



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
5750 Old Town Hall Road ♦ Eau Claire WI 54701
(715)834-3257 ♦ Fax (715)834-3325 ♦ www.townofwashington.org

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 43 No. 3 ~ December 2021

Tax Collection

The 2021 tax bills will be mailed out near December 10.

Options for Submitting Tax Payments:

Drop Box: A 24 hour secure drop box is located just outside our front entrance

US Postal Service: Mail your payment to our office; include the payment stub from your bill

Pay Online: By credit card/debit card; convenience fees are applied - go to www.townofwashington.org; click Pay Online at the top of the home page

In-Person Collection:

Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM beginning December 13

December 23 - Closed at Noon

December 24 - Closed

December 31 - Closed

- 1st installment (or full payment) is due by January 31, 2022 to the Town of Washington.
- Receipts will only be mailed to you if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with your payment. You can view or print a copy of your receipt by going to the Eau Claire County website at <http://eauclaireco.wi.wgxtreme.com/> - then type in your last name and/or address.
- Checks are deposited on the date received. All returned checks will be charged a \$30 service fee.
- Do not include payment of dog licenses on the same check as your tax bill; a separate check is required.
- If you have delinquent taxes, they can only be paid to the Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office.

Broadband Update

Charter Communication is currently working to expand broadband connectivity in Eau Claire County, including portions of the Town of Washington, through a program called the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF). To find out if your location is designated for internet service expansion, visit the FCC's RDOF map at <https://maps.psc.wi.gov/apps/Rdof/>.

The Town continues to work with Eau Claire County and internet providers to research greater broadband expansion in the Town of Washington. If you haven't already done so, PLEASE go on-line to complete the Broadband Survey!

Go to <https://broadband-internet-survey-eccounty.hub.arcgis.com/>

This information is vital to identify potential project areas. If you do not have internet access at your home, please contact Aleta Kauffman at 715-834-3257 or kauffman@townofwashington.org to provide our office with your address to be included in the survey results. Survey deadline is December 10.

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Town Plan Commission Updates

Wind Energy

As reported in the Town's special September 2021 newsletter, Renewable Wind Energy has been reviewing property in Eau Claire County for a potential 200 mega watt wind farm. Wind energy companies are regulated by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC 128). Eau Claire County Planning & Development is developing a wind siting zoning ordinance, and the Town of Washington Plan Commission is reviewing Town ordinances to see if any should be updated to incorporate references for wind energy siting.

On February 9, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. the Town's Plan Commission will host an informational wind energy meeting for Town residents at the Town Municipal Building. Information on wind energy will be presented by Rod Eslinger, Director of Eau Claire County Planning & Development.

Since wind energy sites involve easements between a landowner and the wind energy company it is important for residents to educate themselves on wind energy and how it can impact the future use of a landowner's property. To assist Town residents more information on wind energy can be found on the home page of the Town's website - www.townofwashington.org

Plan Commission Membership

The Town's Plan Commission is made up of seven (7) members - five (5) at-large seats and two (2) appointed Town Board members. The Town would like to develop a pool of residents interested in serving on the Plan Commission. If you are a Town resident and would be interested in serving on the Plan Commission, contact the Town office for an application.

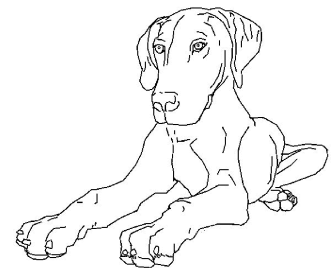
Dog Licenses & Animal Regulations

A courtesy postcard will be mailed soon as a reminder to those who have a 2021 license for their dog with the Town of Washington. Dog owners that are new to the Town of Washington should license their dog by January 1. Applications are on our website (under How Do I tab) or at the Town Office; you must provide written proof of vaccination against rabies from your vet. If you no longer have a dog in the Town, let us know or you will continue to receive reminders to license your dog.

The Town does not require cats to be licensed however, you can be issued a citation if your cat is at-large. To report obsessive barking, animals at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal; call the Eau Claire Communication Center at 715-839-4972. A humane officer will not be dispatched to pick up a dog or cat at-large unless the animal has first been contained.

