

Ida Township Newsletter

February 2016

Town Board

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

Contact Information

4700 County Road 6 NW
PO Box 95, Garfield, MN 56332
Office Phone: 320-834-3377
Website: www.idatowship.com
E-mail: datwp@wisper-wireless.com

ROAD RAMBLINGS

Well we made it through 2016 with a few challenges. The biggest being the culvert replacement on Betsy Ross. The board spent time seeing about finishing the work on Sunset Strip, cleaning tile, and looking at an upgrade of Maple Circle. Also concerns on Big Chip Trail, Oak Ridge Lane, Burkeys Lane and others, too many to include. I would also like to thank RBS Excavating, Okerlund Gravel, Paz Excavating, and Mark Lee Excavating for the work they have done for the Township. We had to do a number of repair patches on the blacktop roads. As for 2017 our biggest project will be the blacktopping of Sunset Strip and Burkeys Lane. We are also going to rebuild Maple Circle and hopefully be able to do the ditch work on Leaf Lane. With our upcoming annual road inspection this spring we will be looking at where we need gravel, seal coating, crack sealing, shouldering, blacktop repair, fixing soft spots, sign replacement, and we are considering hiring a weed inspector to get a better handle on the weed problem in the township.

Chairman Dan Diedrich

Road Right-of-Way Policy

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 (crops)
Miscellaneous debris or ANYTHING ELSE	

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

Minnesota Statutes, Section 169.42 (traffic regulations) and, also, Minnesota Statutes, Section 609.68 (criminal offences) both make the above practices a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of up to \$700 or imprisonment for up to 90 days for each offense.

The Township has a good road system and it takes taxpayer funds to clean up after violators. Also, the Township could be held liable for damage claims of road users if it knowingly permits these illegal acts. Landowners can also be held liable.

For the good of the Township and your neighborhood, please obey these laws. If you observe any violations by others, please report them to your Township Supervisors. Thank you for your cooperation!

Mailboxes.

As part of the Ida Township Snow Plowing Policy the following applies to mailboxes. All mailboxes placed within the Right-of-way are also placed there at the owner's risk. Mailboxes and mailbox supports close to the road makes the snow plowing operations difficult and renders the boxes susceptible to damage as the result of such activity. The Township's contractors try to use care and consideration plowing in their vicinity. Despite this care and consideration, some mailboxes will be knocked down or destroyed during snow plowing. The Township believes that most damage would be eliminated if postal patrons would use a swing away mailbox support. If a properly placed mailbox support conforming to the diagram we have on file is damaged during snow plowing the Township will replace the support (the mailbox is the responsibility of the owner). Other non-conforming mailbox supports are not eligible for repair or replacement. You may contact the Township office to receive the instructions and criteria for the swing away mailbox supports. The supports are available at Ace Hardware and Hilltop Lumber.

Weeds, Weeds, 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 2015 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 still not addressed, 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!

Ida Township Levy History

Tax Levy History and Proposed Budget

	Actual 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Proposed 2017
General Revenue	\$80,000	\$70,000	\$77,000	\$69,000	\$70,000
Road & Bridge Fund	\$160,000	\$175,000	\$195,000	\$185,000	\$200,000
Fire Protection Fund	\$57,000	\$50,000	\$57,000	\$58,000	\$58,000
Blacktop Upgrade Fund	\$45,000	\$50,000	\$45,000	\$55,000	\$58,000
7T Debt Service Fund	\$60,000	\$52,016	\$52,016	\$52,016	\$52,000
Sunset Strip Paving Fund					\$70,000
ALASD*	\$102,583	\$102,227	\$103,000	\$99,660	\$100,000
Total Budget	\$504,583	\$499,243	\$529,016	\$518,676	\$608,000

The 2017 levy will be proposed at the annual meeting and will be collected on taxes in the year 2017. 2016 tax collections are already set. *The ALASD amount is estimated and is available after September 1st each year.

The Sunset Strip Paving Fund will be a one year assessment and then will be removed from future levies. Doing this will save the tax payers the interest on that amount and save time for the township in accounting for the amount and levying for it each year. The amount will be approximately \$40.00 for each taxable parcel in the township.

March Election and Annual Meeting

The Township Election and Annual Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 8, 2016. The polls will be open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with the Annual Meeting starting after the polls are closed. There will be one office on the ballot:
Supervisor Seat C 3-year term Candidate: Daniel Diedrich

The 2017 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 15, 2016 at the same time.

Candidates for Office Supervisor Seat C

Daniel Diedrich Born in Leaf Valley Township, Douglas County. Attended country grade school three miles north of Leaf Valley. Graduated from Parkers Prairie High School and attended two years of college at Bemidji.

Wife: Rosemary, Four grown children, six grandchildren.

Worked road construction as a heavy equipment operator, truck driver, building engineer, production supervisor, plant manager and project manager. Owner of a seed conditioning business for the past thirty years. I served three years on the Leaf Valley Fire Department and twenty-two years on the Garfield Fire Department, holding the position as Chief for fifteen years.

Owned a twenty acre farm site north of Garfield for the past thirty years plus. Currently driving truck part time and helping our oldest son with farming, also doing some custom harvesting.

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

*Cemetery
Spring
Clean-up!*

On Saturday, May 14th we invite you to join us at Lake Charley Cemetery for our 2016 Cemetery Spring Clean-up Day. 10:00 am. In case of poor weather we'll meet the following Saturday, May 21st (same time – 10:00). Please bring gloves and a rake.

Currently, there are 33 gravesites available in our cemetery. Please call the township office for more information. Pricing is as follows: Resident – \$250.00 per lot, non-resident – \$500.00 per lot

IDENTIFYING those who are interred in the unmarked gravesites continues. We are interested in hearing from anyone who has historical information pertaining to Lake Charley Cemetery.

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).

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.