

SALEM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2017

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

Notice is hereby given to the qualified voters of Salem Township, Olmsted County, State of Minnesota, that the election of town officers and annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at the Salem Town Hall. In case of inclement weather, the election and meeting will be held on the following Tuesday. The election polls will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to elect one supervisor for a term of three years, one supervisor for a term of one year, and one treasurer for a term of two years. Absentee ballots are available at the clerk's office at 3802 County Road 150 SW, Byron, MN 55920 Phone: (507) 365 8480.

The annual meeting will convene after 8:15 p.m. to conduct all business as prescribed by law.

The Board of Canvas will meet at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15, 2017 for the purpose of certifying the election results.

Additional information is available on our web site: www.salemmn.org

Candidates who have filed for election are:

Three Year Term

Township Supervisor: Rick Lutzi

One Year Term

Township Supervisor: Drew Moessner

Two Year Term

Township Treasurer: Gail Fritts

ANNUAL MEETING ITEMS

- Review Budget Recommendations from the Town Board
- Set Gopher Bounty & Beaver Bounty
- Town Road Report
- Update on Planning and Zoning Activities

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YEAR 2018

The Salem Town Board of Audit met and reviewed the books for the year 2016 At that meeting they also set the levy recommendations for and Annual meeting that will be held on March 14, 2017The levy recommendations for 2018 and last year's levy are listed below:

FUND	PROPOSED 2018 LEVY	2017 LEVY
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$155,000.00	\$136,000.00
FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 47,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
FIRE BLDG MAINT	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
FIRST RESPONDERS	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 6,500.00
BUILDING UPDATES	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
GENERAL REVENUE	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 42600.00
SAFETY	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
LEGAL	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL	\$261,000.00	\$239,100.00

NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED PROGRAM

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol.aspx>

The noxious weed program is meant to protect residents of the state from the injurious effects of noxious weeds. Attempts must be made by all landowners to control or eradicate species on the lists. Some that are common in our area are:

Yellow Star Thistle is on the Eradicate List

Canada Thistle and Wild Parsnip is on the Control List

Common or European Buckthorn and Glassy Buckthorn is on the Restricted Noxious Weed List

Poison Ivy is on the Specially Regulated Plant List

Failure to comply with the Minnesota Noxious Weed Law may result in an enforcement action by county or local municipality.

Please check the web site that is listed above for additional information about what you can do to control and comply with this law.

DID YOU KNOW

- **Burning Permits are available for Salem Township Residents. They can be purchased at the clerk's office at 3802 County Road 150 SW, Byron, MN 55920 Phone: 507 365 8480 The cost is \$10.00 for the calendar year.**
- **If you need to repair, modify, or install a new septic system, permits are issued by G-Cubed, 14070 Highway 52, Chatfield, MN 55923. Their phone number is 507 867 1666 Extension 4 . Permit Applications and fees may be left at the TCPA office or left at the Salem Township Clerk Office. TCPA is located at: 411-110th Ave SW, Room 10, Rochester, MN 55902. Their Phone number is: 507 529 0774 The Office Hours are Monday thru Friday 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 and 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.**
- **TCPA also issues all building permits for the township. If you are not sure about whether a building permit is required, please contact them. They will be glad to help you determine what you need.**
- **If you have a claim to file for gopher or beaver bounties, please notify the clerk by the 25th of the month so that a claim can be presented for payment at the next regular board meeting.**
- **If you have to add or change a driveway that enters on a township road, please contact the Township to have your request approved by one of the supervisors. There is no charge for driveway permits.**
- **If the culvert in the right of way fails, please call contact the Township. They will arrange for a replacement to be installed. If your old culvert does not have aprons, you will be billed for them, but not the cost of the failed culvert.**
- **If you are contemplating any work in our right of way, contact the township prior to initiating any project .**
- **If your house number sign that was supplied to you has been damaged, please contact the township to order a replacement sign. There will be a charge for the replacement signs. All new housing constructed in the township should contact the township clerk to order signs for their new residence.**
- **The township has available for sale "DO NOT SPRAY" signs. The cost for these signs are \$10.50 each plus sales tax. Contact the clerk to purchase these signs.**

- **Some of the 2016 major expenditures for roads were:**

Rock	\$53,215.13	Chloride	\$18,327.06
Grading	\$27,505.95	Right of Way Maint	\$38,653.13
Snowplowing	\$17,672.50		

SNOW POLICY

PURPOSE: To give the citizens of Salem Township a realistic expectation of the snow and ice removal services that will be provided during the winter season.

GOAL: The general goal of the Township is to keep the township roads passable during the most heavily traveled periods of the week. Service is prioritized by the most logical routing pattern.

