

GRASS ROOTS REPORT



FALL 2014

The Official Newsletter of the ND Township Officers Association

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NDTOA 48th Annual Meeting Planned

By Ken Yantes, Executive Secretary

The 48th annual meeting of the North Dakota Township Officers Association has been set to begin on December 1st and adjourn before noon on December 2nd.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. in the Ramada at Bismarck ND. The address is 1400 E Interchange Ave., Bismarck ND 58501.

The registration desk phone number is 701-258-7000. Please call before November 15, 2014, to get a special township officer room rate by mentioning that you are a member of the ND Township Officers Association.

This year's convention registration fee remains the same as last year, which is \$40 if you pre-register with our Treasurer, Barb Knutson.

Complete the registration form found elsewhere in this newsletter, enclose a check and mail to: Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

Registration at the door will be \$50. This fee will include the noon lunch and an evening banquet as well as morning and afternoon coffee and cookies.

All township officers are invited to attend including: supervisors, clerks, treasurers, assessors and any other appointed or elected officers of your township.

Our by-laws indicate that only two

votes per dues paid county may be used in the meeting voting process, but you may enter into the discussion of any and all items of business when recognized by the Chairman.

The meeting will feature the following speakers:

- **ND Governor Jack Dalrymple**
- **State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt** and her Chief of Staff, will explain the need to report road expenses to state agencies
- **Denise Brown**, NDLTAP organization, will explain the programs that they have to assist local townships to provide safe road surfaces.
- **Kathy Neset**, a representative of the Tioga area Neset Consulting Service, will explain conditions existing there.
- **Francis Schwind**, Improvement of township road wear and dust control on township gravel roads.
- **Fred Meyer**, FHM Equipment, will present his line of equipment for township road use.
- **Mark Verke**, Insurance Reserve Fund, will bring us up to date on some of the hazards found on our township traveling surfaces.

The noon Awards Luncheon will feature an award given to a ND Township Officer that has been serving his/or her township with honor and distinction for a long

period of time. This award program has been in effect for the last 26 years.

The NDTOA business meeting will start at 1:00 p.m. and include reports from President Roger Olafson, Executive Secretary Ken Yantes and reports from all other standing committees.

Directors for the even numbered districts will be held those directorships up for election are:

District 2 presently held by Mark Shipley from Devils Lake

District 4 presently held by Leon Monke from Regent

District 6 presently held by Steve Ginsbach from Hankinson

These directors may all be re-elected to their positions.

The business meeting will adjourn before 5:00 p.m. for a no-host social. The evening banquet will begin at 6:00 p.m. At that time we will hear from Grant Levi, Director of Dept. of Transportation.

The legislator of the Year Award will be presented at the conclusion of the banquet.

A special workshop will be held in the morning of December 2nd. State Treasurer Kelly Schmidt and her director of finance will discuss funding distributions from the their office. Please plan to attend this event that will begin at 8:30 a.m.

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39 1st Ave. NW, Mayville, ND 58257

President's Comments



Hello everyone!

Finally, it appears we have a few days of nice harvest weather for the last few days of October but you all know what's coming!

That should be a reminder that the NDTOA annual convention must be just around the corner and you will find info for that elsewhere in this issue.

The convention committee is working hard to put together an informative agenda for this meeting and I urge everyone to attend to see what we have been up to for the past twelve months and give us direction for the next twelve months and more. NDTOA is your organization.

In July seven members of your Board of Directors attended the multi-state conference held in New Ulm, MN. A detailed report on this meeting is also found elsewhere in this issue.

One interesting item I noted is that Minnesota townships pay an average of \$450/township for dues to the state association (rate depends on population) and there are only two townships that are not dues paying members.

We also had a good conversation with Jennifer Immo of the Ferguson Group (yes, the same organization we were disgruntled with a few years ago when we decided to discontinue our membership in NATaT). It appears there has been a major change in the staff and their attitude.

I have seen much information over the past few months that indicate the Ferguson Group is doing a much better job of making aware of the needs of the rural communities to the U.S. legislative bodies than they were doing a few years ago.

At the very least, we offered to help where we could on issues relating to rural problems.

Our Directors of Intergovernmental Relations (Ken and Larry) continue to closely watch actions and attend meetings of legislative interim committees, Governor's Task Force on Property Tax Reform, transportation coalition, ACIR, etc., etc.

