

# GRASS ROOTS REPORT



SPRING 2019

The Official Newsletter of the ND Township Officers Association

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## LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

By Larry Syverson, NDTOA Director of Intergovernmental Relations

**The ND Legislature has finished its 66<sup>th</sup> session with mostly good results for Townships.**

We heard last fall that ND Association of Counties had voted to seek the repeal of the farm home exemption and we were expecting such a bill. However that is not what we ended up dealing with. Rather there was SB2278 that said *"The individual claiming the exemption also shall provide to the assessor, on a form prescribed by the tax commissioner, the necessary income information to demonstrate eligibility."* So an applicant must provide the information to get the exemption. To protect the privacy of the applicant's income information the bill went on to say *"Any income information provided to the assessor regarding eligibility for an exemption claimed under this subdivision is a confidential record."* So the information provided to the assessor to prove eligibility for the exemption is protected from open records demands.

There is also SB2360 which changed the qualifying formula for

the farm home exemption. It eliminates the \$40,000 limit on non-farm income and uses gross farm income rather than net. The requirement is now that gross farm income would be at least 66% of total gross income from all sources during any of the preceding two years. So if an applicant has farm sales of \$200,000 he could have non-farm income of \$100,000 and still qualify even if he lost money on the farm. The IRS uses this same qualification for the exemption from filing estimated taxes.

Understandably some won't like the *"shall provide"* in SB2278, but the change in SB2360 brings that requirement down to a one page, very simple form. So farmers can qualify even if they lose money (some have been lately), they won't get kicked off because the wife works to get health insurance, and at the same time the county auditor and tax directors can verify that only those legally entitled to the exemption get it without going through a three page form. Now, maybe the issue can rest, for a

while at least. Both farm home exemption bills easily passed and were signed by Governor Burgum. The changes are effective for tax years after 2019.

Opponents of the Farm Home Exemption say this change will cause a shift of the tax burden to non-farm residents and will result in public pressure on the legislature to drastically change or eliminate the exemption. That certainly is a possibility that we might face in the future.

The other big issue for townships is of course funding. HB1066 *"Operation Prairie Dog"* easily passed both chambers and was signed by Governor Burgum. It gives townships in the counties that receive over \$5M of oil & gas taxes 4% of their county's share of O&G tax (that is nine counties).

Townships in the other counties stand to receive \$9,400 each, once every two years. At current production and price it will take well into the next biennium to fill the county/township bucket, so the

*Cont'd on page 7*

**NDTOA gratefully acknowledges the very generous support of our 52nd Annual NDTOA Convention from:**



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## President's Comments



Hello again everyone,

As I write this in mid May amongst frosty nights and not so very warm days, some are wondering if we are heading for another record cold month in 2019, this time for the month of May.

As this is the first newsletter since the NDTOA Annual Convention held last December in Bismarck, I would like to thank the convention committee (Barb and Larry) for all their work in organizing the 2018 Convention.

Once again there was an excellent lineup of speakers with timely messages township officers could learn from. And, once again, there were several members of the Legislature attending portions of our activities. One highlight of these appearances was Senator Wardner dropping in to explain the "Prairie Dog Bill", HB1066, that he and a few others had been working hard on for several months.

As many of you are probably aware, this bill would provide a more permanent method of special funding for cities, counties, and townships in the non-oil producing areas for infrastructure maintenance and improvements, along with maintaining the current funding for those in the oil producing counties. This bill did become law along with a few others that were favorable to townships.

Larry did a great job once again representing ND townships and making legislators aware of the needs of us out here in the hinterlands. Thanks Larry.

Another example of your NDTOA dues working for you. Detailed information on the 2019 session can

be found on the website, [ndtoa.com](http://ndtoa.com).

If you look at the list of officers to the left of this column, you may notice a couple of new names. I would like to welcome Richard and Tim to the Board of Directors and wish them well as they take on their new duties.

More good news from the annual meeting was that NDTOA continues to enjoy a good financial position, even with providing the 15 workshops around the state free of charge to the attendees. This is only possible through the strong support of all those paying their membership dues—organized townships and counties for their unorganized townships. If your township, or county for unorganized townships, is not one of these supporters, please consider becoming a member of the team.