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES: The first priority is to make ALL roads passable. Once all roads are passable, the lanes will then be widened and abrasive material applied if necessary. Finally, additional clean up will be done, if time allows before the next snow.

Salem Township has only one operator, one snow plow and one truck. Operator duty shifts must be limited to 12 hours per day for safety reasons, therefore in no case is 24 hour a day coverage provided. Icing and snow drifting on roads are an expected aspect of winter travel and generally are not adequate justification to dispatch the snow plow. Hours of operation will be determined by weather conditions and/or traffic volume.

Weekends and holidays will receive a reduced level of service, due to lower traffic volume and limited resources available. If the weather service has recommended no travel, it is assumed there will be lower traffic volume, resulting in a lower level of service. Operations will be halted when conditions are too hazardous, or if reasonable accomplishments cannot be made.

EMERGENCY CALLS: Snow plows will not be dispatched at night on most roads except for true emergency calls such as assisting fire departments, ambulance crews, or searching for known stranded motorists.

SALEM TOWNSHIP is not liable for any trash containers that are hit when they are set in the road-right-of-way, they should be kept away from plow lanes.

STATE LAW PROHIBITS ANY PUSHING OR DUMPING OF SNOW ONTO TOWNSHIP ROAD RIGHT OF WAY.

Minnesota State Law (Statute 160.27 subdivision 5) states that is against the law to place or deposit snow or ice in the township right-of-way. This road right of way extends 33 feet from the road center line to each side. This includes snow being pushed from private drives into the township right of way. The law also considers it littering to place snow or ice in a right of way, which is punishable as a misdemeanor (Minnesota Statute 169.42 subdivision 1 & 5).

If an owner or occupant continually violates these prohibitions, in addition to the cost recovery procedures the legislature made available to them in MN Stat. §366.016, the board can also consider contacting the sheriff's department for possible action under the criminal statutes.

CONTACT US:

Contact information is available on our web site. If you need to contact any member of the Township board, you can click on the Clerk, Treasurer, or Supervisors tab to notify them of an issue or a problem with a road or any item of concern.

Clerk's Phone Number:

507 365 8480

Our web site is:

SALEMMN.ORG

Please note that if property owners or any contractors hired by Salem Township residents push snow across the road into the right of way, and this action results in damage to our snowplow contractors equipment, this damage may be charged to the township and the township will bill the responsible resident.

NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, RICK LUTZI

Salem Township is still growing. Five new housing permits were issued in 2016. With growth comes more wear and tear on roads. It has been a tough year with all the moisture and now ice. We are doing our best to stay on top of these issues.

We are still in the process of working a joint power agreement with the County and fellow townships on a new dog ordinance.

As Township Supervisors, some things change in our lives also. Jim Evans has moved into retirement, and we would like to thank and congratulate him on his dedication to the Township. We wish him well on his new adventures. In July, Drew Moessner was appointed to fill out the rest of the year. He had some experience being on our Planning and Zoning Board and was willing to and has grabbed a hold of this like grabbing a bull by the horns. Thanks Drew.

Also, I would like to congratulate Sharon Petersen, Salem Township's Clerk for getting the Olmsted County Township Officer of the Year. This is something she works hard at and helps other Township Clerks in learning the CTAS software that the state has required for Townships.

The board always welcomes Township residents to our meetings. We are always willing to listen to ideas to make our Township a better place to live.

NOTE FROM PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN, MIKE COATS

I would like to thank the board members and alternates for their time and dedication. The purpose of this board is to review conditional use permits for existing businesses in our Township. This along with making recommendations to the town board for zoning changes and special exceptions to our zoning ordinance. In our six meetings last year we reviewed 20 business CUP's along with holding three public meetings for zoning changes. There was one on-site visit to ensure compliance as well. This upcoming year we will be addressing the need for a potential urban subdivision ordinance and resource protection plan. Our meeting nights and agenda are posted on the townships webpage.

Important Information Regarding Property Assessment

This may affect your 2018 property taxes

The Board of Appeal and *Equalization for Salem Township will meet at **Salem Township Hall on April 18, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor.

If you believe the value or classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your assessor's office at (507) 328 7662, to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessments and may make corrections as needed. Generally, you must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization.

No complaint that another person is assessed too low will be acted upon until the person so assessed, or his agent, shall have been notified of such complaint.

**SALEM TOWNSHIP
C/O SHARON PETERSEN
3802 COUNTY ROAD 150 SW
BYRON, MN 55920**

MARCH 14, 2017

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

«Company Name»

«First Name» «Last Name»

Or Current Resident

«Address Line 1»

«Address Line 2»

«City» «State» «ZIP Code»