer be contracted to perform the necessary tasks to allow the road to be blacktopped. The tasks would include getting the required permits, make an assessment of the road to determine which areas would need upgrading before blacktop is applied and coming up with a method of assessing the township and landowners their portion of costs for the project.

Heyer Engineering out of Detroit Lakes was hired to perform the tasks above and to assist in the letting of bids. A special meeting was held on September 19th, 2009 for all people interested in the project. Discussion was held and Mr. Heyer showed blueprints of the proposed construction.

On September 22nd, 2009 a meeting was held with contractors interested in bidding on the project. This was an informational meeting to ensure that all contractors understood the specifics of the projects. On September 28th, 2009 a meeting was held to open the sealed bids. 2 bids were received but only 1 was accepted as a legitimate bid. This is because one of the contractors failed to include a bid bond along with the bid. Dennis Drewes Inc. from Frazee submitted a bid at \$229,724.30. Action was tabled until the next regular township meeting.

At our regular township meeting held October 7th, 2009, it was decided to reject the Drewes bid because it was 14.7% above the engineer's estimate. The project would be re-bid with advertisements placed in the newspaper. Bids would be received and opened on October 20th and the winning bid accepted on October 21st. Bids were received as follows:

Dennis Drewes Inc. -	\$239,257.00
Keith Drewes Excavating -	\$180,580.00
Ottertail Aggregate -	\$165,307.00
Romann Hauling & Excavating	\$186,163.07

The bid was awarded to the low bidder, Ottertail Aggregate. Work is scheduled to begin on or before road restrictions are removed in the spring of 2010. Fortunately a portion of the project was able to be completed in the fall of 2009.

Highland Vista Road

Much discussion was held at the monthly meetings in 2009 on the Highland Vista Road. This is a platted road and is located off County Hwy 53 between County Hwy 137 and Big Pine Lake. Residents along this road requested that the township accept responsibility for maintaining this road. The town board had liability concerns because of the steepness of the hill as the road joins County Hwy 53. After contacting the Minnesota Association of Townships legal team a draft resolution was drawn up and given to the residents along the road. Some minor changes were made to the resolution. As of this printing it appears as though this issue has been resolved pending further review of the draft resolution by township attorneys. The resolution will be available for township residents to review at the annual township meeting in March.

Future Projects

Pine Lake Township is fortunate to have its own gravel pit. In 2010 it will be necessary to crush additional gravel for the pit. This will allow us to have a good supply of gravel for any road projects and road maintenance.

The State of Minnesota has mandated that all road signs be updated. Currently it will be up to the individual townships to fund this project. Pine Lake township officials recommend that we accomplish this over a 4 year period. It is estimated that this will cost the township \$10,000 per year.

Perham Township and the residents along 460th Ave. have requested that Pine Lake township assist in upgrading the road. Costs for this will be shared between the 2 townships as part of the shared township road agreement.

Our 2010 levy has been set at \$265,000 at the 2009 annual meeting. Please attend the annual township meeting in March to receive more information on any of these projects and approve the levy for 2011.