



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. 45 No. 1 ~ March 2023

2023 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

S. Hastings Way (joint project w/City) Kern Drive
S. Hubbard Drive Davis Drive
N. Hubbard Drive



Road Seal Projects:

Chip Seal - Schumacher Road, Markgraff Road, Wenzel Drive, Howard Drive, and Beulah Lane

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

Eau Claire County Highway Department Project within the Town:

CTH II (STH 93 to Talmadge Road)

Annual Town Meeting
Thursday, April 20 at 5:00 PM
Town of Washington
Municipal Building
5750 Old Town Hall Road

New Town Staff

Andy Weiss began as the Town Maintenance Employee overseeing the building & grounds, including the Rest Haven Cemetery on August 15, 2022.

Jamie Mueller joined our Road Crew on November 14, 2022, with many years of experience in road work.

Please join us in welcoming both of them!

Open Book & Board of Review

This is a reevaluation year for property assessments in the Town. The Town Assessor may stop at your property in the next few months; this would be Gene Johnson, Adam Kremer, or John Garlick of Appraisal Services. Questions should be directed to their office at 715-834-1361.

If you question the assessment of your property, the time for you to do something about it is during Open Book. You do not need an appointment. You just come during the hours it is held to speak with 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 must file a written objection form to be heard by the formal Board of Review. Factual evidence must be presented at the hearing.

Open Book and Board of Review dates have not yet been set for 2023, but will be held after Labor Day this year. Watch the Town website or call the office for dates.

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Elections

Only request an absentee ballot to be mailed to you if you intend to vote that ballot; absentee voting is our largest expense for an election and we want to be fiscally responsible with the Town tax dollars.

We encourage residents to obtain information regarding voting and elections only from our office or the Wisconsin Election Commission (including the MyVote website); content from other sources are not always accurate.

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 Election

April 4 - Spring Election

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

The Town Board Chairman and two Town Board Supervisor positions are up for election on April 4, 2023. Offices are for a two-year term.

Candidate statements start below and continue on page 3.



KYLE NYSETH – I am a retired Naval Officer and a member of the community for 32 years. I am running for the Town of Washington Board Chairman and would appreciate your vote.

With 22 years Naval service, including 13 forward deployed missions and two boots on the ground combat missions to Iraq and one in the Philippines, my military experience lends to both my ability to be in a position of leadership as well as manage million-dollar budgets with precision. After retirement, I capitalized on my self-motivated, entrepreneurial spirit and created an 11-year business, NavyPaddles.com.

I have a Bachelor of Science in Workforce Education and Curriculum Development and an Associates of Science in Marine Mechanical Systems. As a young man I was part of the Township Fire Department, I am part of the Board for the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and active member of VFW Post 305. My wife Melinda and I live on a farm with 3 of our 5 children who currently attend the Fall Creek School District and Jacob's Well Church.

I have experience working with the City and County Planning and am well versed in our agricultural and farming heritage. This foundation combined with my developed leadership experience make me a great candidate to advocate for the community. With a proven history of living a life of service, both to my local community and to our Nation, I ask for your support in the upcoming election and your trust while serving in the capacity as the Town of Washington Board Chairman where I would conduct an open door policy to listen to Town matters.

ROBERT SOLBERG – I have been a Town of Washington resident for 30 years. I am married with 4 children.

I have served 4 years as a Town Supervisor and 7 years on the Town Plan Commission. This experience has given me a working knowledge of Town staff, operations, budgets, and processes.

I am a retired successful business owner and have experience as a member of the executive team for a publicly traded company.

I am running for Town Chairman because the current chairman is retiring and I want to ensure continued excellent operation of the Town. This would include maintaining or improving Town financial stability, challenging illegal annexations, continuing Town primary functions, and managing development given the complexities of our proximity to Eau Claire and Altoona.

As Chairman I will respect the taxpayer dollars and do my best to help make common sense decisions that benefit the Town of Washington as a whole.

I would appreciate your vote on April 4th.

