

# Ross Lake Township Newsletter 2022

## Annual Township Meeting

The Ross Lake Annual meeting was held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. The elected moderator for the meeting was Mark Caspers. There were 3 residents attending the meeting.

## Levies voted in for 2023 are as follows:

*The levy remained the same as 2022 with the exception of the Road and Bridge, which went from \$100,000 to \$125,000. All were in favor.*

<b>100</b>	<b>General Fund.....</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
<b>201</b>	<b>Road and Bridge.....</b>	<b>\$125,000</b>
<b>202</b>	<b>Aitkin/Emily Fire Fund.....</b>	<b>\$11,000</b>
<b>OVERALL TOTAL LEVY.....</b>		<b>\$166,000</b>

## Annual 2021 Road Report

*Road work completed in 2021:* Brush was cleared to help with visibility. Signs were straightened and repaired where necessary. Roadside cutting was done twice, once for the first 8 ft. and in the Fall for the full roadway. A number of areas had to be brushed due to the height and area of the brush. Culverts were cleaned and repaired along with a new one installed at Mud Brook on Lens Road. Chip sealing was done on McNeal Road and Cuyuna Trail. There was a beaver trapped by Carey Cove and McNeal Road. Snowplowing and sanding was again handled by Holmwig. *If you have any issues or questions about a road, please call Leo Offerman, the Road Supervisor at 218-838-8623.*

## McNeal Road Problem Update

The asphalt is breaking up and the soil underneath is making it difficult to make repairs last. The bad spots have been filled with gravel and marked with signs. There have been many discussions and concerns with the repair and the costs. This is not an easy fix due to the clay and soil beneath the road. We are developing a reserve account to address the problem. In the meantime, we will keep filling in the bad spots with gravel and post with caution signs and delay additional repairs until we get more funds. We should mention that currently, it will cost in excess of \$200,000.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Treasurer Elaine Hill reported on the township's finances. The beginning balance for the township on January 4, 2021 was \$66,241.04 and the ending balance at December 31, 2021 was \$68,459.29. The township received \$9,206.08 from the MN state government (ARP) the American Rescue Plan.

## **Fire Contract Change**

Emily Fire was added with the Aitkin Fire due to response time. Island Lake area sections 7, 17, 18 & 19 are now covered by Emily Fire, the rest will remain with Aitkin Fire. There was a structure fire this last year on Island Lake that was a total loss. Very blessed there were no casualties.

## **Charlie "Joe" Banks**

This past year has been a difficult one for our board and especially, the family and friends of Charlie Banks. He lost a long tough battle with Covid. Our hearts go out to his wife Diana and their two children. Charlie was our Chairman and a tremendous part of our community...always there with a helping hand, whether it was the many residents he plowed out in the winter or the knowledge that he had and we knew we could always turn to when we had a question or a problem. Charlie, you are greatly missed!

## **Board Change**

Due to the loss of our chairman Charlie Banks, Dan Newman has taken over the chairman position and Mark Caspers has graciously volunteered to fill the open position. Thank you both!

## **Loss Of A Friend And Co-Worker**

Joe Gemlo, who was a good friend and neighbor, as well as a township road worker, passed away unexpectedly, on April 1, 2021. We miss you Joel!

## **The Ross Lake First Responders**

The Ross Lake First Responders (RLFR) would like to remind the residents that there are 6 volunteers who provide Emergency Medical Response as certified EMR's to Ross Lake Township and the Second Assessment areas of Crow Wing County. The RLFR are paged anytime a 911 call is placed for a medical emergency in our area requiring an ambulance. The 2 Certified Emergency Helipad (helicopter locations) operating out of Brainerd on CR 106 near Island & Mud lakes and on CR 36 near Stark Lake, have been utilized several times. If you have comments or questions you can also e-mail the Ross Lake Responders at: [rosslake1stresponders@gmail.com](mailto:rosslake1stresponders@gmail.com).

### **Town Hall/Broadband**

We now have broadband and a large smart TV at the town hall for better viewing and communication. Just a reminder that if you need a place for a gathering, the town hall is available for your use. Give us a call and we will reserve it for you. It's your town hall, please feel free to use it.

### **FYI: Walking Trails**

We have some wonderful walking trails between Ross Lake Road and Twin Lake Road. They are open to the public. There is a fun Halloween display in the Fall that is worth seeing. Please check it out, you won't be disappointed.

### **Woodtick Season**

Be on the look out for those pesky ticks that are coming around mid-May through mid-July. You can prevent ticks by wearing light colored clothing; tucking pants into boots and long sleeved shirts into pants; and use appropriate repellent. If you find a tick on yourself, remove the tick as soon as possible to lower your risk of contacting tickborne disease transmission.

### **Newsletter/Email – 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition**

A suggestion was brought up regarding our yearly newsletter. If any of you would be interested in getting the newsletter by email instead of the U.S. mail, please contact me and we will make the change. I'm still open to suggestions on what you would like to see in the newsletter or if you would prefer not to receive one. You may email me at [patvannelli@gmail.com](mailto:patvannelli@gmail.com).

### **Ross Lake Township Board Members**

Dan Newman (Chairman) – (218) 927-3039  
[dan@newmanassociates.com](mailto:dan@newmanassociates.com)

Elaine Hill (Treasurer) – (651) 341-0899  
[elaine.hill83@yahoo.com](mailto:elaine.hill83@yahoo.com)

Leo Offerman (Road Supervisor) – (218) 838-8623  
[leoofferman@gmail.com](mailto:leoofferman@gmail.com)

Pat Vannelli (Clerk) – (218) 232-1137  
[patvannelli@gmail.com](mailto:patvannelli@gmail.com)

Mark Caspers (Supervisor) – (763) 258-3842  
[macaspers@emily.net](mailto:macaspers@emily.net)

*~We look forward to seeing you at our Township Meetings~  
The first Monday of the month at 4:00 p.m.*