I have no doubt that we are far better

off as a result of the efforts and presence of Ken and Larry at the various meetings and hearings they attend. They are often called upon to give information or recommendations on the subject at hand.

I would like to remind everyone to check out our website – www.ndtoa.com which has many items that may be of interest to you. The discussion forum has many questions and answers that may be of much help and more questions are being posted often, so be sure to check it out frequently.

We are continually pursuing more participation of the townships in the state to support NDTOA by paying dues to our organization. This effort includes requesting counties that have unorganized townships to pay dues for the unorganized townships in their county. Any benefits such as transportation funding (formerly one cent gas tax) begun in the early 1980s and the special distributions of the past few years were obtained through much effort by NDTOA and are received by every township in the state whether they are organized or unorganized and whether they are members of NDTOA or not.

This means we need the help of as many as possible to "help pull the load". If you are a township supervisor in an organized township or a county commissioner in a county that has unorganized townships, we would ask you to ensure each township is doing what it can to support our efforts.

We currently have the counties of Bottineau, Bowman and Burleigh paying NDTOA dues for their unorganized townships and are hoping more county commissions have similar foresight and step up to support our efforts.

Remember, the road going by your place could be the one that doesn't get maintained as good as you would like because of lack of funds.

Let's do our jobs diligently and keep our form of Grassroots Government alive and well!

NDIRF *by the CEO*

As I write this, the political advertising media blitz for 2014's general election is rounding into full cry.

As you read this, the first Tuesday in November will be drawing nigh and not a moment too soon – we will most likely be at or near saturation point with regard to the marketing of the candidates.

If all data we needed to be informed voters were being transmitted to our passive receptors as we watched television, listened to the radio, noted billboards and yard signs in passing or scanned print ads, we'd be set.

More likely, however, the views of candidates regarding issues of specific concern to local government in North Dakota live a little deeper.

Given the increasing importance of each passing year to the ability of local governments to provide the services so necessary to our continuing growth, we need to perform our "due diligence" as electors so that we have an idea what to expect when January, 2015 rolls around.

I encourage you to take advantage of news profiles, interviews, forums and even conversations with the candidates themselves to help decide who is best suited to carry on this important work.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to all who have tossed their hat into the ring. Campaigns take a great deal of personal time and effort with no guaranty of result - all who stand for election perform a valuable public service.



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Executive Secretary's Corner

by Ken Yantes



By-Laws and Constitution Changes Recommended

The NDTOA Board of Directors approved the following changes on October 4, 2014:

Constitution: Article IV—second sentence; replace "township officers present at the annual meeting" with "membership of the association during annual meetings held in odd numbered years."

By-Laws: Article VI—first sentence; replace "at large" with "each representing a separate district, but elected by the entire association". Second sentence—delete entire sentence and replace with "Directors must be elected township officers and a member of the association as defined in Article III of the Constitution". Last sentence—delete "at-large".

SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS

All written resolutions should be sent to committee members **no later than Friday, Nov. 23, 2013:**

Mark Shipley

PO Box 494
Devils Lake, ND 58301

Leon Monke

5645 B 106th Avenue
SW
Regent, ND 58650

Steve Ginsbach

16290 91st Street SE
Hankinson, ND 58041

Or to the NDTOA office: Ken Yantes, PO Box 104, Brocket ND 58321. They will be presented at the Resolutions Committee meeting on Sunday evening November 29, 2014.

The Country Lawyer

by Thomas R. Moe, Attorney-at-Law



Greetings! Fall is here, and I don't know where the Summer went. Seems like I was just planting tomatoes in the garden, looking forward to that very first ripe one, and now, all of sudden the plants have already succumbed to the first frost.

At least baseball is still happening—although it too can be a brutal sport—I mean, suppose your errors were counted and published in the paper every day!

Our State NDTOA convention is soon upon us, so I hope many of you are planning on attending. The schedule of events is still in the works but I see that I will be on the program again with a question & answer period and open forum.

I really enjoy this, as I get to put a face with a name finally after talking with many of you over the phone.

Please seriously consider attending this year, as we really need more township officers to participate. It's a valid expense for your township, so your treasurer should reimburse you for expenses for attending.