JANE MUELLER – I have been a resident of the Town of Washington for 43 years and I am running for a 4th term as a Town Board Supervisor. As a former middle school Social Studies and Math teacher, I believe in an active citizenry. I graduated from the UW-Eau Claire in Education and Leadership Wisconsin (a UW-Extension program formerly known as WI Rural Leadership Program). I live on my late husband's family farm, Mueller Hilltop Farms, along with our three grown children, Dr. Meg Mueller, DVM, Peter (Lydia) and Steven (Haley). I recently retired from a receptionist position in my daughter's veterinary office.

I am active in many local community groups, including Eau Claire County Dairy Promotion and the Eau Claire County Friends of the Fair. I am a member of St. Raymond of Peñafort Parish and an active member of the Music Ministry and Ministry to the Homebound. I also served on the very successful Eau Claire County Farm Technology Days 2021 Executive Committee.

DORI PULSE – ****Curious, Honest, Determined**** In my quest for a Supervisor position for the Town of Washington, those three words best describe the character I am presenting. I am not afraid to ask the hard questions or pursue the right answers.

My experience has been 40+ years in Sales & Marketing consulting and partnering with business professionals, working as a Territory Manager for eleven western states, and holding numerous volunteer positions. I am also a small business owner. Organization and communication are key skills of mine that are used and built upon every day. Being an active participant in the community I live in has become very important to me as I've realized the need to be informed and assist as I can for the common good of our community, county, state and country. Beginning at the local level is where I believe I should be.

My husband and I have lived in the Town since 2007. We are within four miles on the south side of the City of Eau Claire and enjoy "country-esque" living. I would greatly appreciate your vote April 4th.

JAMES ROLBIECKI – As a husband, father, small business owner, and lifelong resident of Eau Claire County, running for the Town of Washington Board was an easy decision. Like most families, we value plowed and maintained roads; we value safety; and we value our neighbors. Being outside of the city limits, we also value the quiet! I am running because I know people value their voices being heard by their local government. Running for elected office is not something I ever envisioned for myself, but those who know me best would tell you that I like to be involved rather than sit on the sidelines.

As a member of the Board, I will foster clear and consistent communication between the Town and residents regarding development, infrastructure, and all issues that are important to my constituents. A well-informed community makes the best decisions for its future, and I plan to encourage just that! I ask for your support on April 4th!

Annexation et al

Annexation is the legal process of transferring property from an unincorporated town to an incorporated city or village. Annexation of property is not new; it has been a part of the town/city tapestry for decades and a topic the Town is acutely aware of. It has been a consideration of the Town Board, the Plan Commission and staff during land discussions, comprehensive planning, and intergovernmental communications and agreements. In recent months, proposed developments and Eau Claire and Altoona aggressive growth efforts have brought this topic to the forefront.

Wisconsin State Statutes define methods to accomplish annexation, two of which we will consider here as they are the most applicable. The historically utilized and most accepted method of annexation is by Unanimous Approval in which a landowner(s) contiguous to a city border petitions the city for annexation. Another method, rarely but more recently employed, is by One-half Approval in which the annexation petition must be signed by a majority of electors in the contiguous annexation territory and either the owners of one-half or the real property in assessed value or in land area. In either case, the approving entity is the City Council; the Town Board has no statutory role in the annexation process. That is the difficult and challenging reality.

As residents, we want the Town to remain healthy and successful. As Town officials and staff members, we share in that desire and vigilantly work towards that end.



Storm Water Pollution Prevention

What is an ILLICIT DISCHARGE? A discharge to the storm water system (curbs, gutters, culverts, ditches, storm drains) that includes materials other than storm water. Some examples of illicit discharges would include materials from a failing septic system, spilling or dumping, and pipes carrying anything other than storm water that discharges into the storm sewer system. Some discharges that are considered okay and do not require a special permit include landscape irrigation, residential car washing, fire fighting, uncontaminated ground water pumping, air condition condensation, lawn watering, and other similar discharges.

