

December 15, 2022

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Anthony Varda, 798-9999

Supervisors

David Evert, 576-2935

Mike Statz, 798-4679

Christine Molling, 712-3033

Travis Austin, 279-4752

TOWN OFFICE

Brenda Kahl, Clerk/Treasurer

9046 State Road 19

Mazomanie, WI 53560

(608) 767-4152

Fax: (608) 767-3015

Hours: 7:30 – 4:00, except

Wednesday 7:30 – 10:30

Email: twberry@chorus.net

Web: www.townofberry.org

TOWN GARAGE

Lucas Danz, Patrolman

(608) 370-2790

Hours: 7:00 – 3:30

FIRE WARDENS

Brenda Kahl

(608) 767-4152, during office hours

WI DNR

1-888-947-2876

<http://dnr.wi.gov>

ZONING OFFICER/BUILDING INSPECTOR

General Engineering Company

Mary Dussling

(608) 697-8003

GARBAGE/RECYCLING

Town & Country Sanitation

(608) 375-5856

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

Town website, Town Hall, Festge Park,

DH Repair

NOMINATION PAPERS ARE DUE JANUARY 3

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

Town Board Chairperson Anthony Varda

Town Board Supervisor Seat 1 David Evert

Town Board Supervisor Seat 2 Michael H Statz

The first day to circulate nominations papers was December 1, 2022 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 in the office of the Town Clerk. Brenda Kahl

WINTER IS HERE! 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.

Lucas Danz

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 hot-line (1-888-947-2876) or go online <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/forestfire/permits> to have a permit mailed or instantly emailed to you.

Brenda Kahl

2022 PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The 2022 property tax bills have been mailed. If you do not receive your bill by next week, contact the town office.

Also, 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 payment.

Take the time to read your tax bill closely. Contact information for the town office is 608-767-4152 or townberry@chorus.net
Brenda Kahl

NOVEMBER 21 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

(A summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Anthony Varda, David Evert, Michael Statz, Christine Molling and Travis Austin.

Patrolman Report

Schuman, Pine and a portion of Enchanted Valley Road were crack sealed on October 25-27; first snow fall went well; started trimming the trees on Pine Road; cement blocks for materials storage have been delivered

Zoning

David Beck's transfer of development right to lot 2 and zoning change of 11.496 acres from A-1Ex to EA (lot 1), 40.975 acres from A-1Ex to AG (lot 2), 44.047 acres from A-1Ex to EA (lot 3) and 39.815 acres from A-1Ex to AG (lot 4) was approved. Vote 5-0

Driveways

*Pat Ripp's final driveway was approved and extended the permit expiration date to December 1, 2022. Vote 5-0

*Dan & Yolanda Burkeland's final driveway was approved and extended the permit expiration date to December 1, 2022. Vote 5-0

Final Certified Survey Map for David Beck, Section 17, was approved. Vote 5-0

The 2023 budget was adopted as presented. Vote 5-0

Cemetery Fence

Discussion of getting proposals for a two sided metal sign. The board approved surveying the cemetery and have corners marked. Vote 5-0

Develop a Road Maintenance Plan

Discussion of how the Town plans and prioritizes for future road projects.

Purchasing tires from McFarlanes at a cost of \$2,398.98 was approved. Vote 5-0

Purchase of Welder

The board approved purchasing a Milleromatic welder and accessories. Vote 5-0

Committee Reports

*Black Earth Fire District: More discussion of the possible merger with the Village of Mazomanie and district boundaries; receiving grant money for equipment

*Cross Plains EMS: The chief has resigned

*District 1 EMS: Waiting for a response from Arena about discussion of a merger

Adjourn: 8:12 p.m.

Brenda Kahl

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

Three electors attended the November 3rd Public Budget Hearing and Meeting of the Electors.

The spending limit for 2023 for highways is set at \$503,243 with \$254,286 of those funds to be used toward the maintenance of town roads and the Turkey Road reconstruction loan.

The electors adopted with a vote of 3-0 the town tax levy for 2022 to be collected in 2023 in the amount of \$532,091 and adopted the Fire and EMS budgets to make a total town tax levy of \$661,550.

