

# SALEM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2018

## TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2018

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 13, 2018 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 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to elect one supervisor for a term of three years, and one clerk 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 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 14, 2018 for the purpose of certifying the election results.

Additional information is available on our web site: [www.salemmn.org](http://www.salemmn.org)

Candidates who have filed for election are:

### Three Year Term

Township Supervisor: Drew Moessner

### Two Year Term

Clerk: Sharon Petersen

## 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 2019**

The Salem Town Board of Audit met and reviewed the books for the year 2017. At that meeting they also drafted next year's levy recommendations to be reviewed and approved at the Annual meeting that will be held on March 13, 2018. The levy recommendations for 2019 and last year's levy are listed below:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2019 LEVY</b>	<b>2018 LEVY</b>
<b>ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>	<b>\$155,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 47,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE BLDG MAINT</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>FIRST RESPONDERS</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>
<b>BUILDING UPDATES</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 43,000.00</b>
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 0.00</b>
<b>LEGAL</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$296,500.00</b>	<b>\$261,000.00</b>

## **NOXIOUS AND INVASIVE WEED PROGRAM**

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

Salem Township may be spraying for weeds in our right of way this spring. If you don't want your ditch sprayed, please purchase or post "DO NOT SPRAY" signs. They can be purchased from the township. Our township officers have been assigned the responsibility for weed control in our township. If residents have noxious weeds growing on their property, you have the responsibility to eradicate them. We have posted pictures and information on our website about this. You will find it under the WEEDS tab. Our website address is [www.salemmn.org](http://www.salemmn.org).

Please help with this issue by working to control weeds on your property. Feel free to contact a supervisor if you have questions about weed control issues.

## 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.**
- **The township board would like your help with keeping our Fire Number Signs up to date. If you have a new neighbor that does not have a sign, please have them contact our clerk. Her contact information is listed on our web site [www.salemmn.org](http://www.salemmn.org) Any new resident will need to purchase the sign.**

**Also, if your sign has been damaged, please contact the clerk to purchase a replacement sign. These signs have been greatly appreciated by the First Responders, Fire Department and Law Enforcement to find a location in our township when someone needs help.**

- **In the next year, you will be hearing about access issues in our township. The township recently appointed a access management committee with the responsibility of drafting an ordinance to control right of way issues on our township roads. The purpose of this work will be to provide for the appropriate use of our right of way and to keep it free from unnecessary obstructions.**

**The access management ordinance may require a permit application and fee for work completed in the right of ways.**

**Salem Township does not allow residents to put obstruction in the right of way. Obstructions are classified as an object, structure, rock, planting, post barrier, wall or fence that may present a danger to the traveling public that use our roads. We have areas where crops are encroaching on our right of ways and this will be addressed in the ordinance that is being drafted.**

**As in the past, the township will be issuing driveway permits. It has not yet been decided how those rules may differ from our present policy. When you apply for a driveway, a supervisor must approve the site, determine whether you need a culvert, and assess sight distances to make sure you can see and be seen by traffic on our roads.**

**The location of utilities in our right of way is also an area that will in the future require further oversight. As many of you know we will have two new natural gas pipelines coming thru our township.**

**If you have any ideas or concerns about this subject, please contact one of our township supervisors.**

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## 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 contractor for snow removal.. 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](http://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, DREW MOESSNER**

My first full year on the Town Board was a time to learn. Learn about the processes, road care, sign maintenance, town government, snow plowing, chloride application, weed control, meeting planning, resolutions, residents, rules and ordinances, ditch maintenance and many other jobs and responsibilities. I have to say I enjoyed it very much and I also need to thank Rick, Brian, Sharon and Gail for helping me along the way. We have a good team.

In the spring we needed to do some major grading to the roads to try and build up the crown and cut back the shoulder in order for the roads to drain properly. This was not always a pretty and welcome sight for the residents that lived on these roads. Thank you to all of the residents for your patience and understanding. Things sometimes need to get worse before they get better.

The rules for controlling noxious and invasive weeds are changing and we will keep you posted as best we can. This is a big problem for everyone as new problem weeds are on the rise, quite literally. It is everyone's job to try and stop the spread of weeds as best we can. Noxious weed help can be found on the township website or by asking any of us on the Town Board.

We want to thank the residents that report any issues in the township, especially illegal dumping or suspicious activity. We had some serious illegal dumping this year that we were able to find the parties and get it stopped because of the vigilance of township residents. Don't be afraid to say something if something doesn't look right.

I am looking forward to another great year here in Salem Township. As a resident told me this year, "We love it here!".

## **NOTE FROM PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN, MIKE COATS**

The Planning and Zoning Board had a busy year. I would like to thank the seven-member board and three alternates. In addition to the 18-conditional use permits that we annually review, we held public hearings on two revised CUP's and one public informational meeting. We also conducted a public hearing for the revision of our ordinances regarding homestead dwellings and that of the land-use plan subdivisions.

A new committee has been formed to look at Road Access & Easements. With the township growing it was felt that we should be proactive in addressing our roads and ditches as to what and where utilities should be placed. On that same thought, a more comprehensive Land - Use Plan is being discussed to protect our natural resources and farmland.

2018 looks to be a year of additional challenges and undertaking for the board.

For meeting nights and times, you will find them listed on the townships webpage. You are always welcome to attend.

## **Important Information Regarding Property Assessment**

### **This may affect your 2019 property taxes**

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for Salem Township will meet at **Salem Township Hall on April 10, 2018 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 13, 2018**

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