

SALEM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2020

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2020

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 10, 2020 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 11, 2020 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

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 2021

The Salem Town Board of Audit met and reviewed the books for the year 2019. 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 10, 2020. The levy recommendations for 2021 and last year's levy are listed below:

FUND	PROPOSED 2021 LEVY	2020 LEVY
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$220,000.00	\$220,000.00
FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
FIRE BLDG MAINT	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
FIRST RESPONDERS	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
BUILDING UPDATES	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
GENERAL REVENUE	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
SAFETY	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
LEGAL	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
TOTAL	\$367,000.00	\$356,000.00

DITCHES AND RIGHT OF WAY ISSUES

The town board has been working to remedy issues pertaining to right of way infringement. There are properties where landowners have been farming into our right of way. This practice is a violation of state statutes and is costing the township unnecessary additional expenses related to the excavation and removal of overburden from our ditches. The town board has and will continue to contact landowners who are infringing on our right of way. We also ask that residents be watchful for individuals illegally depositing debris and junk in our ditches and roadways. 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: 4111-11th 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 Any new house that is built in our township 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 passed 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 township road right of way is 66 feet wide (measured 33 feet from the center of the road)**

SNOW POLICY

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).

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.

2019—YEAR OF STORMS AND ROAD DAMAGE

The town board and residents alike, dealt with inclement weather throughout the year. The late snowstorms and spring thaw caused significant damage to our road surfaces. In addition, the June and July rain events caused extensive and unprecedented damage to many of the roads in Salem Township. The bill for storm damage in 2019 exceeded \$175,00.00. As a result of this, we applied for Federal and State disaster aid to recoup some of these costs. We have received reimbursement from FEMA for the winter/spring storm damage (\$26,245.49). We have also received money from the State of Minnesota for repairs made to date associated with the June/July storms (\$105,829.26). This repair work is not done yet so final claims for damage will be submitted in 2020 upon completion. Note: FEMA and State compensation are calculated at a reimbursement rate of 100% and 75% respectively.

ROAD REPORT

For the year 2019, Salem Township expended a total of \$307,349.39 on roads and related issues. Some of the major expenditures for 2019 are as follows:

Rock (purchase and application)	\$44,992.29
Chloride 24,246 gallons (Cost subsidized)	\$6,872.64
Road Grading	\$20,272.00
Snow Removal.....	\$44,727.45
Ditch Pickup Spring/Fall (Salem Sailors and Boy Scouts)	\$800.00
Ditch Mowing...	\$1,700.00
Storm Damage Repairs paid in 2019	
Rock	\$ 45,345.61
Labor	\$129,880.72
Culverts	\$ 2,447.10
Misc	\$ 164.64

Total Cost \$177,838.07

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

NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, RICK LUTZI

We started 2019 feeling that the Township was in pretty good condition. We were planning on some road work, ditch cleanings but then Mother Nature puts a change in our plans, with a vengeance.

February, March and April were probably the longest 3 months of winter I can remember in a long time.

Our Snowplowing and Ice control bills were also evidence of that.

Then May came Frost boils that caused road damage, but these were still around even into early June, so we started doing more intensive repairs for them to heal over.

Then by mid-June, the flood gates opened and never quit, and I mean never. We probably had the worst damage to farm fields, waterways in fields, culverts, ditches and of course our roads in Township History.

The June 28th to July 5th storms were the worst. We physically had to close 4 roads that were impassible, some up to 6 weeks.

Your Board members stepped to the challenge and gathered all the information needed to apply for State and Federal aid to help cover costs of these repairs in a timely manner. (GPS coordinates of all damages, estimates for repairs, and piles of paperwork)

To date we have spent \$175,000 to cover the damage. We will be finishing up damage repairs yet in early 2020.

I would like to thank the Town Board members for all the additional work we had to do, in addition to our normal Town Board business. Plus, I would like to thank the Planning and Zoning Boards members for their hard work also, what a Great Team of members also.

Our Boards are only as good as the community they represent, Thanks for being patient and working with these Boards, and you are welcome to any meetings anytime.

Sincerely

Rick Lutzi

NOTE FROM PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN, SONYA MANSFIELD

The Planning and Zoning Board had another challenging year. I would like to thank the Planning & Zoning board members and alternates for their thoroughness, service and responsibility of upholding the planning and zoning process, policies, and ordinances in addressing the development and planning of our community.

In 2019, we reviewed 26 active Conditional Use Permits, held one public hearing for a zone change, held two public hearings for new Conditional Use Permits for sand and gravel mining, and held one public hearing for a new Conditional Use Permit for a Solar Garden. Additionally, the board held two public hearings on amendments to the Salem Township Shoreland and Floodplain Ordinance. Planning and Zoning made progress with developing a comprehensive Land-Use Plan for our township as directed by the Town Board and it is our goal to complete and present the draft plan to the Town Board in 2020.

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 10, 2020

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