The Attorney General's office has informed us of questions coming in about meetings possibly being held without proper notice and asking the AG office to investigate. A very easy way to avoid this problem is to set a regular meeting schedule for the year and file it with your County Auditor. For the doubters out there, this is actually specified in NDCC 44-04-20(3).

Let's do our job diligently and keep our form of Grassroots Government alive and well.



**WORKING FOR YOU!**

# The Country Lawyer

by Thomas R. Moe, Attorney-at-Law



**Greetings!** Wow—what a cold winter we had to endure. It's been said that a person's favorite thing about Winter is when it's over; then there was the guy that said if complaining about winter was an Olympic sport there wouldn't be enough gold medals to go around; and finally, Antarctica called, and they want their weather back!

What we really need is some hot air—and speaking of the Legislature—it's over and the bills that NDTOA watched which were of interest to townships is reported by Larry on these and several other issues elsewhere in this issue.

You can give us a call if any of the measures are of particular interest to you, and perhaps we may be able to count on your local expertise when future explanation of our positions to your local legislators is needed.

Our state convention in December was a success, I think, with several good speakers and informative topics that were discussed. Unfortunately, we got short-changed on time, so we weren't able to complete our mini zoning workshop, so we will continue that discussion not only in this and future newsletters, but no doubt it will also be a hot topic in next year's workshop schedule.

I'm always disappointed, however, with the scant attendance numbers we get at NDTOA's annual meeting. I've never talked to anyone who says they didn't learn at least one item at either our state convention or at our regional workshops—I guess we'll just have to keep working on getting the word out!

Annual March meetings and equali-

zation meetings have come and gone as well—a sure sign of Spring. Township officers always would do well to review some of the meeting procedures in Title 58 of the handbook.

We heard again this year that there were several townships that had controversial issues on their agendas—excess tax levy voting, personality conflicts which caused contested officer elections, zoning mix-ups causing headaches, etc.

Whenever conflicts arise, that's when utilizing proper voting procedures, proper meeting notices, and proper decorum really helps to diffuse heated meetings. It's been said that *"you can't throw the book out the window unless you know what the book says!"*

For those townships that experienced budget problems due to increased snow removal operations, remember that townships, along with other political subdivisions, do have the authority to issue certificates of indebtedness—in other words, are allowed to borrow money against future tax levies. Most local banks are familiar with the process. Let me know if you need more info about this. I've been noting more right-of-way "creep" over the years—in other words, operators are planting closer and closer to the road centerline with each crop season. It ends up destroying back slopes and in a lot of cases can cause undue erosion which eventually affects the in slopes and the road surfaces as well. Try some gentle reminders to operators, now at planting season, about this problem.

Have a safe Spring, and see you

down the road. Here are some questions received lately in the office. TRM

**Q:** Our chairman took up some zoning permits at our annual meeting. I didn't think that was right to have that discussion then. Right or Wrong?

**A:** It was probably okay to have the discussion, but any action taken would have to be accomplished at a properly called zoning meeting. (that could have been done on annual meeting day, with proper notice about a zoning meeting being held immediately after the annual meeting adjourned—same people, but all in a different capacity—i.e. wearing a different "hat".)

**Q:** We have an unimproved field road on a section line that has some washouts and some bumps. We will run the blade over it once this summer to help the adjacent farmers out, but won't do it again. Should we now designate it as a minimum maintenance road?

**A:** Since you indicate it's a one-time shot, probably not, as it probably is not going to be a 'road' within your permanent inventory. Yes, townships have responsibility for hazard clearance on unimproved section lines, but that doesn't mean that you have to call it a 'road', after the hazards are cleared. No sense to elevate an unimproved section line to "road" status if you have no intentions to maintain it for the traveling public in the future.

**Q:** Our chairman couldn't be at the annual meeting, so he scheduled it

# The Country Lawyer cont'd

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for a week later. Could he do that?

**A:** Annual township meetings are to be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in March. See Title 58-04-01 of the state law in our handbook—no exceptions. And, just because the chairman, or any of the supervisors for that matter, are not in attendance, the meeting can proceed regardless. (I understand that most of the time, the officers are the only ones that show up, but remember, the annual meeting is for the residents, not just the officers.)

**Q:** We had an old bridge that finally fell down—we closed the road, but the adjacent landowners want us to put in a new crossing, but we have no money for that. Are we required to replace the bridge?

