

JANUARY 15, 2010

85th Legislative Session

By Diane Worrall

As your new Administrative Director, and my very first effort in lobbying, SDATAT is very fortunate to have Dick Howard on board again leading us in our lobbying efforts. Dick was first contracted by the board to lobby for SDATAT during the 2009 session and will continue on lobbying for us. Mr. Howard brings a great deal of expertise on transportation issues to the legislators as he was a former Secretary of SD DOT. Dick has been busy all summer attending transportation meetings and working at gathering data and documentation to present to the legislators on the needs of local governments in regards to the funding for maintaining roads.

Kicking off the legislative session, the SDATAT Board of Directors met with the State's Constitutional Officers and Cabinet Secretaries this past week in Pierre for an informal luncheon and chance to discuss current townships issues that related to their dept. Those attending included were:

Lt. Governor Dennis Daugaard
Sec. of State, Chris Nelson
State Auditor, Rich Sattgast
Attorney Gen., Marty Jackley
Sec. of Agriculture, Bill Even
Sec. of Public Safety, Tom Dravland
Sec. of Transportation, Darrin Bergquist
GF & P Secretary, Tony Leif and
Sec. SD Dept. of Tourism & State,
Richard Benda.

It was a good meeting as it provided an excellent opportunity for those persons to become acquainted with SDATAT and the board; and for our board to get acquainted with that department and the services that can be provided to towns and townships.

Mark your calendar and don't forget...SDATAT Legislative Day is Thursday, February 11, 2010. We will be serving ice cream sundaes to the legislators between 2 and 3:30 pm. The SDATAT board will convene at 4:30 pm at the Cattlemen's Club east of Pierre. We will have a no host dinner and will have several guests, legislators and others to inform us on current issues. There is a block of rooms at the Kings Inn, 224 5951, hurry before they are gone.

The Winter 2010 newsletter was mailed out today. Watch for it. It has the policies that were adopted at the annual meeting in December and other valuable articles.

Calendar of Events:

February

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| 11 | SDATAT Legislative Day |
| 16 | Mc Cook County Township Meeting,
1:30 pm, Courthouse, Salem |
| 16 | Hamlin Co Township Meeting
1:30 pm
Courthouse, Hayti, SD |
| 19 | Sanborn Township Mtg 2 pm
4H Bldg Forestburg, SD |
| 24 | Township Year-end Meetings as
required by law |
| 27 | Union County Township Meeting,
1:30 pm, Courthouse, Elk Point, SD |

March

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| 2 | Township Annual Meetings
(Required) |
| 5 | Spink County Township Meeting 1
pm - Courthouse, Redfield, SD |

If you are receiving this letter via postal service and have access to email, please let us know. You will get the letter in a timelier manner and you will save the association money.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES

By Richard Howard

As of today, there are 131 bills in the hopper; 68 House Bills and 63 Senate Bills. The only bill introduced to date that affects townships is SB 1 - "An Act to increase certain registration fees and taxes for the use of motor vehicles on the public highways..."

The Governor's State of the State Address was an effort to be positive as he didn't identify many current issues and problems or propose any solutions to the State's problems. Rather, he presented a detailed list of accomplishments during the first 7 years of his administration.

LEGISLATIVE ALERT

This is a request for HELP on SB 1 - the bill that would increase vehicle registration fees to provide additional revenue to townships, counties and cities for use on roads and bridges. The bill would also increase the gas tax and motor vehicle excise tax for work on the State highway system. Under the bill as introduced, Townships would receive an additional \$2.9 million per year effective in 2010 and an additional increase of \$2.5 million per year effective in 2012 for a total increase of \$5.4 million per year. As you are aware a resolution of support for increases in highway funding was adopted by the membership at the Annual Meeting in December.

Senate Transportation Committee Chairman Mike Vehle has announced his intention to hold hearings on SB 1 on January 26 and 28. So now is the time (starting this weekend) to talk to your Legislators (especially Senators at this time) and express your need for additional funding for township roads and ask them to support SB 1.

Also, talk to your friends and neighbors and explain the needs and ask them to

contact their Legislators to ask for support. Contacts from "back home" are important to Legislators as they make their decisions on how to vote on bills. Therefore the more contact as possible at this time is important.

In addition to contacting them when they are at home, you may contact them in Pierre by e-mail, telephone or letter. Addresses and phone numbers are provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

Now is the time to show your support!!.

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Contact legislators
Email <http://legis.state.sd.us/email/legislatoremail.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

To contact the SDATAT Lobbyist call
Lobbyist Desk 605 224 5030
Cell 605 354 2799
Hotel 605 224 5951