



SDATAT's LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

February 21, 2011

Spring #1

Legislative Notes

86th Legislative Session

By Richard Howard

The 2011 Session began on January 11, 2011 with the Governor's State of the State Address. The Legislative process started out slowly as everyone waited for the Governor to present his revised budget, which he did on January 19th. He proposed a balanced budget which requires a 10% across the board cut of approximately \$127 million. This will be the major issue during the Session.

As of today, 150 bills have been introduced: 73 House Bills and 77 Senate Bills. This is lower than normal, probably as the result of the wait for the Governor's revised budget plus the large number of new Legislators this year. Today was "panic day" as all bills with sponsors signed on had to be turned into LRC by 5:00 today for unlimited bill introduction on January 25th. After January 25th, each Legislator is limited to 1 bill per day and a total of 3 additional bills.

SDATAT has 2 bills which have been filed with LRC, but have not yet been introduced. These bills are similar to last year's bills dealing with the definition of the Township Road System and redistribution of the Wind Energy Tax between counties and townships. In addition, I have assisted Legislators in drafting a bill for increased license plate fees which will be introduced next week.

It is patterned after last year's SB 1 and will increase local government road and bridge funds by \$17.2 million on July 1, 2011 and \$14.6

million on July 1, 2013 for a total increase of \$31.8 million.

In addition, Board members Cindy Foster, Jim Puffer, and Rodney Stormo testified to the Senate Transportation Committee on January 19th. They did a GREAT job in detailing the deteriorated condition of township roads and the funding shortage for maintaining the roads. Two County Commissioners and 2 Highway Superintendents also testified. The Committee received the type of testimony they wanted and hopefully it will lead to support for increased funding.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

To Track Legislation <http://legis.state.sd.us>

Contact legislators

Email:

<http://legis.state.sd.us/email/legislatoemail.aspx>

Select legislator's name from drop down box

Write **Senator or Representative**
500 E Capitol Ave
Pierre SD 57501

Fax a Message (to a specific legislator)
605 773 6806

Call
Senate Lobby 605 773 3821
House Lobby 605 773 3851

REMINDER TO ALL TOWNSHIPS-

As the flooding season is coming upon us, please remember to:

*Make sure your roads are being properly signed to keep everyone safe and reduce the townships liability.

*Contact your local county highway supt. to inform them which township roads are being closed.

*Contact 911 dispatch. This is imperative as emergency vehicles such as fire and ambulance need to know in advance of the best possible route to take. An expected closed road could mean the difference between life and death for someone.

SDATAT LEGISLATIVE DAY SET

Wednesday, February 9, 2011 is the date for the annual SDATAT Legislative Day at the Capitol.

Those attending should plan on arriving in Pierre as early as possible that day as committee meetings begin at 7:45 a.m. and then again at 10 a.m. At 2 p.m. an ice cream reception for the legislators will be held in the President's and Speaker's lobbies.

The SDATAT Board of Directors will have a meeting with the governor at 1:30 (all township officers welcome to attend) and will meet again for a Board Mtg at 4:30 p.m. at the Cattlemen's Club east of Pierre. A block of rooms has been set aside for Thursday evening at the King's Inn in Pierre. Please contact them at 605-224-5951 by Jan. 31, 2011 to reserve your room.

Those staying overnight may attend committee meetings in the morning at the Capitol.

This is your opportunity to see your government in action. Take advantage of it and bring a carload with you. Please RSVP to our office at 353-1439 on how many are coming. Suggestion: Invite a high school student or two to come with you!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY:

Feb 9th - LEGISLATIVE DAY - PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND

Feb 11th - McCook Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 - Courthouse, Salem

Feb 15th - Hamlin Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 at the Hayti Courthouse - 3rd Floor Courtroom

Feb 16th - Perkins Co Annual Mtg - Noon - Bison

Feb 22 - Required Twp Mtgs (SDCL 8-5-1)

MARCH:

March 1st - 1st Tues in March - Required Annual Twp Meetings (SDCL 3-1-11)

March 10th - Union Co Annual Mtg - 1:30 p.m. - Elk Point

March 11th - Spink Co Annual Mtg - 1 p.m. - Courthouse, Redfield

March 17 - Deadline for property assessment appeals - Appeals must be in writing. (SDCL 10-11-16)

March 21 - Local Board of Equalization Meet (SDCL 10-11-13)

March 29 - Required Twp Meetings (SDCL 8-5-1)

Brought to you by:

South Dakota Association of Towns & Townships
PO Box 903
Huron, SD 57350
605-353-1439
Website: <http://www.sdtownships.com>