

Dear fellow Frankford Township resident,

Our local township's most important responsibility is the maintenance of its roads. A township road in Frankford has a 66 feet wide easement. Through the years we have invested in picking up garbage like tires, tree limbs, gravel from floods, -and trash. A reminder to everyone that ditches are not to be used for dumping of rocks from fields. We have a great community of very responsible landowners and these problems have been relatively small. Our roads were made nearly a century ago perhaps by hand. The road bases are not constructed as well as we would like and we experience potholes and frost heaves due to a poor base designed in the days of the model T. These are aggravations we have tried to correct by cleaning our road ditches for better drainage and in some instances tile draining some of the excess water off. We will continue to look at cost effective measures to solve the worst of these drainage problems. We have 42 miles of roads to maintain and our largest expense is gravel each year which takes over 50% of the levy.

We want to address three issues that will help make sure our roads are safe and in top condition- rain, snow, or shine.

- Frankford Driveway Ordinance
- Keeping ditches clean and safe see Minnesota state statute 160.2715
- Mailbox safety and standardization

We must approve every new or updated driveway in the township. This seems at times controversial, because in a perfect road maintenance world we would have the fewest driveways possible to make drainage and snow removal the easiest. Driveways also, if not correctly built represent a hazard for snowmobilers, and vehicles to recover if they go into a ditch accidentally. The town board has passed the attached driveway ordinance which is pretty standard across the state. Most of this is nothing new, but life is not getting less complicated and we are sure there are many of you who may not know that you must get permission to build or change your driveway and what the rules are. We now have a clear ordinance to guide you.

There is a state law regarding mail box construction (See attached 8818.300 Prohibited Mailbox Structures: Exceptions). If you drive our state highway 16 or 63 you will see nearly all the mailbox supports and posts look the same. It is more or less a universal product now. It is safe as it meets the breakaway standards. It also has the right height and geometry to allow a road grader to get its blade underneath it for road maintenance and snow removal. They also swing away if hit by a snowplow or wave of snow. The township will only replace mailboxes damaged by our equipment with this type of post. Attached are the law and several pages of information about this law. A swing-away mailbox support and post can be purchased from our township for \$65 plus \$15 for a new mailbox with wood mounting base. Your old mailbox may fit on these supports. Our immediate concern is that we may have mailboxes that will not break away without injury to the motorist. Railroad ties, cream cans, heavy steel pipes, etc. offer real danger. In 2017 we will start inspecting mailboxes throughout Frankford Township for safety concerns and notices will be sent. This is a year advance notice to allow you to make any necessary changes if warranted. We have not adopted a standardized mailbox post

policy yet, however, the basics tenants of safe design are the law. In the future we may require a standardized mailbox post.

If you have questions [please feel free to](#) contact one of your township supervisors [or plan to attend the upcoming Frankford Township Annual Meeting. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2016 at the Frankford Town Hall at 7 p.m.-](#) We welcome your input to making our [township](#) roads and ditches clean, safe, and useful.

Sincere regards,

Frankford Township, Mower County, Minnesota

–Ron Vogt, Chairman_ 507-259-4251 cell

Diane Benson, Supervisor 507-754-5606 home

Bob Baarsch, Supervisor 507-259-9149 cell

Enclosures: Frankford Driveway Ordinance

Minnesota Statutes: 8818.0300 and 160.2715

9350A Standard Plate Mailbox Support

Mailboxes practices summary