There also some proposed constitutional and by-law changes which are listed elsewhere which require your consideration and vote as well.

The November elections are also fast approaching, and I hope that township officers will make sure to attend the various candidate forums and debates that are held in the legislative districts.

This is a good time to introduce yourselves to those who will represent us at the next session starting in January in Bismarck. This is especially important for those who live in urban districts, where sometimes just a portion of a township

may also be part of the overall "city" district. A lot of those urban legislators don't realize they need to be cognizant of rural and township issues, too, because they also have constituents who live out in the country!

Remember to do a road and sign survey yet this Fall. You can use the forms that the Insurance Reserve Fund provides, or just use a regular notebook.

The important thing is to document your trip and note those signs that should be replaced, and note those roads that need some work.

I think it is especially important for officers living on the north side of the township to check the roads on the south side for example. And, vice versa.

Asking one of the county water board members to ride along is also a good idea if you have some perennial washout areas that always need attention. (And, if you don't get along with your water board—get that situation fixed as well—we're all in this together!)

Fall is also 'field scraper' time, so be especially vigilant for those operators that insist on cleaning road ditches without permission. You probably know in advance who the usual offenders are, so be pro-active and notify them even before they start fall's work that they need to get prior township approval before doing any work.

Here's hoping everyone has a safe Fall season. Following are a few questions I've received in the office.

TRM

Question: One of our boundary roads with the adjacent township

should probably be labelled for minimum maintenance, but the other township doesn't want to help pay for the signs. We normally share the cost of gravelling, etc. What should we do?

Answer: If you share the expenses for maintenance, then my guess is that the signage expense should be shared also. You may want to check which township lists the road on the rolls for state funding for roads—the former gas tax list.

The thing about a minimum maintenance designation (assuming it meets all the requirements) is that you probably won't have to provide snow removal because no one lives on the road. Quite a savings as long as the road is signed properly.

Question: We have a subdivision in our township, and the residents there always complain about the snow removal, or lack of it. What is our responsibility?

Answer: I'm assuming that the subdivision roads are township roads—although in many subdivisions that may be a wrong assumption—it all depends on agreements (if any) that the township made with the original developer.

You can only spend monies that you have, so it may be time to have an informational meeting with the subdivision residents.

Ask your county auditor to provide you with the amount of taxes paid by a typical house in the subdivision. The auditor may even be able to provide a listing of all the properties in the subdivision and the corresponding amount of tax paid.

The Country Lawyer *cont'd*

Then, look at the amount of the total tax paid that is credited to the township—it's usually a paltry amount compared to what the county and school gets.

Maybe on a \$1,500 tax bill the township only gets 60 bucks, as an example. That usually gets the residents' attention, in that all of their taxes don't all go to pay for the snowplow!

Question: Our water board is not very helpful when it comes to us making culvert decisions in our roads. They always say it's not their responsibility.

Answer: They are sort of correct. Culvert decisions under roads are indeed the road authority's sole

jurisdiction.

However, I always say it's the township's road, but it's the water board's water. The century code requires notification to a county water board by a township of a culvert installation so the water board can "submit comments". See page 84 of our handbook, Sec. 24-06-34.

Those comments are not whether a culvert can be installed or not, but helpful comments regarding sizing, location, etc. which the township would not necessarily have to follow.

By working together, the township and water board may be able to avert more water problems downstream—

which problems are definitely under the water board's jurisdiction.

Question: The railroad wants us to take out a crossing over their line. It's on a section line, but it is just a prairie trail. Do we have to take it out?

Answer: The magic words you stated is that it is a section line. As long as the township wants to keep the section line open, then the railroad has no choice. However, if you do decide to close the road because of its low use, I would suggest a written agreement with the railroad that they will agree to re-open the crossing if needed by the township in the future.

Is your GrassRoots Report newsletter not handy when you need it?

Go to www.ndtoa.com to find information and websites for the following:

- ◆ Officers and Directors Information
- ◆ Calendar of Events
- ◆ The *GrassRoots Report* Newsletter
- ◆ The Officer's Handbook
- ◆ Workshop Information
- ◆ Discussion Forums
- ◆ How to Access the ND Century Code
- ◆ North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund (NDRIF)
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Intermin Committees Wrap it Up *By Larry Syverson, Past President*

As Election Day nears and not too far behind that the beginning of the 64th Assembly of the North Dakota Legislature looms, the interim committees are concluding their work.

