

October 12, 2023

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Duane Haag, 798-3638

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

Chris Michaels

(608) 617-9632

GARBAGE/RECYCLING

Town & Country Sanitation

(608) 375-5856

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS

Town website, Town Hall, Festge Park,

DH Repair

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

The Public Budget Hearing and Meeting of the Electors will be held on November 8, 2023 at 7:00 pm. The official notice of the public hearing and meeting will be available in a couple weeks on the Town's website and at the three posting locations.

Brenda Kahl

TOWN OF BERRY BROADBAND EXPANSION

A very positive step to improve high speed broadband service in Wisconsin has been taken by TDS Telecommunications ("TDS"). On September 28, 2023 TDS accepted a proposal from the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to expand broadband service in TDS rural serving areas. TDS accepted the FCC Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model ("Enhanced A-CAM"). In exchange for long term financial support from the FCC to help pay for the cost of broadband service deployment and operation in rural areas, TDS agreed to deploy high speed broadband service. More specifically the FCC agreed to provide guaranteed financial support for the fifteen-year period ending December 31, 2038. TDS has committed to deploying broadband service with a minimum speed of 100 Meg down and 20 Meg Up by December 31, 2028 to all eligible locations in their Wisconsin service territories. Over the next couple of months TDS, the FCC and the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin will finalize a TDS broadband deployment plan for Wisconsin. The Town will continue to work with TDS to help identify all eligible locations in the Town of Berry and establish a time frame. More information will be provided as the TDS Broadband Plan details are developed. About twenty (20) other Wisconsin telephone companies accepted the same FCC offer for their rural service area in Wisconsin. If you have any questions, you can contact Mike Theis at miket@theisconsulting.com.

Michael Theis

UPDATE TAX BILL ADDRESSES

If you have recently built your home, purchased land or own property but do not live at that address, make sure your tax bill will get to you by verifying your tax bill mailing address on the Dane County website, <https://accessdane.countyofdane.com/>.

Brenda Kahl

TOWN OF BERRY RESIDENTS

As you know tax season is upon us. According to the 2023 Audit for the Town of Berry sixty cents out of every tax dollar you pay is distributed to the schools. Fifty-five cents goes to Middleton-Cross Plains School District and Wisconsin Heights School District, the other five cents supports Madison Area Tech College. It costs approximately \$16,240.00 per school year to educate a student in the Middleton-Cross Plains School District and approximately \$20,487.00 in the Wisconsin Heights School District.

The Town Board is planning to set aside more funds towards town roads. Currently, approximately \$250,000 is put towards roads, of that amount \$130,000 is for the Turkey Road loan. As a Town we are not in any hurry to pay this note off as the interest rate is only 1.57%. We place another \$25,000 towards crack filling roads each year. So as you can see it leaves us approximately \$95,000 to maintain roads and as you know it is not getting cheaper to repair roads.

In the draft budget the board approved approximately \$400,000 towards road maintenance. Currently, our town valuation is a little over 252 million. We currently only spend 1/10 of 1% on roads. By increasing the road budget a house valued at 500,000 would have a town tax increase of around \$165, not including the school districts, Dane County and fire and EMS portions.

In early October we are going to bore samples on Old Settlers, Martinsville, and Scherbel Roads. We need to find out what is under the road so we can figure out a plan of action to fix these roads. There are other roads in the town that need fixing, so we are trying to create a long term plan for roads, to be fixed while still maintaining the ones that are in good shape. In order to do this we will be exceeding the State set levy limit.

The town budget meeting is on November 8, 2023, for town residents to approve the budget. This will be the time as residents you will be able to tell the town board if you agree with the budget or not. If not, the town board will have to

go back and cut the budget so as not to exceed limits.

Duane Haag, Chairperson

NEWS FROM ROSEMARY GARFOOT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The big news this summer has been the search for, and appointment of the Library's next Director. In June we wished outgoing Library Director Pam Bosben a very happy, well-deserved, retirement, and gave a warm welcome to our new Director, Elizabeth Clauss.

After serving as the Berry Trustee representative for 5 years, with the hiring process completed and Elizabeth settled in, it is an appropriate time for me to step down from the Board and hand off to incoming President, Jennifer Wankerl.

If no-one from the Town of Berry has stepped forward, and you enjoy being a RGPL patron, and wholeheartedly support all that the library has to offer to our diverse community, I urge you to volunteer to be our next Township representative. Meetings occur the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 5:15. In addition I chose to write a brief quarterly update for the Berry newsletter.

Check out the website for lots more in-depth detail and general information at:

<https://www.rgpl.org/>

A public library is the only source of free and continuing education from cradle to grave.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Varda (Ex-Town of Berry Library Trustee President)

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY

Saturday, October 28th from 10am-2pm
Cross Plains Police Department, 2417 West
Brewery Rd, Cross Plains

Too often, unused and expired medications find their way into the wrong hands. That's dangerous and often tragic. Bring unused and/or expired medicines to a Drug Take Back Day collection site which then protects you, your family and your community. It's easy to participate. Just stop by and drop your items into a bin – no questions asked. You can be in and out of a collection site in minutes. Prescription and over-the-counter medications may be disposed of, including capsules, creams, inhalers, ointments, patches, pills and vials. This also includes pet medication.

