

Ida Township Newsletter

February 2017

Town Board

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

Contact Information

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Road Ramblings

The boards annual spring road inspection made us aware of a number of things to do. I will try to cover a few areas. We saw the need to apply more gravel than normal. The township ended up spending about \$12,000.00 extra due mainly to repairs from the heavy rains throughout the summer. We did \$30,000.00 in patch work on the current older blacktop plus some work on soft spots on the gravel roads. The township chip sealed about three miles of the blacktop to the tune of \$60,000.00. We upgraded Maple Circle to get ready for future blacktopping for another \$19,000.00. We also did a bit of tree trimming. One other project was installing a turnaround at the end of Primrose Lane. The blacktopping project on Burkeys Lane and Sunset Strip finished an interesting year.

For 2017 we are also looking to chip seal Pilgrim Point and Sugar Sand Lane. We are considering blacktopping Maple Circle plus some more patching on the 7T project blacktop.

We need to say thanks to everyone for their calls and feedback, enabling us to do a better job of managing the township. Thank you to RBS Excavating for the excellent job of maintaining the township roads.

Submitted by Dan Diedrich

Alexandria Lake Area Sewer District

Ida Township installed the sewer lines around Lake Ida in 2001. Each benefited property was assessed around \$8400 to pay off the bond of \$8 million dollars for the construction of the sewer. Many residents have paid off their assessments, and now the debt is \$840,000.

The ALASD charges a user fee for the monthly maintenance of the system. In addition, the bonding of the plant construction and modifications are allocated to the participating jurisdictions. In 2017 this will be \$1.3 million, and the Ida Township portion is a little over \$104,000, which is placed on property within the sewer district.

The ALASD discharges our treated water into Lake Winona, which is considered an impaired lake. The current permit requires that the district develop a facility plan to reduce the phosphorus and the chloride discharged through the system. Phosphorus is generated by organic material in the sewage. Chloride is primarily generated by the use of water softeners at each residence.

We currently remove 97% of the phosphorus. We could take another 2% out by installing another plant addition at the estimated cost of \$11 million. However, the concern is that this will be ineffective because of the large carp population in Lake Winona, which continues to impair the waters. The district believes that the carp should be removed prior to expending a huge amount of money for a plant addition.

The chloride removal is more problematic, since chloride is not suspended, and requires a sophisticated system such as reverse osmosis to remove it at a cost in excess of \$50 million. There are no current scientific standards in place to design a removal process.

There will be public hearings prior to September 1, 2017 on the facility plans for phosphorus and chloride. The district's position is that the carp should be removed from Lake Winona prior to building a phosphorus removal addition. The chloride plan is to obtain a waiver of the plan due to the high cost and uncertain standards.

Submitted by Glenn Van Amber

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).

Ida Township Levy History

Tax Levy History and Proposed 2018 Levy

	2014	2015	2016	2017	Proposed 2018
General Revenue	\$70,000	\$77,000	\$69,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$175,000	\$195,000	\$185,000	\$200,000	\$240,000
Fire Protection Fund	\$50,000	\$57,000	\$58,000	\$58,000	\$60,000
Blacktop Upgrade Fund	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$55,000	\$58,000	\$65,000
7T Debt Service Fund	\$52,016	\$52,016	\$52,016	\$52,000	\$52,000
Sunset Strip Paving Fund				\$70,000	0
ALASD*	\$102,227	\$103,000	\$99,960	\$104,021	\$100,000
Total Budget	\$499,243	\$529,016	\$518,676	\$612,021	\$587,000

The 2018 levy will be proposed and voted on at the annual meeting and will be collected on taxes in the year 2018. 2017 tax collections are already set. *The ALASD amount is estimated and is available after September 1st each year.

2016 Expenditures

The following are some of the major expenditures in 2016:

Board Wages	\$ 19,429	Paved Street Maintenance	\$ 82,163
Town/Office Expense	22,597	Shouldering	25,375
Fire Protection	57,947	Gravel Road Maintenance	56,950
Ice & Snow Removal	25,209	Gravel	52,428
Chloride	24,200		

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!

March Election and Annual Meeting

The Township Election and Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2017. 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 A 3-year term Candidate: Michael E. Steidl

The 2018 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.

Candidates for Office

Supervisor Seat A

Michael E. Steidl. I live at 1721 Pilgrim Point Road NW, Alexandria, MN. I grew up in the Alexandria area and have lived and owned property on Lake Ida in Ida Township for more than 36 years. My wife, Terri, and I have been married for 40 years and have three grown children and six grandchildren. I am a Certified Financial Planner with Ameriprise Financial in Alexandria. I feel committed to the well-being of Ida Township and Lake Ida as a place that all residents can use and enjoy, both now and a generation from now. I have been a Supervisor on the Ida Town Board since 2014.

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

Lake Charley Cemetery News

SPRING CLEAN UP 2017. Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 6th, 10:00 am with Saturday, May 20th (10:00 am) as an alternate if weather conditions are poor. Bring a rake and gloves if you can. Thank you to all who helped last year, you made a great difference!

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.



HONORING THOSE LAID TO REST IN 2016. We remember the families of and honor those interred at Lake Charley Cemetery in 2016: Jeffrey John Dahl, Alanah Marie Faber, Kay Ann Faber and Dick Katzmarek.

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.

The website was moved in 2016 to Go Daddy, so you may have to enter the township address into your browser again to view the new site.

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.