At the final meeting of the ACIR the commission studied the audit process of political subdivisions, the need to create a uniform chart of accounts, and the use of the state website.

The commission also reviewed efforts to establish uniform property tax statements among counties. The goal here is to make all county tax statements as similar as possible given that they are each a product of various software vendors.

At my request there was a presentation by Mr. Myles Vosberg, Director, Tax Administration Division, Tax Department, regarding application of city sales taxes for products and services delivered outside the city.

Applicable sales taxes are determined at the point of delivery, if they are delivered outside of the city the city tax does not apply. He told

us that the system uses the 9 digit zip code along with GIS services to assign the proper sales taxes to be imposed upon an address. Stating that errors might occur in areas bordering cities if they are not properly mapped.

Following Mr. Vosberg's presentation I passed out a list of rural addresses (township officers) and told the commission that most of those rural addresses, from one area of the state, came back as city taxable even though they were miles outside of any city limits.

Mr. Vosberg said the Department had been unaware of this error and they will look into it. I will go into this further in another article.

Interim committees do not pass bills but rather they recommend bill drafts be considered by the Legislative Management Committee for introduction to the next session of the legislature. These were the recommendations the ACIR forwarded at the last meeting:

A bill draft for a study resolution relating to reports from political subdivisions required by law. How

many of the required reports serve the purpose for which they were intended, (if any)?

A study resolution relating to statutory references to political subdivisions. The definition of political subdivisions seems to change in the various areas of the state statutes. The study would look into making this more consistent.

A bill draft to allow a township to reclaim zoning authority previously surrendered to the county. This would apply to cases where the township gave its zoning authority to the county without enacting a joint powers agreement. It will require the consent of the county board. This bill would make the authority recoverable just as if it had been transferred in a joint powers agreement, the method which has been required since the Constitution was revised in 1981.

At its final meeting of the interim the Taxation Committee recommended a bill draft limiting the use of modifiers in agricultural property assessments.

Continued on page 10

NDTOA 2014 Annual Meeting Registration Form December 1 and 2, 2014 Ramada, Bismarck ND

Name(s) _____ Officer Position(s) _____

City, State Zip _____

Township _____ County _____

Total No. Attending ____ @ \$40 per person PRE-REGISTRATION (\$50 at the door) Total Amount Enclosed
____ @ \$10 spouse attending the Monday Night Banquet \$ _____
____ @ \$ 7 spouse attending the Monday Luncheon

Please complete and send this registration form, along with your check payable to NDTOA by **November 17, 2014** to Barb Knutson, 2600 236th St NE, McKenzie, ND 58572.

NOTE: Townships may pay from their general fund for officer's registration fees and expenses.

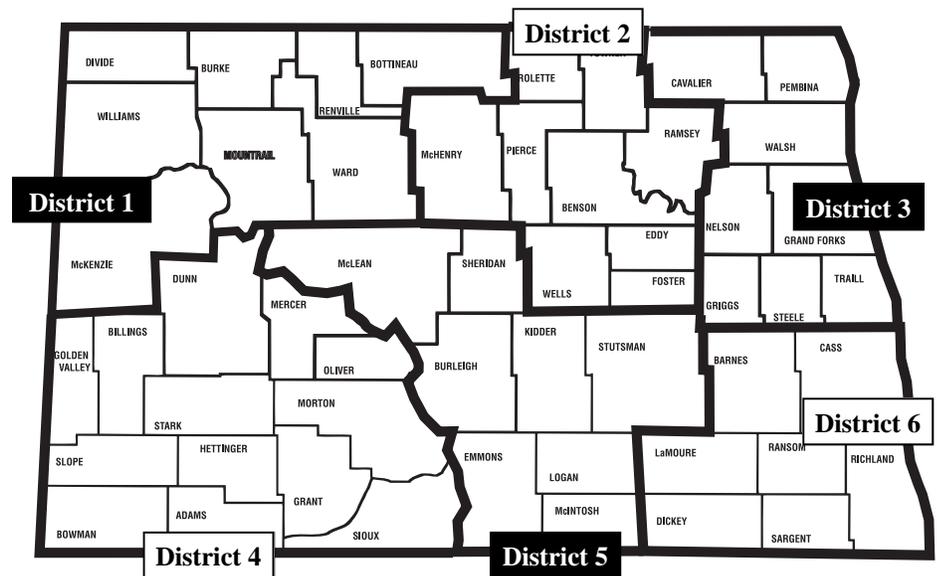
NDTOA Director Positions Open for Election

