

Ida Township Newsletter

February 2018

Town Board

Dan Diedrich, Supervisor
Mike Steidl, Supervisor
Jim Peterson, Supervisor
Barb Kilgore, Clerk/Treasurer

Contact Information

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Road Ramblings

This past year left the town board with some interesting and difficult decisions to be made. With the high water levels and the additional summer rain, the more pressing problem was what to do with the deterioration of our older blacktop roads. With some welcome input from residents, we decided to enlist the help of WSN, an engineering firm from Alexandria, to assist our engineer in compiling an extensive survey of our blacktop roads. After studying the survey, it was determined it would be to our benefit financially to do all the repair work as soon as possible. We enlisted the help of a number of residents to help us work out a five year plan, which will probably turn into more or less a fifteen year financial plan. The proposal would be to borrow 2.5 million this year to do the repair work and rebuild some roads to get them ready for future blacktop projects. The financing would end up leaving the township with a repayment schedule of somewhat over 200 thousand dollars a year payment for the next fifteen years. Which in turn leaves us with having to raise township taxes by 25% in order to cover part of the cost. This proposal will be explained in full at the annual meeting March 13th and the increase will need approval by the township residents. Review the minutes on the Ida Township Website for more information.

Submitted by Dan Diedrich

Ida Township Levy History

Tax Levy History and Proposed 2019 Levy

	2015	2016	2017	2018	Proposed 2019
General Revenue	\$ 77,000	\$ 69,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000	\$ 70,000
Road & Bridge Fund	195,000	185,000	200,000	240,000	320,000
Fire Protection Fund	57,000	58,000	58,000	60,000	60,000
Blacktop Upgrade Fund	45,000	55,000	58,000	65,000	105,000
7T Debt Service Fund	52,016	52,016	52,000	52,000	52,000
Sunset Strip Paving Fund			70,000	0	0
ALASD	103,000	99,960	104,021	98,294	100,000*
Total Budget	\$529,016	\$518,676	\$612,021	\$585,294	\$707,000

The 2019 levy will be proposed and voted on at the annual meeting and will be collected on taxes in the year 2019. 2018 tax collections are already set.

*The ALASD amount is estimated and is available after September 1st each year.

2017 Expenditures

The following are some of the major expenditures in 2017:

Road Maintenance	\$ 63,301	Town Board Wages	\$ 24,650
Road & Ditch Repair	48,565	Town Hall/Office Exp.	11,074
Ice & Snow Removal	32,858	Fire Protection	59,640
Gravel	35,274		
Chloride	22,643		
Engineering	9,903		

March Election and Annual Meeting

The Township Election and Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting beginning after the closing of the polls. There will be one office on the ballot:

Supervisor Seat B 3-year term Candidate: Jim Peterson

The 2019 tax levy will be set and voted on at the Annual Meeting, as well as other pertinent items, so it is very important to attend! Both the election and annual meeting will be held at the Ida Township Hall, 4700 County Road 6 NW, Garfield, MN. In case of inclement weather the election and meeting will be held on March 21, 2016 at the same time.

Annual Meeting Items

The Board is considering borrowing \$2.5 million in the form of a Bond to make the badly needed repairs to the existing blacktop roads and to do some upgrades on gravel roads to prepare them for blacktopping in the near future. This will mean a significant increase in the Road & Bridge and the Blacktop/Upgrade Funds to cover the payments on the bond. The Board is also contemplating revising the current Cost Share and Assessment Guidelines on Road Improvement Projects to include the cost of upgrading the gravel roads in the amount of construction costs to be split 50/50 between the township and the property owners. Currently the township is paying for all of the upgrades. **The Board would like your input on these items, so please plan to attend the Annual Meeting and let your voice be heard!**

Candidates for Office

Supervisor Seat B

Jim Peterson. I live with my wife of 54 years (Pam) at 12154 County Rd 34 NW. We both grew up in Cambridge, MN and have two adult children, a son and daughter. I served six years in the Minnesota National Guard and am a member of the American Legion. We have owned the property on Lake Ida since 1987 and moved here full time in June 2013. I worked all of my career (since 1962) in the accounting field with 34 years of it at the headquarters of National Car Rental in the Minneapolis area. I have been treasurer of the Ida Lake Association since August of 2000 and treasurer of the Douglas County Lakes Association since September 2004. I also volunteer with Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County and Let's Go Fishing. I am committed to keeping Lake Ida and Ida Township a great place to live. This would be my second term on the Township Board.

