

Maine Prairie Township DRAFT Goals – June 25, 2009

Based on the input from participants at the April Open House and June meeting, we have prepared proposed goal statements for discussion. At the June meeting, we will be reviewing these proposed goal statements as a group, reworking them to address any concerns anyone may have and then voting on each of them.

As you review the proposed goals, do so with a critical eye. These are your goals and need to reflect your priorities. If something does not seem right, look right or feel right, we need to bring that up and discuss it. It is very important that we take the time and make the effort to get this right, because these goals are the justification for future action.

The goals that we set in June and July are going to be our answer for the question, “Where do we want to go?” that we will then use to brainstorm implementation strategies – the “How are we going to get there?” section of the plan.

Community

- Use the community dollars within the school area and not go to other towns.
- Ten-month grant for a cop to monitor the township.
- Know your neighbors.
- Keep the power of the township here and decision-making local.
- Try to keep people informed who are moving in that smells and dust and livestock are the norm.
- Not all roads need to be tarred.
- Maintaining the school system we currently have.
- Keeping a safe, low crime and quiet area by having police protection in the township.
- Maintain the rural life, small-town community.
- Improve community involvement in school.
- Work at keeping kids in the district.
- Township needs own identity. Community events.
- Close-knit community helps control crime.
- Infrastructure – improve.
- Provide a safe environment.

Proposed Goal Statements:

1. Maintain the rural lifestyle of Maine Prairie Township.
2. Improve community involvement in the school.

Recreation

- Provide a park for township residents.

- Work with DNR and other agencies to identify and improve opportunities.
- Powder Ridge – let’s utilize it.
- Willow Creek Park and trout Stream
- Kimball Golf – In Township. Use it!
- Establish a park within the township.
- Maintain the quality of our lakes (water).
- Keep state wildlife land.

Proposed Goal Statements:

3. Foster a rural-recreational lifestyle within Maine Prairie Township.

Natural Environment

- Maintain existing wetlands and lakes.
- When a landowner leases land for mining that the township gets a percentage of the mining.
- Residential build where land is not good farming area.
- Preserve farm land.
- Help new residents understand the makeup of the community.
- Identify natural areas.
- Work with ag community – commercial entities, to reduce environmental impact.
- Work to improve water quality.

Proposed Goal Statements:

4. Protect and preserve the quality of water resources within the Township.
5. Promote building and development practices that do not degrade the natural environment.

Land Use Controls

- Identify growth areas.
- Identify recreational areas.
- Limit transition areas.
- Do our own planning and zoning.
- Township should have more control over land use.
- Not much we can do if county has their say of regulation of land.
- Establish local control over land use.
- Simplify the building code or building permits.

Proposed Goal Statements:

6. Empower the citizens of Maine Prairie to have more influence over land use decisions within the township.

Land Use Conflicts

- Enforce our community to be beautiful (take care of your junk on property).
- Have control of gravel pits.
- Keep good farmland and sell land that's not good for farmers to be residential.
- Limit acceptable gravel mining.
- Define housing areas / developable and non-developable.
- Limit refuse (junk in and around homes).
- Limit development on lakes.
- Gravel pits are reclaimed and made functional.
- Properties are kept reasonably free of debris.

Proposed Goal Statements:

7. Ensure that Maine Prairie township is kept neat and orderly.
8. Limit the impact of intensive extractive uses.

Development

- Define residential area and lot size.
- No second or third tier development in sensitive areas.
- Protect ag land.
- Improve established roads and identify future roads.
- Township has continued growth.
- Keep good farmland and sell land that's not good for farmers to be residential.
- Enforce the township nuisance ordinance. Update ordinance for the township.
- Keep our natural resources safe.
- Limit the power that developers have in the township.
- Have the developer pay for city water and services.

Proposed Goal Statements:

9. Ensure that future development is compatible with the existing development pattern in the township.

Jobs and Local Economy

- Work with City of Kimball to bring manufacturing to the area.
- Promote small business in the community.
- Seek political help to bring businesses to the area.
- Seek advice through Minnesota Extension office and other state agencies.
- Establish where industrial areas/commercial should be in the township.

- Encourage business opportunity.
- Support our schools and businesses.
- Encourage people to buy local.
- Find a way to promote area small business.

Proposed Goal Statements:

10. Create an economic environment that encourages job creation and opportunity for business expansion.

Taxes

- Seek professional advice in planning.
- Have a road maintenance plan.
- Seek grant funding.
- Seek political help getting stimulus money.
- Our taxes spent on our community to keep it safe and friendly is what keeps our young people here.
- Formulate futuristic plans.
- Spent money wisely.
- Access grant funding.
- Access stimulus money.
- Don't spend more than what you take in.
- Have a saving plan for future expenses.
- No private or hidden agendas.
- Maintain a reasonable tax rate.

Proposed Goal Statements:

11. Maintain a reasonable tax rate in the Township.
12. Plan for future road maintenance expenses to ensure quality infrastructure and stable property taxes.

Public Investments

- Maintain existing roadways with proper maintenance and upkeep.
- Maintain township roads. Keep them in good condition.
- Have a maintenance building to take care of our roads.
- Get more than one bid on roads.
- Split township road maintenance into different areas or zones.
- Encourage community involvement.

Proposed Goal Statements:

13. Maintain existing roadways in good condition.
14. Encourage community involvement in Township decisions.

Kimball

- Both parties should benefit from the plan.
- Keep the relationships between town and township.
- Establish and maintain good working relationships with the City.
- Define city's need so we can work with the city.
- Identify orderly annexation area.
- Township and city of Kimball have a beneficial relationship built on mutual respect.

Proposed Goal Statements:

15. Seek ways to work cooperatively with the City of Kimball, to the advantage of both the city and the township.

Stearns County

- Improve communication with environmental services
- Express township needs to county.
- Get back to grassroots government.
- Do our own planning and zoning.
- Strengthen our MOU with the County. Will give the township more leverage.
- Don't get county involved unless it is a last resort.
- To have Stearns County acknowledge and work with the township's plan.

Proposed Goal Statements:

16. Improve the working relationship with Stearns County in matters of land use and zoning.

Anything missing?