

Pine Lake Township News

Volume 1, Issue 8

January 2013

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 Ed Roberts – 346-5252

Clerk Margaret Mattfeld – 346-5480

Treasurer Ken Guck – 346-3456

Twp Elections and Voting

Pine Lake Township will hold their annual town board election at the Pine Lake town hall on Tuesday, March 12th, 2013. Voting hours are from 5 PM until 8 PM. The positions open for election are for two supervisors and township treasurer. Supervisor Jon Swyter will be moving out of the township so one position up for election will be to complete the final year of his term. The supervisor position currently held by Larry Bucholz is for a regular 3 year term and the treasurer position held by Ken Guck is a two year term. **Filing for town board positions can be done at the home of the clerk. The filing period begins on January 1st, 2013 and ends January 15th, 2013. Filing fee is \$2.00.**

The current town board would like to take this opportunity to thank those present at the 2012 annual meeting for their attendance and interest in local government. We consider ourselves fortunate to represent the people of Pine Lake Township.

2012 Activity

In 2012 Pine Lake Township completed a couple of projects including the rebuilding of the gravel surface on the Nitche Lake road and replenishing the crushed gravel supply in the township gravel pit.

Work was then started on a 3 year project that involves upgrading and resurfacing all gravel roads in the township. The roads in the northeast sections of the township have been completed. We will seek to continue upgrading the remaining gravel road surfaces in 2013.

Another major project begun in 2012 is the replacement or removal of road signs within the township. In the fall of 2010 Pine Lake Township contracted with Anderson-Passe & Associates, an engineering firm, to develop a road sign replacement plan. Based on recommendations in this plan the township contracted with Sign Solutions, LLC to either replace or remove designated road signs within the township. Road signs have been purchased from 3D Specialties and are now being delivered. This project will most likely continue into the spring of 2013.

Other areas that receive 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 will be presented at the annual township meeting in March.

At the 2009 annual meeting a few years ago, residents of Pine Lake Township 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 \$2,250 was donated to the Perham Area Community Center, 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.

2013 Annual Township Levy

At the 2012 Annual meeting township residents agreed to set the 2013 levy as follows:

General Fund: \$35,000

Road and Bridge Fund: \$210,000

Fire and Rescue Fund: \$30,000

These levy amounts did not change from the 2012 levy. **If you would like to have input in setting the township portion of the 2014 levy please attend the annual township meeting.**

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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 \$2.50. So far in 2012, the township has paid \$2,165.00 in pocket gopher bounty. The township received \$407.10 from Otter Tail County to subsidize gopher trapping.

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 paid \$75 in beaver bounty in 2012. 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 to close to the road. The township may apply a land use fee for crops planted in township road right-of-way.

It is also 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.

Projects for 2013

As mentioned earlier Pine Lake Township will continue with the road sign replacement and gravel road resurfacing projects. Township officials would like to begin another major project. Supervisors would like to crack fill and sand seal the asphalt roads within the township. These three projects will be quite expensive. Fortunately township officials have been planning for these expenditures and have been setting funds aside in order to accomplish them without further impacting township taxes.

Life is Good in Pine Lake Twp

I am finishing my final term as supervisor this year. The board members I have served with have been dedicated and represented the voters of Pine Lake Township.

In 2013:

- A. Most gravel roads will have new class 5 surfaces.
- B. The paved roads will have new seal coats.
- C. New road signs and posts will be in place.

Pine Lake Township has been fortunate to have contracted with two quality Fire Departments, excellent Perham EMS Ambulance, and a new hospital.

Thank you for letting me represent you for 30 years!

Move to Adjourn,

Larry Bucholz

Annual Township Meeting

The annual township meeting is held at the Pine Lake town hall on **March 12th, 2013** 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 2014 tax levy. It also gives township residents an opportunity to share any concerns they may have with other residents.**