Noxious Weeds

One of the duties of a township supervisor, each spring, is to check the township road ditches, vacant lots and farm fields for dreaded noxious weeds. Ida Township seems to have an abundance of Canadian Thistles. Wild Parsnip was also found in the Ida Estates area on Lake Ida Way. Pictures of the weeds can be found on the MN DNR website <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index.html>. We need your support as a property owner in this township, to help with this issue.

Please take some time to look for these weeds and either spray or cut them. If you do this, we the board, will not have to send you a letter asking you to take this action. If issues are not addressed, after notification, the board will hire someone to get rid of the weeds and then bill you for the work. If we all work together on this issue, the noxious weeds will be taken care of and "OUR" township will benefit by this combined efforts. Thanks for your help!

Road Right of Way Issues

Ida Township asks you to help them prevent the misuse of the Township roads as a dumping ground. Specifically, the only things that can legally be put into the right-of-way are mail boxes, traffic signs and driveways. An owner can likely engage in activities that have minimal impact on the maintenance and safety of the right-of-way. For example, an owner likely can, within reason, plant and maintain grass and flowers, in the town right-of-way. But likely not place fences, landscaping boulders and crops, particularly corn.

Everything else is prohibited by law, including the placement in the right-of-way of:

Leaves and rakings	Yard debris
Trees (any size)	Structures, (stone, wood, concrete or other)
Yard clippings	Garbage and waste
Bushes and hedges	Terraces and flower beds
Branches and brush	Construction debris
Shrubbery	Lawn-watering systems
Lake weeds	Oil and petroleum
Fences or walls	Plantings
Miscellaneous debris or ANYTHING ELSE	

BURNING ANYTHING IN THE RIGHT-OF-WAY IS ALSO PROHIBITED.

DRIVEWAY CONSTRUCTION. Please contact the Township if you are putting in a new driveway, so the Board can inspect the area to see if a culvert is required.

Betsy Ross Road Water Runoff Project.

The Ida Town Board worked with the Ida Lake Association to crush the culvert going under Betsy Ross Road and install a new culvert on the farm road to create a storm pool on the south side of the road, so the water doesn't flow directly into Lake Ida. Work was also done on the farm property to slow down the runoff. If this work was not done, the township would have had to install a new culvert on Betsy Ross Road. The cost of the township putting in a new culvert would be approximately \$2,500. The cost of the project was \$5,163. The Township contributed \$2,500 and the Lake Association paid for the rest.

Lake Charley Cemetery News

LAKE CHARLEY CEMETERY COMMITTEE. If you are interested a volunteer opportunity look no further! Cemetery Committee duties are generally Spring/Summer/Fall and related to maintenance issues. Please call the town hall office if you would like to lend a hand.

AVAILABLE PLOTS We have 28 plots currently available to the public. Contact the town hall for pricing and location if you are interested.

UNKNOWN BURIALS Everybody has a story. Lake Charley Cemetery is home to at least 28 unknown interred. Call the township office if you have any information that might help us determine who these people were.

Township Volunteers

The Ida Town Board would like to acknowledge the following people who volunteered their time and talents to the township in 2017. Thank You!

Lake Charley Cemetery Committee: Julie Kirscht and Frank Bartlett and Wayne Odegaard

Road Advisory Committee: Rick Thiery, Glenn Van Amber, Mike Rosenwald and Frank Caruso.

Ida Township Veterans Project

The Ida Town Board continues to honor our Veterans with a dedicated page on our website. If you know of a member of the United States armed forces (living or deceased) and would like the name added to our listing, please contact the township office with the following: 1) Veteran's full name, branch of service and years served. 2) When a resident of Ida Township (lifelong resident or approximate years a resident). 3) Submitters name and phone number (so we may contact you with any questions).

Voting Information

Polling Place: Ida Township Hall, 4700 County Road 6 NW, Garfield, MN

US Senate: Minnesota

Federal House of Representatives: District 7

State Senate: District 8

State House of Representatives: District 8b

County Commissioner: District 1

School Districts: Alexandria 206, Brandon-Evansville 2908

Office & Meeting Schedule

Meeting Schedule: The Ida Town Board meets on the First and Third Mondays March through October at 7:30 p.m. at the Ida Township Hall. The Board only meets on the third Monday of the month November through February. If the Meeting date falls on a holiday or conflicts with an election, the meeting will be held the following day at the same time and place. If you wish to be put on the agenda, call or e-mail the township office by the Thursday before the next scheduled meeting.

Website: If you are interested in what is on the agenda for the next Town Board meeting or if you want to know what transpired at recent meetings you were unable to attend, check out the Township website at www.idatownship.com.

Office Hours: The Township Office is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. until Noon, except for holidays. You can also call and set up an appointment.

Town Hall Rental: The Town Hall is available to rent for meetings and family gatherings.