

# 2023 ANNUAL MEETING ROAD REPORT

- 1) On February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 the plan was approved to move forward with the replacement of the Sturgeon Island Bridge # 58559 using State Road & Bridge Funding (State Aid Project (S.A.P.) # 058-599-045). The State of Minnesota's approval of the project using Road & Bridge Funding means that Windemere Township taxpayers will pay a maximum of \$20,000.00 of the total cost for the bridge replacement. Pine County is the lead on the project and will place the project out for bids, award the project to the vendor, complete all inspection to completion and sign off on the project. I rough estimate construction time-line for the bridge project is available on the township's website and residents can expect construction to start approximately early September 2023.
- 2) During October 2022 Qty-5310 Cubic Yards of Class-5 Gravel was spread and leveled on miscellaneous township roads at a cost of \$8.29/C.Y. The township is currently out of Class-5 Gravel inventory at the pit and will need to crush gravel sometime in 2023. The last time the township crushed gravel was in 2020 (Qty-10,000 Cubic Yards) and the cost was \$3.34/C.Y. and the previous crushing was in 2018 (Qty-15,000 Cubic Yards) at the cost was \$2.78/C.Y. Those prices include the cost of the crushing, the clay binder material, the trucking costs for hauling the clay binder material, and the rental of equipment used to strip the township pit to prepare for the gravel crushing.
- 3) Crack sealing was completed on Sturgeon Island and Palon Roads for a total of \$12,775.00.
- 4) The township replaced Qty-5 culverts in November of 2022 for a total cost of \$15,900.00. The culverts replace were on Anchorage Place, Pioneer Road, Military Road North, and two culverts on Partridge Road North. Military Road North will need some additional road maintenance completed once spring arrives to level off the roadway.
- 5) The township has two Board approved box culvert projects, one on Island Lake Road and one on Birchview Road, that were in the process of applying for State Road & Bridge funding. These projects were placed on hold in 2022 due to the lack of materials available to complete the projects and I presume that they will be moving forward with the projects in 2023.
- 6) The major weather events of mid-December 2022 did a huge amount of damage to the trees in the area. Since the storm the township has incurred approximately \$45,000.00 in expenses to clear tree debris from the township road R.O.W.s. On January 31, 2023 under authority of Minnesota Statute 12B.25 Subdivision 1, Governor Walz declared a State Disaster (# 2023-SD-

070) from the major weather event that occurred December 13<sup>th</sup> through December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022 due to the heavy snow and high winds. The counties included in the State Disaster are Aitkin, Carlton, Cass, Crow Wing, Itasca, Lincoln, Pine, & St Louis. An approximate estimate of \$100,000.00 was submitted to DPS/Homeland Security & Emergency Management to clear Windemere Township roads and R.O.W.s of tree debris. State Disaster (# 2023-SD-070) allows Windemere Township to be eligible for reimbursement of 75% of all costs incurred for the removal of the tree debris from our road R.O.W.s due to the major weather event. The township will be soliciting quotes from contractors in March of 2023 and hire a vendor to clean up the remaining tree debris still remaining in the township road R.O.W.s once the snow pack melts.

- 7) Five engineering firms were solicited for quotes to conduct a road sign inventory of all Windemere Township's road signs. The Board has yet to act on the quotes received.
- 8) During 2022 Windemere Township made a change in the road maintenance model from an Employee Model to a Vendor Model and the township is now only using contractors to complete all township road work. In November 2022 the township hired a Road Maintenance Coordinator position. In early 2023 the Board made a motion to solicit for sealed bids from vendors for the upcoming construction season and all quotes were to be opened at the March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Regular Monthly Board Meeting. A pre-bid meeting was held on February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and seven contractors submitted pricing to the township from the solicitation. At the March meeting the Board made a motion to reject all vendor quotes without opening the sealed bids and the Board stated that there will be new solicitations coming out in the upcoming months for the work that needs to be completed.
- 9) For the vendor quoting process, an analysis of former employee hours was completed over the past five years to come up with weighted averages for some of the maintenance work that will need to be completed in the coming year. Ditch Mowing (32 hours per year), Gravel Hauling (379 hours per year), Road Grading (415 hours per year), and snow & ice removal (365 hours per year). During the past (5) years, an average snowfall of (2" to 10"), would take township employees approximately six to eight hours each to complete using three units to remove the snow and ice for a total of (18 to 24 hours) per weather event depending on the amount of snow.
- 10) Under the township's new road maintenance model, the vendor model is taking an average of 31% longer to clear the same roadways of an average snowfall of (2" to 10") while using four units to complete the work. So far this winter season, the township has been invoiced \$95,800.00 (November 2022 through February 2023) for snow and ice removal on the township's roadways.