

Carlos Township Newsletter - March 2022

Board Members

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Township Roads

At this time the annual township road inspection has not been scheduled. The tour is usually held at the end of April or beginning of May. The township continues to apply chloride to gravel roads which is customarily applied in May-June.

Meeting Dates

The Carlos Town Board meets the second and fourth Thursday of each month, except for November and December, when the board meets only on the second Thursday of the month. The Board meets at the Carlos Town Hall.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will be held on March 8, 2022 at 7:00 PM at the Carlos Town Hall. The board will update residents on financial data from 2021 and set the levy for 2023. All residents are encouraged to attend.

AAEDC

Todd Powers is currently the township's representative to the AAEDC. He will be giving the township residents an updates for the township at the annual meeting to be held on March 8, 2022

. Township Policies:

The town board approved polices that include roads, animals, mailboxes, etc. Those policies can be viewed on the township's website.

Upcoming Road Projects

The board is looking to repair a section of Pike Road South, along with routine road maintenance.

Road Maintenance/Snow Removal Concerns from residents

All work orders need to be directed from the board. If any resident has a concern or question regarding road maintenance, please contact a board member and they will then contact the road maintainer. It can be difficult to remove snow when residents plant trees or install fences close to the edge of the right of way. This area is designated for snow removal not private plantings, etc.

Pushing Snow across Township Roads

As of this writing, there has been plenty of snow this winter. The township is aware of a few residents who are in violation of pushing snow across public roads. Per Minnesota Statute Chapter 160.2715 it is unlawful to dump, plow, or push snow from a private driveway onto or across a public road, i.e. township, county or state. This issue has been addressed in numerous township newsletters and in the Echo Press.

This practice is in violation of this statute and can be prosecuted for a misdemeanor and can result in a fine of up to \$500.00. The Douglas County Sheriff's department will be the enforcer of this statute. The town board will be addressing the question on the November, 2022 General Election ballot to vote on whether to charge all costs to re-blade the road to the offending property owner.

ALASD Customers in Carlos Township Rebates for Water Softeners

Lakes Winona, Agnes and Henry are listed as impaired by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) due to excess chloride which negatively impacts aquatic life. ALASD is now faced with finding a solution to reduce chloride (salt) in the effluent coming from the treatment facility. While road salt contributes to the chloride in the lakes, most of the salt being discharged into Lake Winona is from water softeners used in homes and businesses both in the City of Alexandria and the surrounding Townships serviced by ALASD. Unfortunately, there is no cost-effective way to remove salt from the effluent being discharged into Lake Winona and the most cost-efficient way to reduce the amount of salt entering the Treatment facility is by reducing the amount coming from homes and businesses.

For that reason, ALASD is currently offering generous rebates to update existing older water softeners to new ALASD approved high efficiency demand softeners, salt-less conditioners, or brine disposal systems. The following rebates are being offered in 2022 until funds have been depleted so if your water softener is 10 years old or greater, contact ALASD or visit alasdistrict.org as soon as possible to take advantage of this import project that will greatly impact our lakes in a positive way.

\$500 Rebate for ALASD approved high efficiency demand softener for NEW construction.

\$750 Rebate for replacement of softener to ALASD approved high efficiency demand softener.

Up to **\$2000 Rebate** to remove softener permanently and install a salt-less conditioner.

Up to **\$2000 Rebate** for private well user located in Carlos Township to install a brine disposal system on their property.

Spring Reminder!!!!

It is also illegal to burn leaves on the roadway, or remove Class V from the township roads

Board of Appeal and Equalization

The Board of Appeal and Equalization for the Township of Carlos will meet on Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 1:00 at the Courthouse Conference Room C by appointment only, for the assessment year 2022 (taxes payable 2023). The purpose of this meeting is to determine whether property in the jurisdiction has been properly valued and classified by the assessor. If you believe the value of classification of your property is incorrect, please contact your Assessor's office at **(320) 762-3884** to discuss your concerns. If you disagree with the valuation or classification after discussing it with your assessor, you may appear before the local board of appeal and equalization. The board will review your assessment and may make corrections as needed. You must appeal to the local board before appealing to the county board of appeal and equalization. All appeals are by appointment. Call the Douglas County Assessor's office at the above number to schedule an appointment.

Trash/Landscaping materials located in Township Right of Way

Spring will be here soon, although I bet not soon enough for most of us. With that comes the discovery of what has been dumped in the township ditches over the winter. It is mystifying why people feel they can dump their mattresses, old TV's, etc. in the township right of way. Contact Pope County Recycling Center at 320 763-9340 to check on what can be dropped off. The costs are minimal so please be respectful of our township and dispose of personal property properly.

Landscaping rocks in the Right of Way pose a dangerous obstacle for safety reasons. If you have any landscaping timber/rocks - they should not be in the Right of Way. All new road projects include the costs of swing away mailbox post. Newly paved driveways that are abutting gravel township roads are being laid too far out onto the township road. We've had an issue where the blade has clipped the tar and broken up the driveway. When installing a tar or concrete driveway, have your contractor end the product well back of the gravel township road. Road Maintenance is a difficult job, therefore, please be considerate of the road maintainer so he can perform his job with safety in mind.

Carlos State Park

Carlos Township has this wonderful resource in our own back yard. Please take the opportunity to visit the park, either to camp, hike or simply have a picnic. The park is located on CR 38, located off Hwy 29 approximately 2 miles north of Carlos Corners.

Carlos Township Annual Meeting
AGENDA
March 8, 2022 7:00 PM - Carlos Town Hall

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance

Select Moderator

Minutes: Approve Minutes of 2021 Annual Meeting

Guests and Presentations: (Funding to be voted as presented on or after hearing levy recommendation).

- 1) Alexandria Fire Department
- 2) Carlos Fire Department
- 3) Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission
- 4) Lakes Area Recreation
- 5) Carlos First Responders
- 6) Senior Center

Vote on Levy Recommendations

- 1) Alexandria Area Economic Development Commission
- 2) Alexandria School Community Recreation
- 3) Carlos First Responders
- 4) Senior Center

Old Business:

- 1) Treasurer's/Clerk's Financial Report for 2021 Comparison Spending Report

New Business:

- 1) Property Tax Levy for 2023
 - a. Set Amount for the General Fund
 - b. Set Amount for the Road and Bridge Fund
 - c. Other Services and Funding as Desired
- 2) Specify depository for Township funds
- 3) Specify locations for posting notices
- 4) Specify newspaper for publication of notices
- 5) The next township election will be November 8, 2022
- 6) Set time and place for the next Annual Township Meeting (Township day is March 14, 2023)
- 7) Discuss application of calcium chloride
- 8) Set Gopher Bounty

Other Business:

- 1) Road Maintenance Comments
- 2) Possible Ballot Question for November, 2022: To be able to charge residents for removing snow that has been pushed across township roads which is illegal
- 3) Dog Problems
- 4) Spraying for Weeds
- 5) From the Floor
- 6) Comment Box

Adjourn