2022 Dog License
Spayed/Neutered - \$15
Unaltered - \$25

(If sent with tax payment,
a separate check is required)



Meeting Room Rental

The Town of Washington rents our meeting room for the purpose of meetings and/or training sessions for government entities, organizations, associations, and businesses. It is available Monday-Thursday between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. and Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. The rate per day is \$50 for 4 hours or less and \$100 for more than 4 hours. Room capacity is typically 70 people; however with COVID restrictions it is much less depending on the set-up. Carpooling is strongly encouraged as parking is limited. If you are interested in renting the space contact the Town Office at 715-834-3257 to check availability.

Election Information

The Wisconsin Election Commission has valuable information on their website at <https://elections.wi.gov>. You can find upcoming elections, election results, FAQs regarding the 2020 elections, election integrity, how to file a complaint, and much more.

Many 3rd party groups send mailings to voters that may appear to be from our office. The Town does not send election forms, applications, or ballots that are not requested by a voter. Complaints about such mailings should be directed to the group itself and/or to your State representatives.

Before each election a public test of the voting equipment is done and any resident can view this test. The dates and times for the test are posted on our website under notices.

We strongly encourage residents to obtain all their information regarding voting and election processes from our office or the WI Election Commission (including myvote.wi.gov); content from other sources is not always accurate.

2022 ELECTIONS

Spring Primary - February 15
(if needed)

Spring Election - April 5

Fall Primary - August 9

General Election - November 8

**On Election Day Polls are Open
7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Winter Regulations and Reminders

We encourage you to check our website (homepage) for updates during a snowstorm regarding plowing operations. The larger the snowfall, the more time it takes to plow; we encourage you to be patient. School bus routes and hills are always given first priority. When possible, our drivers begin their routes in the middle of the night before commuters and school buses are on the road; however, depending on the timing of the snowfall this is not always possible. The Town Road Department plows over 200 lane miles of roads after a snow fall.

If you live on a County road within the Town of Washington, your road is plowed by the County. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Eau Claire County Highway Department at 715-839-2952. County Roads within the Town include: E & W Beaver Creek Road, Chickadee Road, Deerfield Road, E & W Lowes Creek Road, Mathwig Road, part of Mayer Road, Nine Mile Creek Road, Otter Creek Road, and State Street.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

- Garbage and recycling receptacles and bins are only allowed at the edge of your yard or driveway on your collection day and should be at least 10 feet off the road in your driveway or yard. They are **never** allowed on the shoulder of the road, across the road from your residence or in a cul-de-sac.
- For safety reasons, if your receptacles or bins are an obstacle during plowing operations, our drivers will not exit their truck to move them.

PARKING

- No vehicles are allowed to park on roads during and 24 hours after a snowfall.
- We do not have Odd/Even Parking.
- In the event of a snow emergency **NO PARKING** on the road for 48 hours.
- Violators will be ticketed by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department.
- Vehicles that present an obstruction and are not removed will be towed.

PLOWING & SIDEWALKS

- Snow you remove must remain on your property. Depositing snow back onto the roadway or across the road when plowing your driveway or parking lot is not only unsafe - it is illegal.
- Snow and/or ice must be cleared from sidewalks on your property within 24 hrs. from the time snow ceases to accumulate.



Tentative 2022 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

Mueller Road (Hillview +6900 ft to CTH D)
Corydon Road

Larchmont Road
Glen Way

Road Seal Projects:

Chip Seal — S. Lowes Creek, Brian Street, London Road, E. Hamilton Avenue,
Corona Avenue, Skeels Avenue, Henry Avenue, Pomona Drive, Blakeley Avenue,
Beverly Hills Drive, Beverly Hills Lane, Clairemont Avenue Parkway

All projects are subject to bids and approval by the Town Board



2021 Road Projects Recap



S. Lowes Creek Road repaved in 2021



Schultz Road repaved in 2021

Reconditioned and Pave Roads

Schultz Road	S Lowes Creek (I94 bridge to Sindelar)
Watt Avenue	Sindelar Drive (S Lowes Creek to Palmonio)

Sealed Roads:

Chip Seal — North Road, Prill Road, and Mayer Road
GSB88 Seal — Friedeck Road

Crackfill Roads:

Holum, Blackberry, Elderberry, Sunset View, Claymore, Heather Road, Cummings, Cummings Court, Foxmoor, Meadowbrook Court, Mischler, Evergreen Terrace, S. Lowes Creek (*portion*), Terre Bone Trail, Fouser Farm Road, Prill Road

Township Fire Department

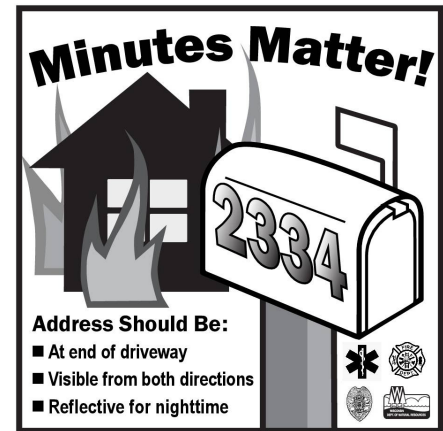
The Fire Department has experienced an increase in call volumes due to the changing of the seasons. Vehicle accidents that have required extrication of a patient from a vehicle have been the most common, so please stay attentive while driving. Road conditions can change fast this time of year and we get very comfortable driving on ideal road conditions all summer. Eliminating distractions while driving and traveling at a safe speed during adverse weather conditions can save your life and others.

Another seasonal problem we face is structure fires. The most common structure fire we see are chimney fires, which turn into house fires. Homeowners should have their wood burning fireplace inspected and the chimney cleaned by a professional yearly. This should be considered regular maintenance; yet it can be easily overlooked. As an added safety tip, many hardware stores carry a device that will suppress or stop chimney fires and are relatively inexpensive. If you were to have a chimney fire, simply follow the directions on the box, evacuate everyone out of the building, and call 911. Even if you think the fire is out, the Fire Department should respond to make sure. Of course, if the fire is too dangerous to attempt suppression, evacuate the building and call 911 immediately. Never use water to suppress a fire in a fire place or chimney. The expanding hot vapor from the water will crack chimney walls and will allow fire to escape into walls and the attic of the building.

When the time change takes place in the fall it is a good practice to also change the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If you haven't done this yet, here is a friendly reminder to do so. Testing and checking the expiration date on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors is a good thing to do as well. Most carbon monoxide detectors only last 3 to 7 years and will not be reliable if they are expired. If you are unsure on the age of the detector, it is best practice to replace it.

The Washington Fire Station is the busiest of all five stations due to our central location and proximity to I-94 and Hwy 53. We are looking for more volunteers in the Department. If you don't want to do the fire side of things, we also desperately need first responders. Our membership on the entire Department is at some of its lowest numbers that we have ever seen. Training is provided through the Department and in most cases are evening classes at Chippewa Valley Technical College. We encourage anyone who may be interested to check out our website. Please strongly consider giving back to your community and join us!

Township Fire Department, Inc. - www.townshipfire.org or 715-834-6868



Ambulance Service Funding

State Statute requires all towns to provide ambulance service to its residents. Up until 2019 the four major hospitals/clinics in Eau Claire (Mayo Health Systems, HSHS Sacred Heart Hospital, Marshfield Clinic, and Oakleaf Surgical Hospital) have subsidized approximately \$200,000 annually for the taxpayers of the municipalities utilizing this Regional Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program provided by the City of Eau Claire Fire Department. The Township Fire Department, Inc. provides volunteer First Responders when available to each call.

In 2018 the Town of Washington paid \$5,800 for this service. This year it increased to approximately \$58,664 and by 2028 it will be over \$100,000. This is a valued and necessary service and based on levy limits statutes there is no funding sources outside the Town general levy that can be utilized for said services.

The Town desires to be fiscally responsible and continue the high level of services that our residents have come to appreciate.

Top Seven Functions of Town Government:

1. Highway/Road Maintenance, Construction and Signage
2. Public Safety - fire protection, ambulance service, ordinance enforcement
3. Administer Elections - federal, state, county, school district, and municipal offices
4. Licensing - liquor, tobacco products, dogs, mobile home parks, etc.
5. Planning, Land Use, and Boundary Requirements
6. Assessment and Taxation
7. Public Records Management



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PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
Permit 203

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year*

TOWN STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Administrator/ Clerk/Treasurer:	Janelle L. Henning	715-834-3257
Deputy Clerk:	Jackie Vold	715-834-3257
Deputy Treasurer:	Aleta Kauffman	715-834-3257
Chairman:	Micheal Peterson	715-497-6333
Supervisors:	Andrea Kott	715-225-7698
	Jane Mueller	715-878-4058
	Bob Solberg	715-833-0919
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742

Town Board Meetings

3rd Thursday each month at 5:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Office Closed

Thursday, December 23 at Noon
Friday, December 24
Friday, December 31

*Agendas & the Minutes for Board Meetings can be found on our website
along with current news, notices, forms, etc. at www.townofwashington.org*