

Residents of Cedar Lake Township:

This correspondence is meant to be informational for all residents and contains important facts on some of the State Statutes that regulate owner responsibilities and obligations that affect road safety within the Township. The topics covered in this letter includes: Maintaining road ditches - right-of-way (ROW); Township policy on Dust Control; ROW Misdemeanors – pushing snow and dumping of materials on road and ROW; and using the Cedar Lake Township website to stay informed.

OWNER OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN TOWN ROAD DITCHES:

Minn. State Statute 366.015 allows town electors to vote at the annual town meeting giving the town authority to enforce the obligation of owners or occupants adjacent to town roads for certain road ditch maintenance activities. On March 14, 2023, at the annual Town meeting, the electors voted to do so in order to maintain proper sight distances, reduce safety hazards caused by drifting snow, controlling noxious weeds, promoting proper drainage, and addressing other safety and maintenance concerns on town roads.

By Resolution, Cedar Lake Township shall administer the town maintenance obligation created by State Statute 366.015 in the following manner:

1. Annual notice describing ditch maintenance obligation in local papers (not necessary for enforcement).
2. On or before September 30th each year the homeowners/occupants are required to destroy noxious weeds and other plants/brush up to 3 inches in diameter, remove rocks larger than five inches in diameter within the ROW adjacent to their land (approximately 15 feet from the edge of the traveled portion of the road), and within five feet of their mailboxes located off of their property. **PLEASE NOTE:** noxious weeds must be taken care of as they occur.
3. Noncompliance by said date will result in notification and final date for compliance.
4. Continued noncompliance will result in the work being performed by the Township per state statute and property owners being billed for such work. Not paying the bill will result in a lien on the property and collected in the same manner as general property taxes. This cost recovery shall be in addition to any penalty or legal and equitable remedy the Township may seek or receive for any violations of state law and/or Township Ordinances.

The Resolution will be posted on the Township website. Any questions or concerns can be addressed by attending a Town Board meeting. Town Board meetings are usually held on the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm at the St. Patrick's Social Hall. A complete schedule of Town Board meetings is located on the Township website.

DUST CONTROL POLICY:

The Township will no longer apply dust coating other than some areas on collector roads and intersections at highways. Homeowners may choose to dust coat individually or work with friends and neighbors to contract with a company. Common Grounds, a company in Lonsdale, has provided information and their contract that can be used if anyone is interested. The Township policy and Common Grounds information is on the Township website.

RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) USE MISDEMEANORS: ROW is approximately 15 feet from the edge of the traveled portion of the road.

1. **DEPOSITING/DUMPING OF MATERIALS OR OBJECTS:** It is unlawful to dump anything on a public road or in the ROW; Minn. Statute §§ 160.2715, subd. 5(a); 169.42, subd. 1. Doing so creates a traffic hazard, causes road and ROW damage when dumped and removed, can obstruct drainage, and is littering, all requiring costly township repair and cleanup. Both actions are misdemeanors and property owners/individuals can be ticketed and fined. In addition, any costs incurred by the Township in remedying such violations will result in the property owners

being billed for such work. Not paying the bill will result in a lien on the property and collected in the same manner as general property taxes. This cost recovery shall be in addition to any penalty or legal and equitable remedy the Township may seek or receive for any violations of state law and/or Township Ordinances. Property owners need to instruct contractors to deposit materials on owner's property when landscaping and/or during construction as you are responsible for any damages.

2. **SNOW:** It is unlawful for anyone to deposit any snow or ice in a public road right-of-way or to otherwise obstruct a public road; Minn. Statute §§ 160.2715, subd. 5(a); 169.42, subd. 1. Depositing plowed, compacted snow from private property onto a public road or in the ROW creates hard piles which prevent snow removal from the public road, creates a potential public hazard, can cause damage to equipment, and increases snowplowing costs. The homeowner can be ticketed and fined. Other owners may not appreciate your snow in their ROW or damage to personal property which has occurred. The violation of these statutes has increased dramatically and is cause for concern as both the homeowner and Township are liable for any injuries or damages caused by these violations. In concern for public safety, Scott County Deputies have been made aware of this problem. Please be responsible and keep your snow on your own property, out of the ROW and off public roads. Both actions are misdemeanors and property owners/individuals can be ticketed and fined. In addition, any costs incurred by the Township in remedying such violations will result in the property owners being billed for such work. Not paying the bill will result in a lien on the property and collected in the same manner as general property taxes. This cost recovery shall be in addition to any penalty or legal and equitable remedy the Township may seek or receive for any violations of state law and/or Township Ordinances.

CEDAR LAKE TOWNSHIP WEBSITE:

In an effort to keep citizens informed, the website is in the process of being updated this year to make it more user friendly. Hopefully this will help township residents be well informed. By signing up for notification when website information is updated residents can keep abreast of Township meetings and news; www.cedarlaketownship.com.

Cedar Lake Township is a beautiful rural community. We must continue to be responsible, caring citizens who work together, are financially responsible in maintaining our Township, and keep it safe for all.

Cedar Lake Township Board