

March 27,2010

STATE OF THE TOWNSHIP 2009

The following is a run down of what was accomplished in Menominee Township this past year:

1. We spent 211,984.00 on roads
 - A. Paved approximately 1 mile of Evergreen Road
 - B. Laid gravel on 12 different roads
 - C. Applied dust control 3 different times
 - D. #10 Road received major patches
 - E. Chip sealed 3 miles of road
2. Along with Ingallston Township, purchased a new truck chassis for the Menominee-Ingallston Fire Department - \$42,000
3. Bought a new computer & printer for the clerk's office
4. Bought new copier for the township office
5. Expanded the parking lot behind township hall
6. Started clean up and did some drainage in park behind township hall
7. Purchased new lawn mower for cemetery - \$500
8. Installed kiosk at Roadside Park
9. County donated BS&A software update to township - worth approx. \$6000
10. A Planning Commission has been established
11. 54 private well water sampled
12. Had \$2,095,262 worth of new construction in township

Unfortunately, I don't think the list of accomplishments will be as long next year. I know we're all tired of hearing that everyone is short of money, but, facts are facts. Just from 2006 to this coming fiscal year we are projecting a loss of around \$169,000 of income from our three main sources: state revenue, landfill impact fees, and interest. Yes, we still have a healthy fund balance, but, we don't feel it is wise to draw it down much further than it is. We will try to continue on without charging a millage, but, we will not be able to do as much road work as we have in the past until the income comes back.

We also tried chip sealing last year. The purpose of chip sealing is not to improve an already poor road. It is to prolong the life of the asphalt on a good road by doing two things: sealing cracks so water doesn't get in and freeze and to provide a substitutional surface to wear on instead of the asphalt. The "experts" say it will extend the life of the asphalt 6-8 years. I know it wasn't very well received where it was done - and with good reason. We are

investigating if and how it could be done a little better and cleaner. But, we have to think about getting as much life out of our roads as possible. Delta County turned 11 miles of blacktop into permanent gravel last year because of the high cost of blacktop.

Fire protection continues to be a priority. We purchased a new truck chassis last year. Plans are to have the tank built and installed this coming year. This will result in a greater ability to supply the water needed at a fire. It also MAY positively influence your own fire insurance bill - depending on the distance you live from the fire station and how our fire department is rated with the additional tanker truck.

The park in back of the hall was cleaned up, some drainage done and a parking lot behind the hall added. We encourage you to use it instead of parking on the road - it's closer and safer. There is now a doorbell at the back door if it is locked. Many thanks to David Wesoloski and the volunteers who helped on these projects.

A Planning Commission was appointed last December. The members are: Eldred Swanson, Bill Lenca, Fran Havelka, Mike Harding, Bill Kelley, Pat Barker, and Darlene Nerat. The first meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2010 at 6:30 pm at the township hall. This commission will be responsible for creating Menominee Township's Master Plan and Zoning Ordinances. No small task. I want to thank all the folks who made themselves available and I want to encourage folks to let commissioners know your thoughts and ideas. We will strive to keep you informed of the progress and process.

Finally, it has been a year since we have proposed a vision statement and a mission statement for the township. I'm sorry to say we haven't addressed the issue as thoroughly as we should have. Several of you have made positive comments about the fact you appreciate the board looking forward and being proactive. Because of your encouragement I will try to give it the attention it deserves this coming year.

I want to thank all the people who gave of their time and effort to make 2009 a very successful year.

Respectfully submitted

Ken Goffin
Menominee Township Supervisor