District Directorships to be filled this annual meeting are as follows:

District 2 consists of the following counties: Rolette, Towner, Benson, Ramsey, Pierce, Eddy, Foster, McHenry and Wells. *Directorship has been held by Mark Shipley, Devils Lake.*

District 4 consists of the following counties: Golden Valley, Billings, Slope, Bowman, Adams, Hettinger, Stark, Dunn, Morton, Sioux, Oliver and Mercer. *Directorship has been held by Leon Monke, Regent.*

District 6 consists of the following counties: Barnes, Cass, Ransom, LaMoure, Dickey, Richland, and Sargent. *Directorship has been held by Steve Ginsbach, Hankinson.*



*To be eligible to serve on the State Board of Directors, you must currently be a township officer. Anyone interested in serving on the NDTOA Board of Directors for those districts should **contact a nominating committee member**: District 1 Director Lee Brandvold, District 3 Director Al Bekkerus or District 5 Director Barb Knutson (Contact information can be found on page 2.)*

Township Road Mileage Certifications Require New Data



*State Treasurer
Kelly Schmidt*

The North Dakota Legislature has been increasing its use of one-time funding distributions to townships.

For my office to accurately distribute these funds, the biennial road mileage certification forms that are completed and certified by each county had significant changes over previous versions.

The changes included reporting the specific road miles for both organized and unorganized townships, and required individual township range numbers for the unorganized townships.

More information was also needed

for townships that are located in more than one county, or if different parts of the congressional township are under separate organization.

An example of this would be when part of a congressional township is organized, while the other part remains unorganized.

Sliver townships, along with their township range numbers, also needed to be reported. A sliver township runs along the border of Canada, Minnesota, Montana and South Dakota and may be organized with an adjoining township but have a different congressional township and range number.

My office has received questions about the definition of a “congressional township.” It is defined as “each specific township

and range number, regardless of organization.”

It was important that we capture all congressional townships in the event that the Legislature decides to allocate money on a per-township basis.

Thank you for your cooperation in submitting accurate information about your township road mileage. It helps us to distribute state funds in the most accurate way possible.

Don’t hesitate to call my office at 701-328-2643 with any questions, and I encourage you to use my website at www.nd.gov/ndtreas for more information about fund distributions.

Grassroots Government Leadership Award

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 specific reference to the following features of the nominee's accomplishments as applicable:

- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Long-term or lasting benefit of the nominee's accomplishments.

NOMINATING PROCEDURE

Nominations may be submitted by member townships and counties of the NDTOA. **Nomination deadline is November 14, 2014.** If additional nomination forms are needed, contact:

Al Bekkerus
1890 12th Ave. NE
Grand Forks, ND 58201
(701) 741-2120

A nomination form is below for your convenience. Just complete and mail. It's that easy!

North Dakota Township Officers Grassroots Government Leadership Award NOMINATION FORM

Name, title, local government, address and phone number of NOMINEE: _____

Your name, address and phone number _____

Please provide name, address, day phone, title and affiliation of two objective references who can evaluate the nominee's accomplishments:

1) _____

2) _____

Please attach a brief biography of the nominee summarizing positions held, civic and professional affiliations, and other relevant personal data. (Not to exceed two typewritten, double-spaced pages.) Also attach a summary of the major accomplishments for which the local official is being nominated, keeping in mind the examples and criteria listed above. (Not to exceed four type-written, double-spaced pages.) The award will be presented at the County Association Annual Meeting and the NDTOA Annual Meeting in December.

Are You Paying Too Many Taxes? *Submitted by Larry Syverson*

Most everyone feels they are, but in some cases the taxes inflicted are not even legal. As a rural township resident I am used to paying for all the services we get with property tax.

I am a bit irritated when I visit a “city” and I have to pay someone else’s property taxes, called “local option city sales tax”. What really set me off was a bill from a new internet service provider that included 7% ND sales tax for service at my farm home.

