



## **ANNUAL MEETING (VOTERS') RESOLUTION TO REGULATE MANURE LINES**

Minn. Stat. § 160.27

In 2016, the legislature made changes to townships' ability to regulate high pressure flexible force main hoses (referred to as "manure lines") that are placed in the township right of way. These manure lines are used to pump animal waste from a source farm to another location, where it is used as a soil treatment. MAT encourages the use of manure lines because they remove heavy trucks from township roads, reducing costs to taxpayers. However, since manure lines cross property lines, use township culverts to cross roads, and are an obstruction in the right of way, the township board may wish to issue permits for their use. Township boards are very limited in their power to issue the permit, but doing so encourages communication between the source farmer, the pump operator, and the township – with the goal of meeting the needs of both the applicant and the township.

The manure line statute, found at Minn. Stat. § 160.27, subds. 11 – 14, requires that the voters authorize the township board to exercise these powers before the board may do so. Once the voters pass the resolution, the township board may choose whether to pass an ordinance to regulate the use of manure lines. *Township boards are not required to regulate manure lines, even if the voters provide this authority.* However, passing the resolution in advance allows the board to enact an ordinance whenever they feel it is necessary, rather than waiting for authorization at the next annual township meeting.

MAT recommends that all townships adopt this resolution at their annual meeting.

TOWNSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_

**VOTERS' RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING  
TOWNSHIP BOARD TO REGULATE MANURE LINES  
PER MINN. STAT. § 160.27, SUBD. 11**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 160.27 allows a property owner or occupant to place a pressurized flexible force main to transport manure for field application, within the right of way under the jurisdiction of a township;

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statute 160.27, subd. 11 allows a township's voters to authorize the township Board of Supervisors to regulate the placement of pressurized flexible force mains at a Township Annual Meeting;

**WHEREAS**, the Township possesses, controls, and maintains rights of way containing road and drainage structures for transportation and drainage purposes;

**WHEREAS**, property owners within the Township may own the underlying fee or other real property interest in the land on which the Township's rights of way are situated;

**WHEREAS**, the Township's voters seek to maintain safe and well-regulated rights of way;

**THE VOTERS OF THE TOWNSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_, RESOLVE THAT** the \_\_\_\_\_ Township Board is authorized to regulate the placement of pressurized flexible force mains used to transport manure for field application.

**ADOPTED** this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, by the Voters of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_.

**TOWNSHIP OF \_\_\_\_\_**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Annual Meeting Moderator*

Attested by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*CLERK*