

# *Brandon Township*

## **Summer 2024 Newsletter**

This newsletter is being mailed to all residents and property owners of Brandon Township, Douglas County, MN. As a reminder, the township has a website at [brandontownship.org](http://brandontownship.org) that contains extensive information such as vital statistics, history, news, meeting agendas and minutes, policies and board contact information.

### **Meetings**

The township conducts monthly meeting at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month, unless it is a legal holiday on which it's held on the following day. Meetings are held at the Township Hall at 106 Mallard Ln in Brandon, MN. The public is welcome to attend. Agendas and minutes are posted on the township website.

### **Annual Budget/Levy**

The township annual budget/levy is set at the Annual Township Meeting held on the second Tuesday of March. The budget for 2025 was set on March 12, 2024 at \$286,500 which was an increase of \$11,500 or 4.2% over the budget of \$275,000 for 2024. The levy request included \$61,500 for the general fund, \$145,000 for the road and bridge fund, \$30,000 for the fire and first responder fund, \$20,000 for the blacktop upkeep fund, \$20,000 for the major equipment replacement fund and \$10,000 for the bond repayment fund.

### **Board of Supervisors**

The township has an elected board of three voting supervisors (Kerby Lund, Dennis Lund & Bryan Meichsner) who are assisted by three non-voting, appointed officers (clerk Mike Cleary, treasurer Kathy Zimmerman and deputy treasurer Lezlie Sumstad). The township is primarily responsible for (continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1) maintaining 9.26 miles of paved roads and 37.6 miles of gravel roads. Those duties include snow removal, blading, weed control, sign repair and culvert and road repairs.

### **Elections**

The township is also responsible for overseeing elections to include the Presidential Nomination Election in March, the Primary Election in August and the National Election in November. If anyone wishes to be an election judge, please contact the clerk for more information on the training to be held in June & July that is required to be a judge.

Township offices that will be on the November, 2024 ballot are Supervisor Seat B (currently held by Kerby Lund) and Supervisor Seat C (currently held by Dennis Lund). These are 4-year terms. Filing at the township office (9630 Walleye Rd NW) is open from Tuesday, July 30, 2024 to Tuesday, August 13, 2024. There is a \$2.00 filing fee.

### **Road Policies**

We continue to have people dumping their old mattresses, couches, chairs, tires, refrigerators and even household garbage in the township road ditches. We also have road traffic street signs damaged and stolen. If you see a violator, contact the Sheriff or a township supervisor ASAP so they can be arrested and prosecuted. It costs the township time and money (your money) to clean up after these violators.

The township has some very important policies posted on the township website. These include A) Depositing Snow in the Township Right of Way, B) Driveway Approach & Culvert Policy, C) Dust Control, D) Gopher Bounties & Stray Dogs, E) Mailbox & Support Systems, F) Road Paving Policy, G) Road Right of Way Regulations, and H) Weed Control.

The township does not issue building permits, these are handled by Douglas County Land & Resource. Interesting note: Since 2013 (earliest records we've kept) there have been permits issued for 69 new houses in the township to date plus numerous storage buildings, etc. The population and number of households remains fairly steady at 760 and 318, respectively.

## **Noxious Weeds**

The Supervisors regularly spray weeds in the township road right of ways. Please take some time and look for noxious weeds on your property and either spray or cut them before they go to seed. The most common noxious weeds are Canadian Thistle and Wild Parsnip. Violators will first receive a friendly phone call and then a registered letter and, if no action is taken, we will spray or hire someone to mow. Please let a Township Supervisor or the clerk know of any noxious weeds or other road issues that need to be addressed.

## **Dust Control/Chloride Policy**

The township adopted a new dust control policy in 2023. Chloride will be applied to gravel roads (at no cost to the resident) in a 12-foot width for a distance of up to 200 feet in front of each residence as long as the residence is within 200 feet of the road. Where a residence is on a corner, both sides will receive the 200-foot coverage.

Chloride will be applied to gravel roads in an 18-foot width in front of businesses with the business paying for one-half the cost over the first 200 feet applied.

Very high traffic areas (such as Wolf Creek Rd and part of Lehn U Turn) may be designated by the Brandon Township Board to be treated with chloride regardless of the location of the residences. In addition, due to the difficulty in spot application on certain lake roads, the following gravel roads will be treated in their entirety at no cost to the residents; Devils Lake Rd, Little Chip Rd, Severson Rd, W Whiskey Lake Dr, E Whiskey Lake Dr and Walleye Rd.

## **Update on 2024/2025 Road Improvement Projects**

The township has paved a number of roads in recent years to include Sara Rd (2016), Big Chip Rd (2017), Tanglewood Rd (2019), Svend Dr (2021) and Strom Drive (2023). The cost of these projects was born primarily by the owners of property on these roads. Sealcoating will be applied to both Sara Rd and Big Chip Rd in 2024 at the township expense. (continued on page 4)

(continued from page 3) The first roads paved by the township were Chippewa Heights, Wallen Rd and Shorewood Lane in 1994. After 30 years of use, these roads need to be replaced. A full depth reclamation is planned for 2025 with extensive prep work being done in 2024. This work will entail replacing culverts, improving ditch drainage and constructing a turnaround.

The prep work will be paid from township funds. The reclamation project is estimated to cost approximately \$780,000 of which 80% will be assessed to the approximately 95 adjoining parcels and the remaining 20% paid from Township funds.

We applied for a grant through the MN Dept of Transportation Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) to reduce the cost by approximately one-half. That application was not funded in 2024. Unfortunately, the MN Legislature did not pass an appropriation or bonding bill in 2024 so there are no funds available to reapply for a LRIP grant in 2025.

Questions regarding these projects should be addressed to the Township Clerk, Mike Cleary (320-290-4490) or Supervisor Kerby Lund (320-298-3332).