I contacted that ISP and told them of their error, the applicable ND tax is 5%. They replied with a link to the ND Tax website, “Local Tax Rate Locator” and explained that is how they have to apply the tax.

I used the locator, entering my 9 digit zip code 58257-9011 and there it was: ND sales 5%; Traill County 0%; Mayville City 2%.

I called the Tax Commissioner’s office and told them of their error, I was told that it would get checked out and corrected but that the website data is updated quarterly so it would be December before it would show up.

During that conversation it occurred to me that if this happened to me it most likely was happening to others. I started checking, first my own township board; every one came back with the Portland 2% as most of the township is served by the Portland post office.

I brought out the NDTOA mailing list and continued checking, I found that every rural Mayville address is being charged the city tax, the same is true for Portland, Hillsboro, Hatton, Finley, and Hope.

What I found was that in Traill and Steele Counties if you get your mail from a town with a local option tax you are being charged that tax on

any goods and services delivered to your rural address. One Steele county commissioner is being charged the Portland 2% but not the Steele county 1%, some Traill county townships are being charged the Cass county .5%.

I checked a few other addresses in other areas of the state where there is a city sales tax but did not find the error anywhere else. These checks were limited and incomplete. The error may be occurring in other areas but my sampling did not pick them up.

I again called the tax department and informed them that the error involved much more than my address. In fact most of the rural residents in at least two counties are being inappropriately charged these city taxes. I was told the compliance supervisor would be informed of the problem.

I gave them my email address and phone number and asked to be informed of any developments.

I found it very interesting that as of a month later, at the meeting of the ACIR, the Director of Tax Administration had not yet been informed that the department was a party to an illegal tax imposition of this scale.

It seems the tax department is getting bad data from some contractor. I hope to find out who that contractor is that is getting paid for doing a lousy job and causing rural citizens to pay unfounded taxes.

I told the tax department if they find out who provided the data for that list of cities they should suspect any other work that came from that same source, which could lead them to errors in other parts of the state.

Does this error affect you? I don’t know and the only way to know for

sure is to test your address on the Tax Department site Local Tax Rate Locator:

https://apps.nd.gov/tax/tap/_/#1 .

You will need the 9 digit zip code, if you don’t have the +4 digits there is a tool on that page for determining that from your address.

If you get your mail in a PO Box the city tax will show to apply, be sure to use your 911 or physical address for this test.

If you find an error for your address please let me know so I can add you to the list and we can further check your area for more problems.

What kinds of things get taxed by this? As I mentioned, Internet service, also cell phone service, Internet purchases, telephone orders, mail orders and anything which you take possession of outside of city limits.

If you get something in town the city tax applies, if it is delivered to you out of city limits it does not but you could get charged anyway because of this error.

Many questions remain. Who is responsible? How long has this been going on? How many areas of the state are affected? How does one get his money back?

Will the state be as much help to us getting our money back as it was in collecting the mistaken tax for the cities?

Will the Tax Department take a more active role in ensuring the accuracy of their system? How about putting a big red button on their website for testing the tax rates?

Intermin Committees *Continued from page 6*

It would require that a single schedule of modifiers would be adopted by the State Supervisor of Assessments and use of modifiers within counties statewide would be restricted to the modifiers provided in that schedule.

This bill came about because many of the issues being addressed through the application of modifiers have already been accounted for in the soil survey.

It was said that if a modifier is applied, the property is essentially receiving a double modification. Some other tax committee bill draft recommendations included:

- Extending the state-paid 12 percent property tax relief credit enacted in 2013.
- The replacement of mill rates with property tax determination based on cents per thousand dollars of taxable valuation. (Replace a 4 letter word with a half sentence definition of that word).
- To provide that property tax levies requested by unelected boards (appointed boards) are subject to adjustment by the board of county commissioners or city governing body.

- That rural fire department excess levy increase must get approval by mail ballot election.
- Requiring property assessor certification. (180 hour training)

The Economic Impact Committee held its last meeting on September 29th. There was a presentation by Mr. Grant Levi, Director of Department of Transportation, regarding federal transportation funding, transportation project status, department initiatives, and the short line railroad program.

