

# SALEM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2019

## TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 12, 2019

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 12, 2019 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 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 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 13, 2019 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: Brian Connelly

### Two Year Term

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 2020**

The Salem Town Board of Audit met and reviewed the books for the year 2018. 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 12, 2019. The levy recommendations for 2020 and last year's levy are listed below:

<b>FUND</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2020 LEVY</b>	<b>2019 LEVY</b>
<b>ROAD &amp; BRIDGE</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$180,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE PROTECTION</b>	<b>\$ 55,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>
<b>FIRE BLDG MAINT</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>FIRST RESPONDERS</b>	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>BUILDING UPDATES</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>
<b>GENERAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$ 50,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 45,000.00</b>
<b>SAFETY</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,000.00</b>
<b>LEGAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$336,000.00</b>	<b>\$296,500.00</b>

### **DITCHES AND RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES**

The town board has been working on issues of infringement on our right of way. We have areas where farmers have been farming in our right of way. This practice is costing the township additional expense as this practice is requiring expensive cleaning of our ditches. The town board will be contacting residents who are infringing on our right of way. This practice is a violation of state statutes.

The town board would appreciate if you would also be aware of people depositing debris and junk in our ditches. This practice has been increasing and costly to the township. If you see something suspicious, please report it to the sheriff or a town board member.

## 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, the claim form can be found on the forms page of our web site. You will also be asked to complete a W-9 form for claims to be processed.
- 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.
- The town board has been working on drafting a right of way ordinance and a new driveway ordinance for the township. There will be some changes to the process for driveways, and work being done in our right of way. Please check with the town board before starting any work to make sure you follow new rules. The new ordinances will require a permit application and fee for work in our right of ways.
- The gas pipe line work that started in our township and the future work that will be completed in the next couple of years will impact some of our residents. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact one of our township supervisors.
- The town board welcomes public input at meetings. We are always trying to improve communications with residents. If there is an issue, let someone know. Attend a town board meeting on the first Wednesday of each month. The annual meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March is an important meeting. Public attendance is important. It is your opportunity to see how your tax dollars work for this township.

## 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, BRIAN CONNELLY**

This past year was filled with many challenges and achievements but also change and progress. We have seen continued growth in the business and residential sectors. Multiple zone changes, Conditional Use Permits, and land splits were applied for, reviewed, and approved. Planning/construction occurred on two new natural gas pipelines with continued activity slated for this year. Work is also anticipated to begin on transmission lines for the Dodge County Wind Energy project coming through Salem Township. Significant maintenance was performed on several of our roads and ditches to improve the overall integrity, grade, and drainage. This will be an ongoing task with more projects planned in the year ahead.

None of this would have been possible if it wasn't for the preparation, cooperation, and dedication of our Town Board, Planning and Zoning Board, contractors, and citizens. Your efforts are truly commendable. For that I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude. I would also like to thank our election judges and volunteers for their service. It has been a pleasure serving not only as one of your Supervisors but also Chairman. It never ceases to amaze me how much there is to learn, and this continues to be a rewarding experience. I am proud to call myself a citizen of Salem Township and hopefully each of you can say the same.

Our community is only as strong as its members and I hope that people will continue to actively participate in this local unit of government. I encourage folks to attend our monthly board meetings to stay apprised to the issues in our area and to provide the board with valuable suggestions and feedback.

Sincerely,

Brian Connelly

### **NOTE FROM PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN, SONYA MANSFIELD**

The Planning and Zoning Board had another demanding year. I would like to thank the PNZ board members and alternates for their diligence, service and commitment of proposed plans, policies and programs addressing the development and planning of our community.

In 2018, we reviewed over 24 active Conditional Use Permits, held three public hearings for zone changes and three public hearings for new Conditional Use Permits. Some members of the PNZ along with Town Board members were tasked with developing a Roadway Access and Right-of-Way Ordinance in the township to address our township roadways, accesses, and right-of-way in order to better maintain our roadways, ditches, and utilities. The PNZ was also tasked with developing a comprehensive Land-Use Plan for our township and this process has commenced.

The Salem Planning and Zoning meetings are open to the public and we encourage the Salem Township residents to attend our meetings, please see the township webpage for meeting nights and times.

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

**MARCH 12,2019**

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