More budget information is available on our website at

<https://townofberry.org/town-meetings/budget-town-meeting/>

Brenda Kahl

DOG LICENSES



Dog tags are ready for the 2023 calendar year. 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, 2023 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 applied for a license the past year. If you do not receive a tax bill, but need a dog license application, you can download an application at

<https://townofberry.org/licenses/>

LETTER FROM CHAIRPERSON, TONY VARDA

Dear Berry Residents,

As you know from my last letter in 2020, I will not be running for reelection as Town Chairperson, a position I have held since 2007. Impending retirement, and a move to be closer to family, dictate that I make way for new leadership.

During my time in Berry government, I have been “Chairman,” “Chair,” and now, “Chairperson.” However, the position hasn’t changed, only the name. The responsibilities of a new Chairperson are essentially the same as a Town Supervisor, with some important additional responsibilities. The Town Chairperson must directly supervise Town employees, review Town finances and bank statements, initiate agenda items, review and sign right-of-way permits as well as driveway permits once authorized by the Town, and generally lead the meetings of the Town. Maintaining the roads and participating in Town budgeting decisions are part of the job. Familiarity with the Town’s zoning process is something that a new member will learn over time by participation in the Planning Commission sessions and site visits. The Town does, of course, have access to a Town Engineer and a Town Attorney when questions are raised that need professional assistance.

As many of you know, our Town clerk, Brenda Kahl, is well versed in the ins and outs of Town operations and provides an ongoing outline of things to do and issues to attend to for the Board and the Chairperson. This invaluable assistance will accrue to whomever takes over as Town Chairperson, and I trust will be fully appreciated. Our new Roadman, Lucas Danz, reports weekly on his activities and also has a chart of things to do by the calendar and by the season, to keep Berry roads open and well maintained. Planning and setting priorities are the responsibility of the entire Board, but the Chairperson is often the one to initiate the discussion.

I have enjoyed my time as Town Chairperson and I hope I have acquitted myself to the satisfaction of the Town, including the many

new residents who have made Berry their home over the last 15 years. I wish to encourage anyone who thinks they might like to try their hand at being Town Chairperson to give me a call to discuss the matter, but certainly to take out nomination papers this December so that you can appear on the ballot. When I was elected Chairperson, I had only lived in the Town of Berry for five years, so no one should think that longevity of residency is a requirement. What you need is a willingness to serve, learn, and take responsibility for Town operations.

I believe the Town is in good financial shape and organized to remain so for the foreseeable future. Challenges await, including whether more funding should be put into repairing and rebuilding Berry’s roads. That is a discussion that should be undertaken at the Annual Town meeting each year. I have discovered over time that most of Berry’s roads, like many town roads, were simply paved over with little or no base, leaving them subject to the weather and limited lifespan. Rebuilding these roads to better standards is an expensive long-term process that I hope will continue after I am gone.

Meanwhile, retirement and Kentucky are in my future, and as many of you know our house is presently for sale. Our actual move is to be determined by when our house sells, but it is certain that I will complete my term of office and chair my final Annual Meeting next April. As always, if you have an issue involving the Town, or are interested in running for Town Chairperson, or the Town Board, feel free to call me to discuss it at 798-9999. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Town of Berry. Respectfully yours,
Tony Varda

2023 ELECTION DATES

Spring Primary – February 21, 2023

Spring Election – April 4, 2023

Visit the Town’s website for voting information such as Polling Locations, Voter Registration, Voter ID and Absentee Voting.

<https://townofberry.org/government/elections/>

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

December 19, 2022, 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 21, 2022
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. Update on Broadband Grant
5. Patrolman Report
6. Discussion/action re: Resolution 2022-2, Calling for an Advisory (non-binding) Referendum question to solicit public input regarding the adoption of an ordinance permitting the use of ATV/UTV's on town roads
7. Discussion/action re: Cemetery sign design and purchase
8. Discussion/action re: Garage addition
9. Discussion/action re: Update on property at 8785 State Road 19
10. Discussion/action re: Update on Endres permit for work in town right
11. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Discussion/action re: Payment of bills
12. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
13. Discussion of future agenda items
14. Adjourn

As of December 12, 2022 the final agenda will be posted. The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter.