He reported that the funding that came out of the 2013 session has been put to good use by ND DOT, cities, counties and townships.

The final meeting of the Energy Development and Transmission Committee will be held on October 16 in Grand Forks. There is one bill draft they are considering which will definitely bear watching, it concerns crude oil and natural gas exploration landfills. This bill could eliminate local control of permitting those landfills.

The last meeting of the Governor's Task Force on Property Tax is coming up on October 29, at which time it will be interesting to see the

revised section dealing with township levies.

That was just a quick run-down of some of the committee action the last couple of months and what is coming in the next week or two. We will continue to monitor all the activities and be there to ensure the best results we can get.

Thank you for your interest. See you in Bismarck on December 1-2. Thanks for being township officers!



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.ndtoa.com

Reminders

◆ Schedule of Board of Supervisors meetings needs to be posted with County Auditor. At your last board meeting in 2014 set up your meeting schedule for 2015 and submit it to your County Auditor.

We are seeing more instances of complaints that public entities have not properly noticed their meetings.

◆ Several townships are only using one signature on their checks. NDCC requires signatures of Board Chairman, Clerk, and Treasurer.

The state bonding fund requires at least two signatures or you could not be covered if there were a loss.

ATTENTION TOWNSHIP OFFICERS AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

North Dakota Township Officers Association needs your help!

Is your organized township or unorganized township that you are in charge of a member of NDTOA? Benefits secured by efforts of NDTOA are received by all townships, organized or not, NDTOA members or not.

Please ensure the township you are responsible for is supporting our efforts and doing their share of "pulling the load".

Four State Meeting of Township Officers

By Ken Yantes

This year's Multi-state meeting was held in New Ulm Minnesota. Representatives from North Dakota Township officers Association were: President Roger Olafson and his wife Marilyn, Vice President Ronald Tufte, Treasurer Barb Knutson, State Board Legal Advisor Tom Moe, State Board Member Steve Ginsbach, Past President Larry Syverson, executive Secretary Ken Yantes.

The meeting began with reports from the executives from, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin and North Dakota. President Olafson and Past President Larry Syverson reported on conditions in North Dakota.

This sharing of successful programs and unsuccessful efforts to serve their members was a big part of the morning meeting on the first day.

Another reason for us to meet was to hear what the NATaT Organization's lobbying force was doing in Washington DC for the members of their Association.

We wanted to know what changes had been made since we decided to drop our membership in 2009.

Another question was what establishes the dues structure of members in NATaT.

About a year ago the lobbying arm of NATaT had changed their lobbying procedures.

A three member lobbying committee had been formed and they had been attending legislative committee meetings that were dealing with issues concerning township business.

Jennifer Imo, one of the three members of that committee was present to talk to the delegations from North Dakota and South Dakota associations.

At the conclusion of the meeting we took home some new information on NATaT which led me to believe that some steps that were taken in the right direction.

The Board of Directors will meet on October 4, 2014 to further discuss what we all learned in New Ulm and maybe we can make some recommendations to the membership at our December annual meeting

Treasurer's Report by Barb Knutson

District 5 Director, NDTOA Mail List



Time seems to be moving faster every week. We are getting ready for what we feel will be a very informative and interesting annual meeting in Bismarck on the 1st and 2nd of December.

Pay special attention to the guest speakers and their subject matter in this issue. It is important that all township boards have representation and that they be paid members so they can gather the information and have a voice in the annual meeting.

Thanks to all that have paid their dues for the year. It is coming down to crunch time to get them in this fiscal year which ends October 31st. If you have not sent them in, it is not too late. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the counties that are paying for unorganized

townships. They are getting the same benefits as organized townships and we appreciate the help with funding that goes toward making all our voices better heard at legislature.

I have appreciated the help from all that have been passing along the changes for the mailing list. This is great help! Thank you.

The annual meeting in December is a very important one so we hope to have the biggest one ever. It is very helpful in the planning for meals and such to have pre-registration and it also saves you a little money, so hope you consider that. Hope to see many of you in Bismarck!

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Are your newly elected township officers receiving this newsletter? Please let us know when to add and/or delete a name from our mailing list. Send your information to:

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McKenzie, ND 58572

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1. Your name, title, mailing address and phone number.
2. Your township name and county.
3. The name of the person you replaced on your township board.



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