



STAR LAKE TOWNSHIP E - BULLETIN # 46

Oct. 20, 2020

Subject: Winter is Upon Us

If you're looking out your window today it's pretty hard to ignore the obvious – the first significant snow event of this winter season is clearly upon us, with more on the way later this week if the weather pundits are correct.

A few reminders are probably in order:

- 1- **Slow Down & take it easy!** Even those with decades of winter driving experience will usually experience a “scary reminder” early each season of the dangers of driving on snow/ice covered roads. (Though some may not want to admit it...)
- 2- *It is against state law to deposit snow onto a public roadway or upon it's right of way.* This applies to township roads as well as county and state. This is for the safety of the travelling public as well as for the snowplow operators.
- 3- You may see some new yellow paint on Star Lake Township roads this season as we have upgraded our equipment. The 1996 orange Ford plow truck has been replaced with a 2009 Sterling with a reversible two-way front plow. The 12M3 CAT motor grader has been equipped with a new Falls front mounted reversible two-way plow as well.
- 4- As a reminder no matter what the equipment, plowing gravel roads is very problematic early in the snow season. If the roads are not yet frozen the operators cannot safely scrape the surface without throwing a lot of gravel into the ditches. *This is costly and potentially dangerous.* Therefore, if less than 4” accumulated snow you may see the plows simply driving the road to make a path, or with its blade just skimming the surface of the snow.



- 5- The plows are big vehicles with big front mounted plows restricting visibility. If you meet a plow on a narrow township road pull over and let them pass. If you come up from behind on a plow, do not try to pass until the plow has stopped or signaled for you to do so. The operators are looking for you and will allow you to pass when it is safe.
- 6- *Another state law – do not park anything on the shoulder of a township road.*
- 7- Another reason to Vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd; the new plow equipment will be on display at the townhall on election day.
- 8- You likely know the highway 41 bridge is now open to “light traffic”. What you may not know is that snowplow trucks are really-really HEAVY! Consequently, Otter Tail County has contracted with a local contractor to use pick-up mounted plows to maintain the one mile of County 41 between the intersections of 380th St. (Spruce Lodge) and 390th St. (Franks Lodge) which book-ends the damaged bridge.

In conclusion, slow down, give plow drivers a lot of room, Vote on Nov. 3rd, and please everyone – **STAY SAFE!**

Respectfully – Star Lake Town Board