

December 14, 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

NOMINATION PAPERS ARE DUE JANUARY 2

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

Supervisor Seat 3

Christine Molling

Supervisor Seat 4

Travis Austin

The first day to circulate nominations papers was 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. 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

2023 PROPERTY TAX BILLS

The 2023 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 20 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.

Patrolman Report

The trucks are set up with the snow equipment. Have been working with the Town of Black Earth cutting trees.

Refunding Variance Application Permit Fee for Elaine Anderson

The board approved refunding the variance application permit fee for Elaine Anderson. Vote 5-0

Designating All-Terrain Vehicle Routes and Regulating the Operation of All-Terrain Vehicles Ordinance 201.2, III-Routes

In Section III, the last sentence was modified from “No County or State highways are designated as routes.” to “No County or State highways are designated as routes, except those that have been designated as routes by the County or State. Vote 4-1. In favor: Austin, Statz, Molling and Evert. Opposed: Haag

Refunding Permit Deposit for Madison Motorcycle Club

The board approved refunding the permit deposit for the Madison Motorcycle Club. Vote 5-0

Planning and Adopting the 2024 Budget

The board adopted the 2024 budget. Vote 5-0

Soils & Engineering Report and 2024 Road Projects

Discussion only. Prepare a list of projects for the next Capital Roads Committee meeting.

Revising Regulate Stopping, Standing or Parking of Vehicles Ordinance 300.15

Discussion about enforcement of the parking ordinance and what court of jurisdiction would the town use.

Committee Reports

*Black Earth Fire District: Currently looking at air packs with grant funds; going to switch from 5 inch hoses to 4 inch hoses

*Cross Plains Fire District: Doing final assembly of all the parts and options on the rapid response vehicle; next meeting is January 23
*Cross Plains EMS: The current chief resigned and reposting for the position; ordered an ambulance that was already in progress of being built

*District 1 EMS: Still looking for a chief and reposting the position with an increased salary range; personnel have increased; course set with Southwest Tech to get more people certified

*WTA Convention Items: Supplement shared revenue state aid can be used for fire, ems, police, and/or infrastructure; money to be used to maintain or increase levels of service; fire and ems should not include the funds into their budget; have to self-certify supplemental money or will lose 15% of total shared revenue; supplemental money is tied to the State sales tax and 1 cent of sales tax goes into this fund
Funding assistance programs: 25 million in grants to help with training for EMS; NREMT test is no longer required; don't need to stock an ambulance for paramedic standards even if have a paramedic on board

Personal property tax is gone and the town is to receive payment in lieu of this money; the funds are based on the 2023 personal property tax and will not increase

Advisory referendums are only allowed on capital expenditures funded by taxes

LRIP discretionary grant can be used on any projects; apply in 2024 and committee meets in the spring of next year to award projects; if cost of project increases the town pays for the difference

ARIP is an agricultural grant; up to 90% of cost share; road cannot be weight limited again; funds can be used for culverts and bridges not over 20 feet

Adjourn: 8:15 p.m.

Brenda Kahl

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

Eleven electors attended the November 8th Public Budget Hearing and Meeting of the Electors.

The spending limit for 2024 for highways is set at \$721,593 with \$270,000 of those funds to be used toward the maintenance of town roads and \$129,286 for the Turkey Road reconstruction loan.

The electors adopted with a vote of 11-0 the town tax levy for 2023 to be collected in 2024 in the amount of \$629,061 and adopted the Fire and EMS budgets to make a total town tax levy of \$764,880.

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 2024 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, 2024 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/>

HOLIDAY HOURS

The Town office and garage will be closed on Monday, December 25th and Monday, January 1st. We wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

2024 ELECTION DATES

Spring Primary – February 20, 2024
Spring Election – April 2, 2024
Partisan Primary – August 13, 2024
General Election - November 5, 2024

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

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

2024 WISCONSIN STATE PARK STICKERS

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reminds the public that 2024 state park and forest annual admission stickers and trail passes are now on sale.

Resident and nonresident annual admission stickers are available online and at individual state park and forest properties via drive-up window service, self-registration kiosks or over the phone. State trail passes are available only at individual properties or licensed vendors.

Vehicle admission stickers provide access to more than 60 state parks, forests and recreation areas across Wisconsin. An annual sticker or a daily admission pass is required on all motor vehicles visiting state parks and recreation areas. Some state forest and trail parking areas also require the annual sticker or daily admission pass.

A state trail pass is required for all people age 16 or older biking, in-line skating, horseback riding, cross-country skiing or off-highway motorcycling on specific state trails. A state trail pass is not required for walking or hiking.

An annual vehicle admission sticker costs \$28 for Wisconsin residents or \$38 for nonresidents. If more than one vehicle is registered to the same household, additional vehicle stickers are available for \$15.50 for residents and \$20.50 for nonresidents. A senior citizen annual sticker is available for \$13 for Wisconsin residents 65 and older. Annual trail passes are \$25 for residents and nonresidents.

Both 2024 annual vehicle admission stickers and trail passes are valid from the date of purchase through Dec. 31, 2024.

More information about the Wisconsin state park and forest vehicle admission sticker is available on our Vehicle Admission Sticker webpage.

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

December 18, 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. Discussion/action re: Town Advocacy Council membership, Joe Ruth attending for WTA
4. Approve minutes of November 6 and 20, 2023
5. 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.
6. Patrolman Report
7. Discussion/action re:
 - A. (R-2023-4) Will & Michael Doherty, Spring Valley Road, rezone 2.14 acres from A-1Ex to SFR and 39.31 acres from A-1Ex to AG
8. Discussion/action re: Approval of final certified survey map for Will & Michael Doherty, Section 16
9. Discussion/action re: Hiring a part-time employee
10. Discussion/action re: 8785 State Road 19 Property Condition Assessment Report
11. Discussion re: Merge of Fire and EMS Districts
12. Discussion/action re: Charging a fee for extending a building permit that has expired
13. Discussion/action re: Appointment of Election Inspectors
14. Discussion re: Legal counsel opinions and/or advice on the Code of Ethics Ordinance, Enforcement of Parking Ordinance, Security cameras, Zoning Ordinance amendments and other topics
15. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Discussion/action re: Payment of bills
16. Discussion/action re: Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
17. Discussion of future agenda items
18. Adjourn

As of December 14, 2023 the final agenda will be posted. The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter.