SEPTEMBER 18 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

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

Public Comments

*Jim Pulvermacher, Dane County Towns Association Representative and Town of Springfield Chair reminded everyone that the DCTA Meeting is on Wednesday and an item of interest on the agenda is broadband. The Town of Springfield plans to approve Whippoorwill Road as an ATV route.

*Derek Statz asked the board to visit the town ordinances for residency requirements for town board members to be in compliance with State Statutes.

*Travis Austin submitted a conditional letter of resignation since he is currently under consideration by the Dane County Board of Supervisors for an appointment to fill a vacancy for County Supervisory District 13.

*Leah White thanked the board for paving Spring Valley Road.

Dane County Parks Update on the Indian Lake and Halfway Prairie Park Master Plan
The plan was presented by Jolene Stinson, Dane County Parks Director, and Chris James, Dane County Parks Planning and Development Manager.

Patrolman Report

Currently mowing and patching roads. The cemetery fence was removed. The 2004 International chain apron and sprockets have been ordered.

Rezones

Jerome and Andrea Jansen's rezone of 44.047 acres from EA to AG to combine lots 2 and 3 into one contiguous 85.022 acre lot zoned AG was approved. Vote 5-0

Driveway Permits

*Jerome Jansen's, Far View Road, driveway permit application was approved. Vote 5-0

*Ellen Optiz's, 9240 Far View Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

*Ned Dallman's, Far View Road, final shared driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

Revising Cycle Event Ordinance 201.1

The board revised Section X to read as:

A. A forfeiture of \$1,000 for a first violation of any provision of this ordinance;

B. A forfeiture of \$1,500 for a second violation of any provision of this ordinance; and

C. A forfeiture of \$2,000 for any further additional violation of any provision of this ordinance; and revised Section VI, A, to read as Organizers will notify all residents along the route of travel in person or in writing of the group size, date and time of the event, name of event and a contact name and phone number; and removed the word "non-refundable" from Section V, C, 6. Vote 5-0

Zoning Ordinance Amendment 23-01, Creating a Conditional Use for Temporary Housing for Farmworkers was approved. Vote 4-0. Evert abstained.

Proposals for Attorneys

Discussion only. Will send questionnaire to recommended attorneys.

Purchase a Security System

Discussion only. Looking into an open records retention policy.

Proposed Fire and EMS District Budgets

District 1 EMS has no levy increase. Cross Plains EMS meets next week. Black Earth Fire District approved the budget with a \$644 increase for Berry. Cross Plains Fire District meets on October 3rd.

Committee Reports

*Black Earth Fire District: Received a Federal grant for air packs; working with the fire district chief on the clearance and road base for Hillsandwood Road

*Cross Plains EMS: Last six month achievements report showed that they didn't miss any ambulance calls and gained 28 members

*District 1 EMS: Posting for the new chief; creating an employee manual and finishing up the job descriptions

*Park Committee: Will be seed collecting and a portion of the seeds will be spread onto the area that has been treated for invasive cattails and the rest will be packaged for residents; applied to Dane County for seeds that will be spread out next spring; also plan to burn next spring; plans to put up a kestrel box

Adjourn: 9:06 p.m.

Brenda Kahl

LOCAL TOWN OFFICES

Two of the five Town Board seats will be up for election on April 2, 2024. All terms are for two years and begin on April 16, 2024. Offices up for election are:

Office: Town Board Supervisor Seat 3

Incumbent: Christine Molling

Office: Town Board Supervisor Seat 4

Incumbent: Travis Austin

The first day to circulate nominations papers is December 1, 2023 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024 in the office of the Town Clerk.

All necessary papers are available from the Town Clerk or the Wisconsin Elections Commission website,

<https://elections.wi.gov/candidates>

Brenda Kahl

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

October 16, 2023, 7:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 9046 State Road 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meetings Law
3. Approve minutes of September 7 and September 18, 2023
4. 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.
5. Patrolman Report
6. Discussion/action re:
 - A. (V-2023-1) Chad Peters, 5141 County Road P, variance for a detached garage in the front yard
7. Discussion/action re: Appointing an Attorney
8. Discussion/action re: Revising Driveway, Field Road and Right-of-way Ordinance 301.1
9. Discussion/action re: Zoning Ordinance Amendment, Accessory Structure
10. Discussion/action re: Cycle Road Event Permit for Madison Motorcycle Club
11. Discussion/action re: Cross Plains-Berry Fire District Agreement and Cross Plains-Berry Joint Fire District and Cross Plains Volunteer Firefighter Corporation Agreement
12. Discussion/action re: 2024 Budget
13. Discussion/action re: Resolution of Town Board Proposing to Exceed Levy Limit via Special Town Elector Meeting
14. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Discussion/action re: Payment of bills
15. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
16. Discussion of future agenda items
17. Adjourn

The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter.