

11/27/2012

## Summary of Pine Lake Weed Assessment District Process

Late September, Early October: Signatures turned in to Prairieville Township.

At this point there are specific timelines that must be followed for the process to be done legally. If there are any mistakes it will negate the entire process.

Clerk Jill Owens and Deputy Clerk Ted DeVries went to Hastings to confirm signatures and addresses with the county. A Pine Lake Weed District 2012 Petition Status map was printed showing parcels on the lake totaling approximately 70% of the land mass in favor of the project.

October 10, 2012: Board approves resolution written up by the township attorney using the assessment district based on a pdf (portable document format) created by Clerk Owens from an excel file and sets meeting date for October 30th. In an effort to make sure any people heading south for the winter after the holidays could attend, it was decided on a tight timeline to meet all legal requirements.

October 14, 2012: Jill Owens resignation is effective and Ted DeVries becomes interim Clerk on October 15, 2012.

October 16, 2012: Ted DeVries and his Deputy go through the resolution the Board approved to make sure all names that are included in the assessment were there. It was discovered that 2 columns of Pine Lake residents' names did not save when going from the excel file to the pdf. This meant that the Board would have to meet again and approve a corrected resolution with a new meeting date (November 27, 2012). The township attorney was notified and in turn notified the Banner to not post the incorrect list in that weeks Banner.

October 30, 2012: Board meets and approves the corrected resolution.

October 31, 2012: The Township's attorney contacted The Hastings Banner to make sure the two announcements of the required meetings would be published, one on November 15, 2012 and one on November 22, 2012.

November 8, 2012: Clerk DeVries and his Deputy continue working on letters to notify residents of the

November 27, 2012 meeting. These had to be out by November 17 and they were mailed on November 13.

On November 15, 2012 the Banner came out and there was no notice of the public meeting in it. This was supposed to be the first public notification. At this point it was impossible to get two notifications out in the Banner (which is the legal requirement) before the November 27 meeting. The November 27 meeting had to be cancelled.

November 19, 2012: The Banner was contacted and admitted they had made a mistake and did not include the notification. They offered to post a notice in the upcoming Banner that the meeting on November 27, 2012 would have to be rescheduled at no cost to the township. They would not publicly admit to having made a mistake based on an attorney's advice.

November 19, 2012: Clerk DeVries contacted PLM (Andy) and, based on approval, was assured that this would not delay getting the proper permits or affect the product application time lines.

Planned next steps:

- To avoid the possibility of a missed announcement again by the Banner, Clerk DeVries conferred with the Supervisor and they agreed that they will allow more time in case of a mistake. The next time there will be 3-4 weeks to get the two notifications out so if one is missed the meeting can still occur.
- The Board will address the corrected resolution (new meeting date of January 7, 2013) at the regular Board Meeting on December 12, 2012.
- Letters will then be sent to all PL residents in the assessment district. Again, this is by law.
- Clerk DeVries will continue posting updates on the Township website and forwarding information to the PLA board so that it can be posted on their website (including their Facebook group).