Why should we care about ILLICIT DISCHARGES? Because the storm water enters the storm water drain system is NOT treated. What goes in the storm drain comes out of a pipe into waterways. It flows directly into area waterways where we swim, fish, and boat. The impacts of such discharges include polluted waterways and harm to wildlife. This would be the case in the Town's more urban area that have curb, gutter and storm drain systems. In rural areas, illicit discharges that enter roads and ditches may not immediately reach a waterway; nevertheless, they pollute the ditch line and may reach a waterway especially when ditches are frozen and little to no infiltration takes place.

What can each of us do regarding ILLICIT DISCHARGES? Do not discharge chemicals, oils or other pollutants into the storm water system which includes roads, conveyances to storm drains and ditches. Be on the lookout and report spills, dumping, pipes carrying pollutants, failing septic systems and the like to the Town office for investigation.

With the spring thaw, agricultural discharges can be of concern as well. As the snow melts it carries with it manure and other contaminants. The typical treatment of infiltration into the ground will not be effective with the frozen ground and can lead to runoff into waterways.

In the Town of Washington we have a diverse mix of urban and rural landscapes and land uses. Let's all work together to protect our water resources.



Raising Poultry

If you live in a Rural Residential District and are interested in starting backyard poultry keeping under the new county ordinance, check out their website for resources on applying for a license and keeping your backyard flock healthy. Go to: chickens.ehealthdepartment.org

Private Wells

The WI Department of Resources is now accepting applications for treating or replacing private wells with a history of unsafe water from nitrate, E.coli, arsenic, or other contaminants. Applications will be accepted until funding runs out. Eligibility criteria is available at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/WellCompensation.html> or by calling DNR private well specialist John Bowen at 715-797-2004.



Affordable Internet Connectivity Program

The ACP provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households. You can view the full article on our website under News & Events .

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.

Don't Miss the

DEADLINE!

Dog Licenses

If your dog does not yet have a 2023 license, payment needs to be made to the Town of Washington before April 1 or late fees will be applied. In a residential zoning district you are limited to no more than five dogs, unless you have a commercial kennel license.

Real Estate Tax Payments

If you make installment payments on your real estate taxes the 2nd installment is payable to: Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office at 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire on or before July 31.

Township Fire Department, Inc. - Station 2

As we come to the end of February the Township Fire Department has not been that busy. Low call volumes are a good thing but with spring around the corner, grass fire season will be upon us. As the snow melts and the vegetation is dead, these are high fire danger conditions. You MUST get a burning permit, and they are only available online at www.townshipfire.org. All the burning regulations can be found on the website as well.

After a long wait, Station 2, Town of Washington will be hosting an in-person fundraiser this year! It will look a little different this year as we balance the workload with staffing issues. Station 2 will be doing a breakfast fundraiser at the Eau Claire County Fair on Saturday, July 29 from 8 a.m.-11 a.m. We will be serve pancakes, sausage, eggs, fruit, milk and coffee; and will have the fire trucks on display. Come down and support the Station 2 and then enjoy the rest of the day at the fair! Keep an eye on Township Fire Department Facebook for more information.

Staffing issues are an ongoing issue at all workplaces and the Township Fire Department is no different. We need your help! When someone calls 911 for the fire department, they need fire fighters to respond. What if no one showed up when you called for help? We want to be able to provide the Town with the best service possible but we cannot do that without you. The Department needs fire fighters. We need individuals who are ready to answer the call and serve their community. Have questions and want to speak with a fire fighter? Come down to the breakfast fundraiser and we would be happy to answer any questions you have.

The Town of Washington station is the busiest of all five stations of the Township Fire Department due to our central location as well as Interstate 94 and Highway 53. If the fire side of emergency services does not interest you, we also need first responders.

Membership on the entire department is at some of its lowest numbers 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, Inc.

www.townshipfire.org

715-834-6868





5750 Old Town Hall Road
Eau Claire WI 54701
townofwashington.wi.gov

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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
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742
	Jeff White	715-379-0699

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 from May - Sept.