**A:** Bridges are the responsibility of counties in our State—even on township roads. But once the bridge is condemned, or unusable in your case, the county is not required to replace it—although some counties have been replacing smaller bridges with large culverts, and then turning the responsibility for maintenance, cost, etc., to the township.

Most of the time, however, counties simply wash their hands of the situation, effectively telling the township that if the crossing needs

replacing, then let the township figure out how to pay for it. We have had several instances where the adjacent operators have chipped in with some funding to help the townships out. It helps when attempting to persuade the county to help with some funding if the distance for the operator to go around by another route is quite lengthy as well. P.s.: Make sure your 'road closed' signs are the proper ones, and check to see if you need a 'road closed ahead' sign, too.

**Q:** We're having an argument with the railroad about closing a crossing. They want to close it, and we want it to stay open. Does the township have any say in the matter?

**A:** See section 24-09-10 of our Century Code which deals with changing or closing railroad crossings. Ultimately, the state Public Service Commission (PSC) can have a hearing with the parties and order whether there should be an "...establishment, vacation, or relocation of the crossing in question..." if an agreement between the parties cannot be reached. And, if the PSC orders the crossing to be vacated, it must be done at the rail-

road's expense. Best to get some evidentiary materials together in anticipation of pleading your case—e.g. pictures, statements from adjacent landowners, distances to the next available crossing, etc.

**Q:** We have a township road that has an old cattle guard constructed fifty years or so ago. It has broken down several times and is getting quite dangerous. The owner won't fix it and says we have to because it's on a public road. Do we have to do this?

**A:** See generally, sections 24-10-(1-8) of the Century code which governs cattle guards and gateways. Specifically 24-10-07 speaks to the failure to maintain and repair. In essence, the person is given notice to do the repairs and if not completed, the township road overseer can make the repairs and charge the person responsible for the cattle guard, or "to that person's assignee"—meaning a new buyer of the property. There is also language in paragraph 4 regarding the township's authority, after notice, to remove or destroy the cattle guard.

## Jim Hennessy Receives President's Award for 2018

The President's Award is given for meritorious service to ND Townships by someone that is not a Township Officer.

Jim Hennessy is a 1987 graduate of NDSU. He began work as the Mountrail County Extension Agent in April of 1993 and in 2014 he created and transferred to the Mountrail County Ag Agency. He continues serving as their agent.

He has always been a *"truly a civic minded and a good person"* according to Troy Coons, Lowland Township Chairman. Troy continued; "He is very active in anything for Townships and ag related items and especially youth activities; Jim does a lot with 4H, horsemanship, shooting sports, etc."

Besides his service to the Townships of Mountrail County he is the secretary of the Ag improvement association and county weed control officer.



# NDTOA WELCOMES TWO NEW DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Two new Directors were elected during the 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention; in District 2, Richard Lynne and in District 6, Tim Geinert. Both have long histories of service to their Townships and county associations and have each attended many annual NDTOA conventions. If your county is in District 2 or 6 and you are planning your county meeting, give your new director a call, he would like a chance to get to know you.

**Richard Lynne** is a retired fourth generation farmer from Wells County. Richard and his wife of nearly 45 years, Rae Ann, have two daughters and three grandchildren. His great-grandfather homesteaded the land in 1889. His grandfather was born in Norway Lake Township in 1889, the year North Dakota became a state. Richard graduated from BCATS in Maddock, attended Lake Region Junior College in Devils Lake, Served in the Navy Seabees from 1970-1972.

When he was an active farmer-rancher, he raised all types of small grains, corn, soybeans, and pinto beans and raised Angus cattle. Richard has served on several boards throughout the years, including Farmers Union Oil Company, Benson County Farmers Union, St. Williams Church, Norway Lake Township, Wells Co. Township Officers, served as the Assessor for the township, WE Wind, LLC and is presently serving as Clerk/Treasurer for the township. He has always taken an interest in local government and has been known to make a few phone calls to his local and national legislators!

