

December 12, 2019

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Anthony Varda, 798-9999

Supervisors

David Evert, 576-2935

Mike Statz, 798-4679

Joe Kruchten, 798-1735

Duane Haag, 798-3638

TOWN OFFICE

Brenda Kahl, Clerk/Treasurer

9046 State Road 19

Mazomanie, WI 53560

767-4152

Fax: 767-3015

Hours: 7:00 – 4:30, except

Wednesday 7:00 – 11:00

Email: twberry@chorus.net

Web: www.townofberry.org

TOWN GARAGE

Orlin Danz, Patrolman

(Cell) 444-0359

Hours: 7:00 – 3:30

FIRE WARDENS

Brenda Kahl

767-4152, during office hours

WI DNR

1-888-947-2876

<http://dnr.wi.gov>

BUILDING INSPECTIONS

General Engineering Company

Mary Dussling

(608) 697-8003

DANE COUNTY SHERIFF

255-2345, Non Emergency

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

Town website, Town Hall, Festge Park,
DH Repair

WINTER IS APPROACHING! SNOW REMOVAL REMINDERS

In order to help our plowing team, please keep turnarounds and the road right-of-way free from debris, vehicles and anything that may impede the snowplows. If there is not enough space for the plowing equipment to turn around, the road may not be plowed.

Also do not shovel, blow snow or have your driveway plowed into or across the road. This is prohibited by Town ordinances and can cause a serious traffic hazard. If possible, it is best to place snow on the side of your driveway opposite direction from which the plow is coming. That way, the plow will carry snow away from your driveway rather than back into it.

2019 PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The 2019 property tax bills are in the mail!

If you qualify for a lottery credit, but did not receive a credit on your tax bill, contact the town office prior to submitting your tax bill payment, 608-767-4152 or twberry@chorus.net

DOG LICENSES

Dog license fees are \$17.50 per neutered male or spayed female, \$22.50 for un-neutered male or un-spayed female, and \$47 per multiple licenses (kennel). Dog licenses are due by April 1, 2020 or an additional \$5 will be charged per license. A list of items needed to apply for a dog license will be enclosed with your property tax bill. If you do not receive a tax bill, but need a dog license application, phone 608-767-4152, email, or download an application at <https://townofberry.org/licenses/>

NOMINATION PAPERS ARE DUE JANUARY 7

Two of the five Town Board Supervisor Seats will be up for election this April. Present incumbents are:

Town Board Supervisor Seat 3

Joe Kruchten

Town Board Supervisor Seat 4

Duane Haag

The first day to circulate nominations papers was December 1, 2019 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 7, 2020 in the office of the Town Clerk.

BERRY BACKYARD CLUB

We wrapped up the year's activities with a September 28th potluck hosted this year by Vardas. The weather was beautiful and a lively group enjoyed a last chance to eat outside, catch a sunset, and then hours of conversation around a crackling fire-pit. We shall regroup in March to plan our plant swap and some activities for 2020. We need your input and ideas! Everyone is welcome, make new friends-the fun is in the doing.

Jane Varda, jane.varda@tds.net, 608 798 9999

BERRY BREAKFAST

Everyone is invited to the Berry Breakfast, this Saturday, December 14th. Our Second Saturday of the month Breakfast group will gather at 9:00 at the Maple Leaf Family Restaurant (Glacier Edge shopping center) in Cross Plains. This is our regular informal fun with friends and neighbors from our area for our "no agenda, no expectations, no work Dutch treat social event". Please join us if you can.

Karen Upper

FALL NEWS FROM ROSEMARY GARFOOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Banned books week in October was observed with displays, and giveaways of "I Read Banned Books" stickers and bookmarks.

Pam Bosben, Library Director, attended a Mental Health Symposium, the focus of which was Substance Abuse Addiction. Attendees were trained to administer NARCAN should a Library opt to keep it on-hand. The possibility of a patron overdosing on Library premises is very real. Given the close proximity of the EMS, RGPL staff are reviewing if this is a role they personally want to take on.

Kris Loman, Assistant Director, attended the WI Library Association Fall Convention at which the keynote speaker was Ijeoma Oluo author of the NY Times best seller "So You want to Talk about Racism."

Pam and Kris also attended a mandatory training session for the December 6-10th ILS (Linkcat system) move to Biblioovation. They are now in the process of training the RGL staff on phase 1: Circulation module.

In addition to family and children's events, including Lego Club and Tweens Book Club, October was all about the Village Board-approved Halloween display which is a highlight for hundreds of residents and visitors. Mindful that not everyone enjoys a spooky "graveyard" walk, the side entrance to the library was kept ghoulish and skeleton-free.

In November, 55 graduates of the annual "1000 Books before Kindergarten" program were celebrated with a "Piggy and Elephant" party at the Library.

If you're not familiar with author Mo Willems picture books, check them out for your little ones.

Last but not least, the Board approved RGPL joining the growing number of fine-free Libraries in the country, effective January 2020. Due-date reminders can be emailed to you and renewals are only a click away on the library website.

Check the website for more information and details of upcoming events. Stop in for a hot drink and browse for some good reads to enjoy over the holidays. <https://www.rgpl.org/>

A public library is the only source of free and continuing education from cradle to grave, and in addition serves both as a community gathering space for all, and a public forum to meet and share ideas and interests.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Varda (Town of Berry Library Trustee)
jane.varda@tds.net, 608 798 9999

BURNING PERMITS REQUIRED AS OF JANUARY 1ST

State law requires burning permits in the Extensive Fire Protection Area from January 1st through May 31st unless the ground is completely snow-covered where the burning will take place. Only fires used exclusively for the purposes of cooking food or warming the body do not require a burning permit.

