



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
5750 Old Town Hall Road ♦ Eau Claire WI 54701
(715)834-3257 ♦ Fax (715)834-3325 ♦ <https://townofwashington.wi.gov>

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 44 No. 1 ~ March 2022

Elections

With the completion of the 2020 Census, the Town of Washington went from 13 Wards to 16. The Town currently has 12 different County Supervisory Districts. You can check which Ward and County Supervisory District you are in at myvote.wi.gov

We encourage residents to obtain information regarding voting and elections only from our office or the Wisconsin Election Commission (including the MyVote website); other sources content are not always accurate. Make note that 3rd party groups send mailings to voters that may be inaccurate and look like they came from our office. We do not send unsolicited registration forms or absentee request forms. Go to townofwashington.wi.gov or the myvote.wi.gov website for all election related information.

We welcome questions from any of our residents regarding elections or the process.

A public test of our voting equipment is done before every election. The date and time for testing is posted on our website under Notices a couple weeks before an election. Anyone interested in the process are encouraged to attend.



Upcoming Elections for 2022

April 5 - Spring Election

August 9 - Fall Primary

November 8 - General Election

All elections are held at the Town Hall from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Broadband Update

The Town is working with Charter Communications, the Town of Pleasant Valley, and Eau Claire County to apply for the WI Public Service Commission Broadband Expansion Grant this month.

The Towns and County are committing \$392,400, Marshfield Clinic will contribute \$10,000; and Charter is committing to fund 72% of the project cost.

This project would include the unserved and underserved areas within the Town of Washington. Please be aware that the grants are competitive and that if approved by the PSC it will still be a minimum of two years before the work is completed.

We want to thank all the residents who completed the County's broadband survey as well as the businesses, medical providers, and school districts who supported the project by writing letters.

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April 6 Spring Election

Two Town Board Supervisor positions are up for election on April 5, 2022. Offices are for a two year term. A statement from each candidate is listed below.

BRIAN HERBISON – I am running for the Town of Washington Board Supervisor position and would like to share a little information about myself. My wife Sharon and I have lived in the Town of Washington for the past 6 years, previously we lived in the Village of Fall Creek. I own a tool business, so I know the importance of hard work. I believe in being active in my community and serving other people. I have a strong belief in faith, family, and work. Because of my strong work ethic and willingness to serve, I ask for your support in the upcoming election.

ROBERT SOLBERG – I have been a Town of Washington resident for almost 30 years. I am currently completing my second term as a Town Supervisor. In addition, I have also been a member of the Town of Washington Plan Commission for over five years.

As a member of the Plan Commission, I was a participant in the updates to both the Town of Washington and Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plans.

The experience during my time as a supervisor has been interesting and rewarding. I have gained an understanding and appreciation of the operations of the Town of Washington. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve with the other members of the Town Board and with the Town staff.

As a Town Supervisor I will continue to respect the taxpayer dollars and do my best to help make common sense decisions that benefit the Town of Washington as a whole. Your support for another term would be very much appreciated.

KAREN TOMESH – As a current Supervisor on the Town Board, I would like to thank the residents of the Town of Washington for providing me with the opportunity to represent them. In addition to serving on the Town Board I am the Chair of the Town of Washington Plan Commission. While on the Plan Commission I have had the opportunity to work on the development, and update, of the Town of Washington Comprehensive Land Use Plan. Due to the diverse nature of the Town of Washington, and extraterritorial jurisdiction of the City of Eau Claire and Altoona, the Comprehensive Plan provides the Town Staff and Board with guidance on land use issues when they arise.

In addition to working with the Town, I also serve on the Eau Claire County Board of Land Use Appeals. Through my involvement on this Board, I have gained a better understanding of the County's zoning ordinances and processes. I have enjoyed my role as Supervisor. Your observations and suggestions are always welcome. Together our Town will continue to thrive. Please consider voting to re-elect me on April 5. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

JEFFREY WHITE – I am running for Board Position for the Town of Washington. I have been a resident of the Town for over 20 years. Our nation, states and government officials have recently lost direction and gone down the wrong path and we need to right the ship. I am motivated to make a difference for you and our country and it starts at the local level.

I believe I have the qualifications and experience to meet the needs of the residents especially in these difficult times. My experience and education include serving our country in the US Navy and National Guard. I have run my own Appraisal Company for the past 30 years with offices in Eau Claire and Minneapolis with a Degree in Accounting. My experience includes appraisal of commercial / residential / farm / machinery / government takings and condemnation and business valuations. I consider myself to be a common sense moderate who understands the needs of it's citizens. Thank you for your vote.

2022 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

Corydon Road
Larchmont Road

Glen Way
Mueller Road (Hillview +6900 ft to CTH D)



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

Town Plan Commission Updates

Wind Energy

Wind energy companies are regulated by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC 128). Eau Claire County Planning & Development is in the process of finalizing and passing their wind siting zoning ordinance, and the Town of Washington Plan Commission has consulted with an attorney and has been reviewing options for the Town. As a reminder wind energy sites involve easements between a landowner and the wind energy company. These easements cannot be regulated by the County or the Town. Due to this it is important for residents to educate themselves on wind energy and how it can impact the future use of a landowner's property. Information on wind energy can be found on the home page of the Town's website, townofwashington.wi.gov. Residents can also contact Eau Claire County Planning & Development.