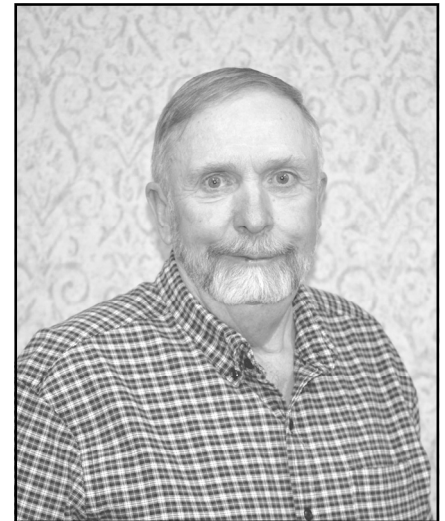
**Tim Geinert** serves as the clerk / treasurer for Mikkelson Twp in LaMoure County and as Vice-President of the LaMoure County TOA. Tim and his wife of 37 years, Joanne, have 5 grown children. He is employed by the LaMoure County Highway Dept as the Assistant Highway Superintendent and a motor

grader operator. In addition to these real life endeavors, Tim and Joanne raise vegetables for sale in 2 high tunnels plus about 2 acres, and participate in Sodbuster Days at Fort Ransom State Park where they demonstrate sauerkraut and apple strudel.



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## Proposal to Change NDTOA Constitution Fails

In the last actions of the 2017 annual convention business meeting there was a motion by Burleigh and seconded by Traill that a proposal to eliminate the term limits for President and Vice President be brought to the 2018 convention. That motion prevailed on a vote of the assembly.

Notice that an election would be held to change Article IV of the NDTOA Constitution at the 2018 Convention was published in the *Grassroots Report* to provide at least 30 days notice as is required.

**The proposal failed to garner the required 2/3 affirmative vote of the 2018 Convention; so the term limits for President and Vice President remain at three terms of two years each.**

# Legislator of the Year Award

The North Dakota Township Officer Association (NDTOA) honored Representative Don Vigessa with the Legislator of the Year award.

“NDTOA appreciates Representative Vigessa’s long history of supporting Townships and his constant concern for rural issues,” said NDTOA executive secretary Larry Syverson.

Vigessa owns and operates, VW Motors of Cooperstown, and represents District 23. Vigessa has served in the House of Representatives since 2003, serving as the Assistant Majority Leader for the last several sessions and is currently the Chairman of the House Appropriations Government Operations Sub Committee.

The award was given at the NDTOA 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in December.



## Tractor Mower Safety Training

**June 25, 2019** 9:00 am—4:00 pm CT  
Steele County Shop, 201 Gordon Street  
**Finley, ND**

**June 27, 2019** 9:00 am—4:00 pm CT  
Divide County Shop, 707 1st Ave. NW  
**Crosby, ND**

Registration Deadlines:  
Finley—June 18, 2019  
Crosby—June 20, 2019

\$25 Registration Fee includes training material

Go to **NDLTAP.org**

for training descriptions and registration.

# What Qualifies as a ROAD?

By Larry Syverson

We often get questions about just what qualifies a road for the Township Mileage Payment; the answer is not in the ND Century Code. So where is it? To clear it up I contacted Ryan Skor in the ND Treasurer’s Office. The answer is in what is known as Administrative Rules, these are policies developed by agencies of the state government, with the blessing of the legislature, to handle the tasks the legislature has assigned to them. A frequent phrase in a law passed by the legislature goes something like “the commissioner shall establish rules to”.

This particular rule came from the ND Treasurer’s Office and was adopted in 1983 to regulate the payments to townships then under NDCC 57-50-01 and now under NDCC 54-27-19.1.

## 84-03-01-01. Township road defined.

*A township road, for purposes of the administration of North Dakota Century Code section 57-50-01, is a public road established pursuant to North Dakota Century Code chapter 24-07 which is an improved road, constructed, maintained, graded, and drained by the township, or county in the case of an unorganized township. A township road includes a street in an unincorporated townsite and does not necessarily have to be surfaced. A sodded road is not a township road. In order for a section line to be a township road it must be graded and drained and be an improved maintained road. A township road is a public road which is not designated as part of a county, state, or federal-aid road system and is not located in an incorporated city.*

A minimum maintenance road qualifies, a road does not have to be on the maintenance agreement with the county to qualify, it does not have to be graveled. All that is required is that it is a built up township road, maintained enough so the driving surface is not sod. The township may have to arrange occasional blading to keep the grass out; that could be as little as every two years or perhaps even a light disking would do it. The streets of an unincorporated village within a township also qualify as township roads for the fund.

