



2018 L&R Resolutions

As approved by members at the 2017 annual business meeting

NOTIFICATION TO TOWNSHIPS OF UPCOMING HEARINGS, MEETINGS, OR COMMENT PERIODS

(Originally Submitted by St. Louis County Association of Townships)

WHEREAS, Townships regularly receive correspondence from other governmental entities, and frequently this correspondence involves notification periods for upcoming hearings, meetings or comment periods, and;

WHEREAS, Townships across Minnesota generally meet only once per month, and at various times within the month from Township to Township, and;

WHEREAS, oftentimes the deadlines for these hearings, meetings or comment periods have expired for some Townships even before coming before these Town Boards at their next scheduled meeting, and;

WHEREAS, frequently these hearings or meetings are of a subject that can be dozens or even hundreds of pages of detailed, technical and legal subject matter that may take days or weeks of study to grasp, and;

WHEREAS, other information or documents are often referred to that a Township must download – if they have high speed internet – or otherwise obtain hard copies from the appropriate government authority, and;

WHEREAS, open meeting laws prohibit Township Supervisors from discussing Township business except at an official Township Meeting, so even with due diligence, with the initial time lag of receiving this

correspondence, obtaining materials, and then studying it, the earliest that this subject can even be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting may be seven or eight weeks. For other Townships that may meet at other times of the month, it may be even longer, and;

WHEREAS, soliciting Township attendance at a hearing or meeting or participation by written comment, while not allowing Townships sufficient time for understanding a subject and formulating an intelligent response is a contradiction of terms and an insult to good governance and proper representation for our citizens:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Minnesota Association of Townships calls upon our Minnesota legislators to write, or amend current statutes, to implement a minimum 90-day notification by various department or agencies for various hearings, meetings, or comment period.