Town Growth

Over the past several years the Town of Washington has seen an increase in property being annexed to the cities of Altoona and Eau Claire. The increase in annexations coincides with the growth plans for the cities of Altoona and Eau Claire, and when an annexation is initiated, the Town does not have the ability to object. With an increase in annexations and the extraterritorial jurisdiction for Altoona and Eau Claire it is important for the Town to continue to follow its comprehensive land-use plan when new residential developments are proposed. Along with the guidance provided by the comprehensive land-use plan the Town Plan Commission will be reviewing a draft subdivision ordinance. The subdivision ordinance is being considered to: compliment the Eau Claire County subdivision code and facilitate adequate provisions for transportation, recreation, storm-water maintenance, and wastewater management.

Plan Commission Membership

The Town would like to develop a pool of residents interested in serving on the Plan Commission. If you would be interested in serving on the Plan Commission, please contact the Town Office for an application.

Open Book & Board of Review

Property assessment is as of January 1 each year. Questions about your assessment should be addressed to the Town of Washington assessor, Appraisal Services at 715-834-1361. If you are not satisfied with the assessment of your property, the time for you to voice your objection is during Open Book. You do not need an appointment; just come during the hours it is held to speak to the assessor.

If after reviewing your information at Open Book you believe your property is not assessed fairly in relation to other Town of Washington properties, you can file a written objection form to be heard by the formal Board of Review.

Dates below are tentative; check our website for possible changes.

Open Book

Tuesday, May 17 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Board of Review

Wednesday, June 1 from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Storm Water Pollution Prevention



Spring is just around the corner!

Time to spruce up the lawn and garden.

Here are a few suggestions to avoid adding phosphorus and fertilizers to nearby waterways.

- Reuse leaves and grass clippings as mulch, add it to a compost pile, or till into gardens.
- Test your soil before fertilizing. Fertilize per specified rate and clean up excess.
- Use a soaker-style hose to water and don't overwater.
- Conserve water by planting a rain garden of native plants, shrubs and trees to maximize infiltration and reduce runoff. Consider capturing rain from your downspout in a barrel for watering.

Illicit Discharges

When traveling around town be on the lookout of "illicit discharges" to storm drains and ditches. This includes materials from failing septic systems, spills or dumping of chemicals, oils or ag by-products, and pipes carrying anything other than storm water. Storm water that enters a storm drain in urban areas is NOT treated before entering waterways. Discharges into ditches may not immediately reach a waterway; nevertheless, they pollute the ditch line and may reach waterways when ditches are frozen and little infiltration takes place. If you observe an illicit discharge contact the Town Office for investigation.



Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition

Across the Watershed, residents are learning together and taking action to improve water and soil health in our communities. The Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition invites you to join your neighbors and get involved! Listed below are few things you can do.

Residents & Homeowners

- Use rain gardens and rain barrels to reduce runoff
- Raise the mower height for deeper roots and improved infiltration
- Minimize impervious surfaces to increase the infiltration of rainwater

Farmers & Land Managers

- Use grassed waterways and vegetated buffers to trap sediment before it reaches water bodies
- Minimize tillage to increase soil health and prevent soil erosion
- Plant cover crops to keep soil in place all year and improve soil health

Annual Town Meeting

Thursday, April 21 at 5:00 PM
Town of Washington
Municipal Building
5750 Old Town Hall Road



Eau Claire River
WATERSHED COALITION
Healthy Soils • Clean Water • Pass It On

Rest Haven Cemetery

Rest Haven Cemetery is owned and operated by the Town of Washington. For information regarding flowers, wreaths, stone sizes, purchasing spaces, transferring spaces, or scheduling a burial, contact Jackie at 715-834-3257.

Spaces are currently available for \$650.

Winter decorations must be removed from the cemetery before April 1, each year. In the Spring, flowers (real or artificial) can be placed in a plant stand beginning May 1 and must be removed no later than October 15 each year. Anything remaining after this date will be disposed of. Items placed in/on the ground or on a shepherd's hook are not allowed and will be removed.

Dog License Reminder!

If you have not already complied, license your dog before April 1 to avoid a \$5.00 late fee per dog.

If you no longer have a dog that was previously licensed with the Town, let us know or you will continue to receive reminders. Applications for new dogs are on our website, townofwashington.wi.gov (Community tab, then Forms & Permits) or at the Town Office; you must provide written proof of rabies vaccination from your vet. The State of Wisconsin requires dogs to be licensed.

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.

Township Fire Department, Inc. - Station 2

The Fire Department is preparing for spring and the possibilities of brush fires. Brush fires are usually in full force when the snow melts and before the vegetation starts to develop. We would like to remind everyone that you can find all burning regulations online at www.townshipfire.org. The website will also display a notice if burning is prohibited due to dry and/or windy conditions.

It is vital to have your address numbers displayed clearly on mail boxes or on the residence itself if it can be seen from the road. Please try to keep driveways as accessible as possible to large vehicles such as fire trucks by trimming back trees as far as practical. These two problems can slow us down in an emergency when seconds count.

Once again, we are forgoing our annual chicken feed again this year due to staffing and COVID. In lieu of this event please watch your mailboxes as we will once again be sending out a fundraising letter.

We are looking for more volunteers in the Fire 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 webpage to obtain more information. Please strongly consider giving back to your community and join us!

Township Fire Department
www.townshipfire.org

Burning Permits are required when you are burning anything more than a campfire. **PLEASE NOTE!** you can **ONLY** obtain a permit online at www.townshipfire.org. then click on the "Burning Permit" button and you can read the ordinances as well as obtain a burning permit.





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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
Chairperson:	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

Close at 3 PM on Fridays (May - August)

Office Closed

Monday, May 30

Monday, July 4

Monday, September 5