By July 1<sup>st</sup> of each even numbered year the county commission is to certify the mileage of each township to the State Treasurer. It is up to you to make sure they are correctly reporting your Township’s qualifying miles. That will be July of 2020 so keep that in mind.

## Legislative Wrap-up *cont'd*

payments would go out the first half of 2021. Should the county/township bucket not completely fill by the end of a biennium, townships would get 13% of what is in the bucket. Originally the payment would have come out much earlier but the House amended the bucket-list so a \$400M state fund (SIIF) would fill before the county/township bucket gets any. This was done to protect the state's ability to meet its obligations should the oil market crash again. This should not cause a problem other than the delayed payment in the 20-21 biennium but no telling for the bienniums after that. 1066 is written without "sunset" so it could be "permanent". Depending only on price/production/future legislature! (So don't bank on it too much!)

One irritation here is that the city bucket and the county/township bucket were supposed to fill equally. With the amendment, part of the city bucket is still in line before the SIIF bucket, it is the base payment that cities over 1,000 get. The county/township bucket and small cities have to wait until after the SIIF bucket fills. It just might be they know where the most votes are.

There was a late developing disaster amendment to the Adjutant General's Budget (SB 2016) to take \$8.1M from the State Disaster Fund and distribute \$5,000 to each Township, in the counties that receive less than \$5M of oil and gas tax, to help with the snow and flooding costs. There was a question in the House about why are we giving \$5,000 to 1,600 "non-oil" townships when only 700 in the SE were declared disasters?

This was answered that in 2017 the other parts of the state had their own snow and flooding disas-

ters and were banking on the \$10,000 that the legislature passed in that session, that funding was vetoed by the Governor, and it will be two years before the Prairie Dog payments come. This is a little bit of a catch up for those Townships. We could love this bill a lot more if it was state wide but there are quite a few legislators that think the townships in the nine major oil-producing counties get enough funding, so that was not the way it would go.

A township supervisor from LaMoure County told me in March that his township had pushed snow until all the money was gone, they couldn't do any more. A few weeks later he told me, the snow is melting and now it is washing out the roads and culverts. While \$5,000 won't do any major repairs, it will help and nearly every township has had at least that much impact from weather in the last couple of years.

With the House amendment, SB2016 passed the House 73-13 and the Senate 46-0. We appreciate the work done by Representatives Mike Brandenburg, Keith Kempenich, and Jeff Delzer to develop and propose this amendment. We also thank the leadership of both the House and Senate for their help shepherding the amended SB 2016 successfully through the two chambers.

We also thank Governor Doug Burgum for recognizing the impact the weather has had on Townships this year and the last several as well. The \$5,000 payment will likely be in the July 2019 distributions.

There will be a change in the bonding for Township clerks and treasurers; it will still be in the state bonding fund but it will be handled by the ND Insurance Reserve Fund. I would imagine they will be a little

more effective at communicating the need for townships to file for the coverage than the Insurance Commissioner Office has been. This change came from SB 2010 the insurance commissioner's budget bill.

Township bonding has been provided without charge for many years; all that has been required to get the coverage is to complete an application. The application really has little to do with the way townships operate; it is kind of a "one size fits all" form. Perhaps NDIRF will redesign a form to be more applicable to townships. There has been no indication the cost will change.

**SB 2139** restored the ability for the State Water Commission to cost share snagging and clearing projects with the local water resource districts. This had been stopped by a bill in the last session. Snagging and clearing protects roads and bridges from damage caused by log jams in the natural waterways.

**SB 2345** made a few changes to township or county zoning authority to regulate the siting of animal feeding operations.

The one good change was that it made clear that someone intending to build a large feedlot would have to get the local permit before the state would accept the application. This stops developers that start out thinking the state permit is all they need.

Another change, one that is not as acceptable, is the limit of 60 days for board action on an application to site a feedlot. When you consider that zoning ordinances commonly require fifteen days public notice before a hearing, and many local official papers are weekly publications, that could *Cont'd on page 8*

mean twenty five of those sixty days are needed to notify the public of a hearing.

A local community may still extend the setbacks in its feedlot regulations by up to 50% above the state limits, but there is the possibility that those increases may not stand up unless *“compelling, objective evidence specific to the”* jurisdiction exists that would justify the increase.

Once an application is received, no additional regulations may be imposed upon that project other than those effective at the time it was submitted; this continues for a period of three years after the date

the permit is approved. So once an application is filed, the developer has three years to build and the regulations cannot be changed after the permit is issued.

Unchanged is the requirement that an animal feeding regulation must be filed with the state to be enforceable. This was handled under the Department of Health and is now under the newly designated Department of Environmental Quality. There is some departmental reorganizing going on and website resources still under construction, but to see what the state has on animal feeding regulations go to ND DEQ and follow the links.

ND DEQ>Water Quality>NDPDES Permits>Animal Feeding Operations

On that page if you click on the Zoning Regulations link you will find the interactive map that has all the County and Township regulations that have been filed and can be enforced. On the page with the map there is a link to a Model Zoning Ordinance for feedlot regulation.

Watch for developments on our website [NDTOA.COM](http://NDTOA.COM) under the Zoning tab. I hope to develop some resources for Townships that wish to create their own Comprehensive Plans and Zoning Ordinances.



**NDTOA Officers and Directors.** Pictured left to right on the stairs: District 4 Director Leon Monke, District 1 Director Thomas Wheeler, District 6 Director Tim Geinert, District 3 Director Al Brekkerus and District 2 Director Richard Lynne. Front row: Vice President Lee Brandvold, Treasurer Barb Knutson, Past President Larry Syverson, President Roger Olafson.



# All in a Day's Work

By Leanna Emmer

On November 5 and 6 I had the opportunity to join Ritch Gimbel, Bottineau County Road Superintendent and his road crew at 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW in Chatfield Township where they were in the process of the final steps of installing a double 9 foot by 8 foot 6 foot concrete culvert. The week before, the crew prepped the location for the culvert installation.

Next to the new culvert are 2, 60-inch corrugated culverts. The culverts were installed several years ago (2005). Unfortunately, they are unable to handle the spring melt-off and the high water flow on the Cut Bank Creek, which resulted in the roadway washing out 4 times in the past 10 years (2009, 2011, 2014, 2017). As a result, this project qualified and received FEMA funding in part for the culvert.

It was obvious, Ritch and his crew are a cohesive team, ribbing each other while working diligently to set 14 culvert sections (using a crane and bobcat), like huge Legos. The work is hard and the weather was cold, windy, and blustery.

The commitment and dedication of the Bottineau County Road Department crew is commendable. Fellow citizens will be able to use this road in the spring of the 2019. Great Job Guys!

*(Bottineau County road crew on this project were Ritch Gimbel, Darrel Keller, Bud LaRocque, Jamey Brown, Scott Moen, James Condit, Sean Hahn and Tim Condit.)*



“The Road Crew is impressive, saving money and providing quality roads!”

-Leanna Emmer

# Treasurer's Report by Barb Knutson



Happy Spring, I think. Have had to rethink my position quite a few times already. Surely, one of these days!

Have started to work on the mailing list in earnest for the last bit. Thanks for all those that have furnished me with new lists. Make sure you are getting information for all officers, not just new officers, to your auditor. Name of officer, office held, address, phone number and email address. The Auditors have been very helpful with this in the past. We need to make sure they have good information.

After annual meetings, the dues started coming in at a good rate. I am happy to say that there are some counties that are getting more up to date on payment and also some townships that have never paid before have seen the importance of paying dues, as it is a benefit to all!

Thanks to the counties that have no organized township or partial organization of townships for doing their part in paying dues. Just a reminder, dues are due May 1 of

current year.

In visiting my district this year and having calls from across the state, it seems there is a lot of questions about what is required in a meeting notice? What constitutes a meeting? What kind of a meeting are we having? Who can vote at elections? Do we have to have Annual Meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in March? How many days required for notice before meeting.

Also we need to learn the difference in a supervisor meeting, an annual meeting, a zoning meeting and a special meeting. These are all very well spelled out in the North Dakota Township Officers Handbook. We need to educate ourselves by using the handbook. If you do not have a handbook and would like one, contact myself or Larry Syverson, to have one mailed out or picked up. Contact information is in this newsletter.

Cost of handbook to dues paying township officers is a one-time payment of \$15 per book plus \$5 postage if mailed. Updates are redone every two years to keep up

with legislative changes that affect townships. These updates are available at the workshops that are put on by the Association all across the state in February and March of even years. Or, they are also available electronically at [www.ndtoa.com](http://www.ndtoa.com).