Permits are free. DNR offices or volunteer emergency fire wardens can prepare a permit for you. Prospective burners may call the toll free hotline (1-888-947-2876) or go online <http://dnr.wi.gov/burnpermits/> to have a permit mailed or instantly emailed to you.

DRIVEWAY ORDINANCE REMINDER

This past year the Plan Commission has encountered the same problem three times when inspecting driveways for final approval. At some point, after submitting plans for a driveway, between the construction of the driveway and the building of the house, owners and builders are neglecting to make sure the driveway ordinances are being followed. Keep in mind that the main reason for the specifications in the Driveway Ordinance are to ensure safe access to your building by emergency services, like fire and EMS. The errors we are seeing are with respect to the location of the emergency vehicle turn-out. Any required emergency vehicle turn-out must be between 100 feet and 250 feet from the building that might require emergency service. The Plan Commission is seeing emergency vehicle turn-outs too close to the building. The turn-out must be far enough away from the building so that fire vehicles don't risk catching fire when they turn around!

The Plan Commission wants to remind you that it is imperative to check these distances mandated in the Driveway Ordinance before getting too far along in your project. You will save yourself much time and money if you get the driveway and building staked out, checked, and distances re-measured before beginning construction. Don't trust your builder to do this for you or without your prompting them! And if you find it necessary to move the footprint of the building after the driveway is constructed, measure again! You may need to build another emergency vehicle turnout, which can be more affordably done before your finish course of gravel or pavement is applied.

So in conclusion, the Plan Commission urges you to keep the Driveway Ordinance specifications in mind even after your driveway is installed. It is easy to forget while being overwhelmed with the details of your new construction, but you will not receive your final driveway approval until the specifications are followed.

Christine Molling, Plan Commission

NOVEMBER 18 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

(A summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Anthony

Varda, David Evert, Michael Statz, Joe Kruchten and Duane Haag.

Zoning

Allayne Turk's, Blackberry Road, zoning change of 30.76 acres from A-1Ex to AG was approved. Vote 5-0

Driveways

*Eugene and Julie Maier's, 8338 Stone Valley Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

*Mike Ballard and Shelley Adler's, 8990 Spring Valley Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

*Joshua & Angela Archiquette, 5405 Enchanted Valley Road, driveway permit expiration date was extended to August 31, 2020. Vote 5-0

Presentation by Doug Brunner, Cross Plains Area Wheelers ATV Club

The club is asking for road routes. Received approval by the Village of Cross Plains and are now reaching out to the Town of Berry and Town of Cross Plains. In addition to road routes will also have private trails. The club will pay for all signage. Will be submitting an ordinance and routes for future board approval.

Highway 19 Project issues with drainage problems in Marxville and excessive farmland takings contrary to Comprehensive Plan

The board sent a letter inviting State Senator Jon Erpenbach and Representative Dianne Hesselbein to attend the December 10, 2019 DOT meeting to hear the concerns being expressed by the property owners. Vote 5-0

Amendments to the Town of Berry Zoning Ordinance

*Ordinance Amendment Creating a Transitional Rule for Signage was approved. Vote 5-0

*Storage of Boats, Recreational Vehicles and Other Property Ordinance Amendment was approved. Vote 5-0

*Accessory Structures amendment was sent back to the Plan Commission. Vote 5-0

Building & Mechanical Code Ordinance 202.1 was revised. Vote 5-0

The cycle road event deposit for Madison Motorcycle Club was returned. Vote 5-0

Zoning Violation at 6389 Rimmel Court

The board approved referring the zoning violation at 6389 Rimmel Court to legal counsel and to start prosecution. Vote 5-0

Property Condition Assessment Report for 8785 State Road 19

The board set over for discussion at the January Board meeting and sent a letter advising he remains in violation and that action will be taken unless he comes up with a proposal. Vote 4-0.

Evert abstained

The 2020 budget was adopted. Vote 5-0

Committee Reports

*Cross Plains EMS: New ambulance is in use; changing the chief position to a full time chief/emt; ems association is considering the volunteer funds be used to upgrades at the fire station instead of an addition onto the ems building

*District 1 EMS: new volunteers are going thru the program; new ambulance will be here in December

Closed Session: The board moved into closed session at 8:28 pm pursuant to Wisconsin Statute 19.85(1)(c). Vote 5-0

Reconvene into open session at 8:48 pm.

Summarize the closed session motion, that all three applicants be retained in part-time positions for snow plowing purposes and other assignments as necessary; and that the two applicants with CDL’s should have CDL’s with current medical certificates; and the applicants be rotated on a regular basis during the snow season and OD should prepare such a rotation allowing alternative shifts between them as their personal obligations require. Vote 5-0

Future Agenda Items

Discussion/action re: formalizing the banking account review and handling of vendor identification

Adjourn: 8:53 pm

Brenda Kahl

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

December 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 9046 State Road 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560

Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes of November 18, 2019
3. Public Comments: You may address the Board on any item not on the agenda. A discussion item may be placed on a future agenda. Public comment may be heard on any agenda item either now, or at the time the agenda item is to be discussed, or at the discretion of the Town Chair at any other time the agenda item is discussed. Comments are generally limited to three minutes.
4. Patrolman Report, if necessary
5. Discussion/action re: Revising Administrative Fees Policy 113.4, Dog Licenses
6. Discussion/action re: Appointment of Election Inspectors
7. Discussion/action re: Re-formalizing the Banking Account Review
8. Discussion/action re: Handling of Vendor Identification
9. Discussion/action re: Review Equipment Repairs Authorization
10. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Payment of bills
11. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
12. Discussion of future agenda items
13. Adjourn

Persons requiring additional services to participate in a public meeting should contact the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560. 767-4152 twnberry@chorus.net

As of December 12, 2019 the final agenda will be posted on the website and the town hall posting board. The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter