

SALEM TOWNSHIP ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2021

TOWNSHIP ELECTIONS & ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 2021

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 9, 2021 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 4:00 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 10, 2021 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: Drew Moessner

Two Year Term

Treasurer: Diana Connelly

Sharon Petersen

Salem Township Clerk

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 2022

The Salem Town Board of Audit met and reviewed the books for the year 2020. 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 9, 2021. The levy recommendations for 2022 and last year's levy are listed below:

FUND	PROPOSED 2022 LEVY	2021 LEVY
ROAD & BRIDGE	\$225,000;00	\$220,000.00
FIRE PROTECTION	\$ 65,000.00	\$ 60000.00
FIRE BLDG MAINT	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
FIRST RESPONDERS	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
BUILDING UPDATES	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
GENERAL REVENUE	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 55,000.00
SAFETY	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
LEGAL	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
EMERGENCY FUND	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
TOTAL	\$390,000.00	\$377,000.00

NOTE FROM PLANNING AND ZONING CHAIRMAN, SONYA MANSFIELD

The Planning and Zoning Board had a "normal" year, as the board conducted 5 meetings in 2020. I would like to thank the Planning & Zoning board members and alternates for their attention to detail, service, and dedication in upholding the planning and zoning process, policies, and ordinances in addressing the development and planning of our community.

In 2020, we reviewed 31 active Conditional Use Permits, and held one public hearing for a new Conditional Use Permit for a home-based business. 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 2021.

Additionally, the Town Board tasked Planning and Zoning to address a revision to our ordinance regarding solar facilities in August 2020. The board is preparing a rough draft of the revised ordinance and plans to complete and present the draft to the Town Board in 2021.

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.

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 They can also be e-mailed to residents if you mail a check to the clerk and include your e mail address and phone number. The clerk's address is: 3802 County Road 150 SW, Byron, MN 55920. 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 . Their 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 the new rules. The new ordinances will require a permit application and fee for work in our right of ways and establishing a new driveway.**

Stay Up to Date in Salem

To be able to contact township residents in case of an emergency or with important information, the Town Board would like to collect contact information and create a contact list. We have added the opportunity for you to give us this information on our website. We would appreciate it if you would please provide this information so we can better communicate with you quickly if the situation arises.

We will not share this information with anyone. So many residents have changed from land line phones to cell phones has made it much more difficult to contact people quickly. Our web site is salemmn.org

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.

REPORT ON STORM DAMAGE FROM 2019 STORMS

In 2019, Salem Township suffered extensive damage from three different storm events. In the spring late snows on already soft roads caused damage to many road surfaces. There was a Federal Disaster Declaration for this event and the township had \$26,245.49 in damages. The FEMA declaration allowed the township to file claims that reimbursed them for 100% of this cost.

In June, and July we had two rain storms that caused extensive damage. The State of Minnesota declared this a disaster. The damage to roads, and infrastructure for this storm was \$210,220.93. We finished the repair work for this in the summer of 2020. We filed claims with the State of Minnesota and were reimbursed for \$157,665.70, which is 75% reimbursement rate. The cost to the township for these storms was \$52,555.23.

UNLAWFUL DUMPING IN TOWNSHIP DITCHES

Board member would 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 members.

ROAD REPORT

For the year 2020, Salem Township expended a total of \$287,737.39 on roads and related issues. Some of the major expenditures for 2020 are as follows:

Rock (purchase and application)	\$66,849.57
Chloride 24,415 gallons (Cost subsidized	\$6,982.05)
Road Grading	\$46,905.00
Right of Way Maintenance.....	\$43,519.23
Snow Removal.....	\$23,205.00
Ditch Pickup Spring/Fall (Salem Sailors and Boy Scouts)	\$800.00
Ditch Mowing...	\$1,700.00
Storm Damage Repairs paid in 2020	
Rock	\$ 1,265.68
Labor	\$ 65,627.25
Total Cost	\$66,892.93

State Reimbursed at 75%

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:

SALEM MN.ORG

NOTE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN, DREW MOESSNER

It is hard to figure out how to start this note this year. 2020 was really different in so many ways. We did have some things that stayed the same.

We started off the year with any final repairs from the floods of the year before. It was important to get these things done so we could file for any final assistance from the State and Federal. We were able to get these repairs done and finalize the reports and recover a good portion of the money we spent. Sharon Petersen deserves a big thank you for all the hard work she did in doing the paperwork for the reimbursements. Salem Township received the reimbursements earlier than most other townships because of her efforts to keep things organized and stay in touch with the government offices. Thank you, Sharon for doing such a great job!

We were able to do some planned ditch cleaning, culvert and road sign replacements this year also. We are planning to replace some damaged or faded street and avenue signs in 2021 along with some more ditch cleaning and brush clearing.

In 2020 we began to do regular inspections of sand and gravel pits in Salem Township. We will continue this practice into the future and may include other conditional use permit holders.

One important item we have been trying to get started is to create an email contact list for our residents. We were thinking about an electronic sign at the town hall for township information and emergency notices but decided that would not be the best method for sending information. We felt that if our residents would sign up with their contact info we would be able to send out an email blast in case of important news or emergency information. Emergency road closings were an important driver of this need. Please go to our website at sailemmn.org to sign up under the "Stay Up to Date in Salem" banner. We will not share your information with anyone.

I served this year on an advisory panel to do planning for the Hwy 14 corridor. As we all know many of the intersection to Hwy 14 are very dangerous. There have been some open houses to share the ideas of the group and to gather ideas from the residents. Hopefully you have been able to attend. The plan that is in place will take some large funding from the State and Federal government. MNDOT is not able to get funding for these projects unless the legislature provides these funds. It will take many years for these intersections to be improved without some strong urging from residents, townships, towns and cities along this route. Stay tuned for ways that you can help.

This year Gail Fritts has decided not to run for reelection as treasurer. We want to thank Gail for her services to the Township. We will surely miss you and are happy to hear that you are planning on still coming to meetings when you can. Thank you, Gail for all of the hard work and wisdom that you brought to the Town Board!

Thank you to the other Town Board members for all their hard work throughout the year. The Planning and Zoning Commission has also done a great job this year. Thank you for all you do. Thank you also to the residents of Salem Township who help with all the things that need doing in the township. We look forward to seeing you at any of the meetings whether it be live or virtually.

Looking forward to a good year, Drew Moessner

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

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