The schedule for workshops are published in the *GrassRoots Report* newsletter and on the web page prior to those dates. If there is anyone that would rather get *GrassRoots Report* newsletter electronically, send us your email information and we will be happy to add you to the electronic list.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind each and every township officer that you are important and your contribution is needed to make township government work. Hope you all have a wonderful and enjoyable summer. Till next time, Happy Trails!

## **Preventing Runovers and Backovers Trenching and Excavating**

**Tues., June 18, 2019**

8:00 am—4:00 pm CT

Jamestown City Hall

102 3rd Ave SE, Jamestown, ND

Registration Deadline: June 11, 2019

\$25 Registration Fee includes Material

## **Fall Protection Trenching and Excavating**

**Wed., June 19, 2019**

8:00 am—4:00 pm CT

Cass County Highway Department

1201 Main Ave. W

West Fargo, ND

Registration Deadline: June 12, 2019

\$25 Registration Fee includes Material

Go to **NDLTAP.org** for training descriptions and registration.

# Nobody Named for Grassroots Leadership Award!

*Somebody was definitely more qualified, dedicated and served the Township in some outstanding way; but Somebody didn't get nominated. Perhaps we should have printed the form and reminder earlier and more often, we will try to do better on that. The form will be printed in the summer and fall Grassroots Report; it is now also available on the website.*

*There is a lot of room on the form to list qualifications, fill in what you can. It doesn't have to be completely filled in but the more information you can provide the better chance your candidate will have. The nominations have to be in our hands by November 15 each year but the earlier the better.*



## NDTOA GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

To recognize the leadership, creativity, and dedication of township officials, the NDTOA has established a leadership award to pay tribute every year to an individual whose community service exhibits the highest standard of dedication, ability and service.

### ELIGIBILITY

The award will be presented to an individual, locally elected official, currently in office. It will recognize him or her for their outstanding contributions on a sustained basis or from a single performance.

Nominees should have responsibility for accomplishing or causing to be accomplished significant programs or projects within their area of responsibility, to the ultimate benefit of the general public.

Examples of such professional accomplishments include local government cost-cutting, coordination of a major local volunteer effort, and promoting townships at the national level, establishing new local services or programs, and success in securing public or private funding for local projects.

### SELECTING CRITERIA

Nomination should include as much information as possible, such as: Complexity of the problem(s) addressed. Measurable improvements resulting from nominee's accomplishments. Use of original, innovative or creative approaches and solutions in difficult situations. AND Long-term or lasting benefit of the nominee's accomplishments.

### NOMINATING PROCEDURE

Nominations may be submitted by member townships and counties of the NDTOA. A nomination form is below for your convenience. Just complete and mail (or e-mail [larry.ndtoa@gmail.com](mailto:larry.ndtoa@gmail.com)). **Nominations must be received by November 15<sup>th</sup>.**

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### NDTOA GRASSROOTS GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NOMINEE: Name, office, Township, County, address and phone numbers.

Your name, office, address and phone numbers.

Other objective references: name, office, address, phone numbers.

Please attach a summary of the major accomplishments for which the Township official is being nominated. Also attach as much information as you can, such as a brief biography of the nominee summarizing positions held, civic and professional affiliations, and other relevant personal data. The more information you can provide the better chance your candidate will be selected.

The award will be presented at the NDTOA Annual Convention in December. Mail (or email) the completed form to: NDTOA; 465-150th Ave NE; Mayville ND 58257-9011 For questions or for copies of this form please phone 701-430-1735 or email [larry.ndtoa@gmail.com](mailto:larry.ndtoa@gmail.com).



# Grass Roots Report

North Dakota Township Officers Association  
2600 236th St. NE  
McKenzie, ND 58572



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## **NOTICE TO COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**If your county includes unorganized townships:**

Is your county paying dues for each  
unorganized township?

The per mile funding each township gets is a result of  
NDTOA effort. If your county doesn't pay dues,  
someone else is paying your freight!

*Your county has benefited from NDTOA for many years.*

**Have you calculated the benefit your county  
has received from the efforts of NDTOA?**

**NORTH DAKOTA**

**NDIRF**

**For North Dakota. For Local Government. For You.**

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