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## STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP – MARCH 2019

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### Playground Equipment

An attendee at the 2017 Annual Meeting requested the Town Board explore replacing the playground equipment that was removed from Luscher's Park because of safety concerns due to deterioration caused by use and age. A verbal vote approved a \$25,000 budget motion for this. During 2018 a group of Township residents formed a playground equipment team to explore playground equipment options. This group presented a proposal for a playground set offered by "Playworld" to the Town Board for approval. The Board took the group's proposal, refined it, and because of generous donations from both the Outing Chamber and the Crooked Lake Volunteer Fire Department Firemen's Relief Association, was able to purchase two playground sets, one targeted for ages 2-5 year old children and the other for ages 5-12, from "Midwest Playscapes." The total cost including installation was just slightly over the authorized budget. The Township took delivery of this playground equipment in January and it is currently in storage awaiting installation at Luscher's Park this spring.

### Emergency Preparedness

Your Town Board continued its effort to be emergency prepared throughout 2018:

The Road Ambassador Program continues but a few replacements are needed. A spring 2019 get together and recruitment drive meeting is in the planning stage. Your Board attended a series of emergency management training sessions presented by the Cass County Sheriff's Department in conjunction with the Minnesota Homeland Security Department and will attend another session in April. Usually a Town Board representative attends the Quarterly Cass Sheriff's Department Emergency Management meeting.

**As recommended by the CLT Emergency Planning Team, the Township embarked on three projects:**

(1) The Township initiated a backup emergency electrical power supply project to make our Town Hall (TH) functional in an event of an extended power outage, and provide for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at the Fire Department Building. A generator was purchased and wiring of the TH is nearly complete. The wiring for the Fire Department Building is complete and we are searching for a generator to upgrade an existing generator there. The Board finalized the Crooked Lake Township Emergency Operations Plan that will be updated on an ongoing basis.

(2) In addition, the Board has obtained mutual assistance agreements with the cities of Emily and Fifty Lakes. Possibility of further agreements, or a multi party agreement is being explored with Thunder Lake, Little Pine and Fairfield Townships.

(3) The Board has communicated with and established a list of 15 local area contractors willing to contract with the Township in the event of emergencies requiring a response exceeding the Town capabilities.

### Road Damages

Due to heavy rainfalls and storm damage in June and July 2018, Cass County, including Crooked Lake Township was declared an emergency area qualifying for assistance from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and Minnesota HSEM (Homeland Security & Emergency Management) for reimbursement of the costs to the Township to repair the numerous areas of road damage/wash outs on all our roads. Most of our roads have already been completed/repared;

however, we have several roads yet that will be done this spring. The Federal part of this program will reimburse our Township 75% and the Non-Federal part of this program will reimburse our Township for 25% of the costs to do these repairs. This program is reimbursing the Town for material, labor and equipment costs for this storm damage. Crooked Lake Township is scheduled to receive reimbursement of costs equaling approximately \$130,303.34, which includes the cost for road work not yet completed. Our tax dollars at work here in the Township!

Driver Speed Advisory Sign On November 1, 2018, our employees noticed that the southbound driver advisory speed sign on State highway #6 had been damaged. Upon looking further, the legs of the metal posts were cut to bring the sign down and the solar panels and batteries were stolen. A report was made to the Cass County Sheriff for both property damage and theft. Our insurance carrier, Minnesota Association of Townships Insurance Trust, covered replacement of the sign, which has been ordered and received. We are currently waiting for the MNDOT Sign Crew to install the new sign.

Election 2018 The election of November 2018 returned Supervisors Connie Glass and Pat Bennington to the Town Board for 4-year terms and Tim Donnay was elected to the Board in place of Dave Schaumburg who had chosen not to run again after nearly 12 years on the Board. Thanks Dave and welcome Tim! Mark Skjolsvik and Lloyd Thyen continue terms ending in 2020.

Roosevelt Downtown Docks are reaching the end of their life cycle, but Kirk Smith felt it was still economically feasible to repair them over the winter, so they should be in shape for a few more years. Just remember to throttle down when approaching!

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Based on town funding approved last year (and significant RALALA funding), the south basin of Roosevelt Lake received treatment for the Eurasian milfoil. So far, the surveys and treatment have prevented the spread beyond the currently identified areas and perhaps even reduced the overall impact. Lake Washburn Association surveyed and treated identified areas and that situation is fairly stable.

### State Highway 6 roadwork

In 2019 MNDOT will undertake to improve Hwy 6 through CLT up to the south side of the bridge. The Board has worked with them to ensure proper placement of crosswalks and islands. The lakeside of the highway right-of-way will be maintained by the Township under a MNDOT Limited Use Permit to allow us to keep the dock complex installed and the Town will assume some responsibility for area maintenance. A large map overlay of the project is posted in the Town Hall.

### Citizen Recognition Board

Following the passing of Ed Evans last spring, the AIS Committee and the Outing Volunteer Library Board were looking for a way to recognize Ed's longtime contributions to the community, and the idea of a board in the Town Hall with individual plaques describing significant contributions by local citizens to the community, arose from the discussions. We'll be looking for a group of citizens to form a committee to work with the Board to identify future recipients of recognition. We'd hoped to have the board ready by the annual meeting but no such luck. It should be ready in late spring.

### Town Contracts With Service Organizations and Donations

Based on approval at the Annual Meeting, the Town contracted with the following organizations in 2018 for \$250 each, to provide services to the Township and immediately surrounding areas: First Call, Family Safety Network, Crisis Line and Referral Service, Northland Area Family Service Center, Cass County Faith in Action, Emily Food Shelf and Lakes Area Dive Service. Donations of \$250 were made to the Cass County Fair and the Cass County Museum/Historical Society.

### Miscellaneous

\*Board meeting minutes, official notices, and a Board roster including names, positions, duties and phone numbers are posted at the Canister Station, the Town Hall, and on the website.

\*'Friend' Crooked Lake Township on **Facebook** for future postings regarding events and/or emergency notices.

\*Town Office Phone: 218-792-5918 (leave message if not answered)

\*Town Email: [crookedlaketownship@brainerd.net](mailto:crookedlaketownship@brainerd.net)

\*Town Website: [crookedlake.govoffice2.com](http://crookedlake.govoffice2.com)

\*Sign up for NIXLE if you haven't already. <https://local.nixle.com/register> Emergency notices from Cass County and the Township are available.