

CALEDONIA TOWNSHIP NEWSLETTER – 2018

The year began with the appointment of 3 new Board members: Kathy Vichunas, Supervisor; Rebecca Abend, Treasurer, and Tim Ratz, Trustee. They were welcomed by Kerry Scott, Clerk, and Jack Scott, Trustee.

Developing a budget for FY 2018-2019 was an immediate priority due the current fiscal year ending March 31st. The Board worked together to develop a more detailed budget and will continue to implement required procedures.

The 2018 Board of Review was held March 12th and 13th. The Supervisor is the mandated Secretary of the Board of Review and reported that there were 4 appeals and 1 Veterans Exemption Request.

Jack Scott, Trustee, spearheaded the renovation of the 2 restrooms at the Township Hall. G&G Construction completed the project earlier than expected and under budget. Jack is also working on updating the Township website: www.caledoniatwp.net

Tim Ratz, Trustee, worked with Thunder Bay Tree Service to have the identified Oak Wilt Trees cut down at the North End Park prior to the April 15th date. Due to the high cost to transport the felled trees to Lincoln, Tim worked with Eric Brandon, District Forester, to meet specific regulations to store the felled trees (covered with a tarp and with dirt sealing the tarp to the ground) on his property until the trees could be turned into firewood. Tim relocated the trees to his property at no cost to the Township which was greatly appreciated.

The North End Park was opened for the season on May 1st. A couple days before the opening of the Park, it was reported that the ice had broken concrete in the boat launch area and that several 3 to 4 feet pieces of re-rod were visible under the water. With help provided by Wes Theim and Allan Ratz of the Hubbard Lake Fire Department, Trustees Jack Scott and Tim Ratz were able to cut off the exposed re-rod and removed the broken concrete to eliminate a dangerous situation for boaters and their boats. Also, the Township thanks the William F. Moore VFW Post #6754 for the new flag at the North End Park which was raised for Memorial Day.

Kerry Scott, Clerk, attended training to implement the installation of the new voting equipment required by the State along with the new ICX, image cast touch screen, which prevents over or cross voting. She is also the Township's keeper of all records and has assisted the Board members in locating needed documents. At each Board meeting, Kerry provides copies of the accounts payables/payroll submitted for payment to the Board and the public and addresses any unusual expenses.

Rebecca Abend, Treasurer, worked with Gailen Thornton, the previous Township Treasurer, and the County Treasurer, to streamline procedures for receiving and properly identifying revenue. She also provides copies of the current Treasurer's report as well as a detailed overview of revenue received at each Board meeting.

Membership on the Planning Commission was reduced from 7 to 5 members to align with the Planning Commissions of Alcona and Hawes Townships by an Ordinance to amend the original Ordinance from 2009. At the Planning Commission's request, a proposal has been requested to develop an "interactive" Zoning Ordinance which will identify the appropriate laws and regulations applicable in the Ordinance.

A Township landmark, Smokey's Bar and Grill, was destroyed by fire on May 3rd. This is a tragic loss to the community. Thankfully, no one was injured since the fire began as they were closing for the evening. Fire Departments from Hubbard Lake, Sanborn, Alcona and the South Shore assisted. Contracts with the Hubbard Lake Fire Department and the Sanborn Township Fire Department to provide fire service support are funded by the Township Fire Millage which is on the ballot for renewal in August.

Working with the Alcona County Road Commission and using funds from our voter approved road millage, road projects during 2018 will include new limestone gravel surface on Anderson Road between Spruce Road and Swede Road; School Road between Spruce Road and Swede Road; and Swede Road from McDonald Road east 4,000 feet. The Township's 75 percent share of the cost will be about \$70,000.

These projects are the part of an evolving three-year gravel road improvement plan. The plan changes to some extent based on where problem areas crop up, but, overall, the strategy is to add screen pit run material the season before in preparation for the limestone gravel surfacing the next year. According to Road Commission Managing Director, Jesse Campbell, this is an "excellent proactive approach to maintain and preserve decent gravel roads in the Township."

Future years' gravel projects include attention to a section of Cedar Drive between Bennett Road and Birch Street that fell apart this spring and continuing with spot improvements on Hubbard Lake Trail.

In addition, the Road Commission is looking at an asphalt overlay on Spruce Road between Swede Road and Hubert Road, which carries a significant amount of traffic in and out of our Township.

Input about road improvement projects is always welcome by the Road Commission and helps to ensure the best use of Caledonia Township's road millage of \$155,554.

Lakefront property owners should respect their neighbor's riparian rights by ensuring that their docks, hoists and boats do not overlap onto their neighbor's lake frontage.

Again this year, the Township will provide dust control on gravel roads -- \$40 per resident and up to one-half (\$135) maximum of 300 feet -- for one seasonal application.

The members of the Township Board wish you a very happy summer season.

Tathy Velunas
Rebecca
Val. Smith
Tim A. Batts
Kerry Scott