Town of Berry News

www.townofberry.org

October 16, 2025

TOWN BOARD
Chair
Duane Haag, (608) 460-0470
Supervisors
David Evert, (608) 576-2935
Mike Statz, (608) 798-4679
Nichole Schwoerer, (608) 767-2203
Derek Statz, (608) 798-0179

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: twnberry@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
Peterson Sanitation
(608) 524-6603

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING LOCATIONS
Town website, Town Hall, Festge Park, DH Repair

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.danecounty.gov.

LOCAL TOWN OFFICES

Two of the five town board seats will be up for election on April 7, 2026. All terms are for two years and begin on April 21, 2026. Offices up for election are:

Office: Town Board Supervisor Seat 3
Incumbent: Nichole Schwoerer
Office: Town Board Supervisor Seat 4
Incumbent: Derek Statz

The first day to circulate nominations papers is December 1, 2025 and the final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 6, 2026 in the office of the Town Clerk. All necessary papers are available from the Town Clerk or on the Wisconsin Elections Commission website, https://elections.wi.gov/candidates.

TOWN BUDGET MEETING

The Public Budget Hearing and Meeting of the Electors will be held on November 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The official notice of the public hearing and meeting will be available on the Town's website and at the three posting locations around October 21, 2025.

2026 ELECTION DATES

Spring Primary – February 17
Spring Election – April 7
Partisan Primary – August 11
General Election - November 3

NEED TO REGISTER TO VOTE?

Visit MyVote.wi.gov for easy access to registration, ballot information, and more.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE

Background

The Town of Berry is updating its comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan outlines the Town's goals for land use, housing, roads, resource preservation, and more over a 20-year period, providing the basis for development decisions and zoning administration within the Town.

The Town of Berry Comprehensive Plan was first adopted in 2002, with updates completed in 2009 and 2017. The existing comprehensive plan contains recommendations and policies aimed at preserving the town's rural character and open spaces while accommodating development. The Planned Land Use Map, along with the policies behind it, are the basis for town growth and development decisions.

The updated plan will include current maps, data, and community priorities to inform day-to-day decision-making. The updated plan will also lay the groundwork for bringing all parcels that are still under legacy zoning into compliance with the current Town zoning ordinance.

2025-2026 Update Process

The Town is working with the Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC) to complete the current update from fall 2025 through winter 2026. The Town of Berry Plan Commission will oversee the process. A final plan will be adopted by January 1, 2027, to comply with state comprehensive planning law.

The process will begin with creating a Public Participation Plan this fall. This plan will be reviewed by the Plan Commission at their December 1 meeting and recommended to the Town Board for adoption. The Plan Commission will also go over the basics of comprehensive planning and review a draft public survey at their December meeting.

How to Get Involved

All Berry residents are invited to participate in the plan update process, beginning with a public survey that will open in early 2026.

Survey results and updated plan content will then be presented by topic at each monthly Plan Commission meeting in the spring and summer of 2026. Plan Commission meetings take place at 7pm on the 1st Monday of each month at the Town Hall. All of these meetings are open to the public.

Prior to plan adoption, a draft of the updated plan will be available for public review and comment, and a public hearing will be held in late 2026.

As the update progresses, information will be posted on the Town website at: townofberry.org/government/comprehensive-plan/ and included in the Town's quarterly newsletters.

Capital Area Regional Planning Commission (CARPC)

2025	Fall / Winter	Data and mapping work Plan Commission recommends Public Participation Plan Town Board adopts Public Participation Plan
2026	Winter	Public survey Coordinate with county and neighbor communities
	Spring / Summer	Review survey results and draft plan chapters at monthly Plan Commission meetings ➥ *1st Mondays at 7PM, Town Hall* Compile draft plan
	Fall / Winter	Draft plan open for public review and comment Public hearing Plan Commission approval Town Board adoption
2027	January	Plan adopted and ready to implement

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The Town Board chose Pellitteri for garbage and recycling services. By now you should have received a letter from Pellitteri informing you about cart delivery and request for a smaller cart, if preferred. Directions on how to use the new cart and detailed information, such as lids must be fully closed, will be included when the carts are delivered.

The Town Board has begun working on the budget. Currently the mill rate is 4.61, which is lower than last year's mill rate of 4.95. This mill rate represents the Town's portion of the property tax bill. The Town has no control over the school districts and county mill rates. Last year the Town's equalized value rose 74 million, with an 18% increase. This year the equalized value increased 33 million with a zero percent increase. Brenda and I had a meeting with the Department of Revenue to figure out their new

math. The State has a complex formula to figure out the equalized values. This upcoming property tax bill should reflect a zero percent increase of equalized value for the school districts and county.

Another adjustment to the 2025 property tax bill will be that the Fire and EMS district levies will be combined as one. In the past if you lived in the Cross Plains Fire and EMS district you were levied per their individual budgets and the same for the Black Earth Fire and District 1 EMS. The Department of Revenue removed the special districts option, therefore the Town is no longer allowed to separate the districts on your property tax bill. The property tax bill will show one line for the Town and this line will include the Town's levy plus the four Fire and EMS Districts levies. As a resident you will be sharing in the costs for all four districts.

Lastly, the yearly annual report, which showed the property owner's names, property assessment and property tax bill amounts, will no longer be printed due to privacy laws.
Duane Haag, Chair

SEPTEMBER 16 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

(A summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Duane Haag, David Evert, Michael Statz, Nichole Schwoerer and Derek Statz.

Public Comments
Duane Haag was informed that TDS is upgrading fiber in areas that were not included in the Federal Grant, which may affect their funding.

Patrolman Report
Boehnen finished excavating Matz Road. Scott Construction plans to pulverize and overlay Matz Road and Spring Valley Road around the end of September. Finishing patching roads while the weather is still warm. Would like the board to consider a tree cutting budget in 2026.

Rezones
B Robert Tabachnick & Susanne Smebak's, 7956 Albe Road, rezone of 18.14 acres from A-2 to AG was approved. Vote 5-0

Driveway Permits
*Derek & Kayla Paddock's, Table Bluff Road, driveway permit application was approved. Vote 5-0
*Jonathan Hall's, 5191 Enchanted Valley Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0
*Chris & Angela Kirsch's, 5047 Enchanted Valley Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

Purchase of Cross Plains-Berry Fire District Vehicle
Town Board supports the purchase of the Cross Plains-Berry Fire District's vehicle and the Town's portion of the cost. Vote 5-0

Zoning Ordinance Amendment Related to Rural Based Businesses and Rural Residences was approved. Vote 5-0

Recording Meetings
Discussion only. Continue with recording the minutes.

Set Date, Time and Location for the Public Budget Hearing and Special Town Meeting of the Electors
Set to November 6, 2025 at 7 pm at the Town Hall. Vote 5-0

Committee Reports
*Cross Plains-Berry Fire District: Bricks are loose on the building and the cost to repair is around $36,000; Pancake Breakfast is October 5th
*District 1 EMS: Approved the 2026 budget
*Black Earth Fire District: Budget meeting is September 25th, replacing the 2006 engine with $598,000 due in 2026 and the remainder funds due in 2027; merging of the two fire districts will proceed and currently the new district will be set up by population instead of equalized value; volunteers currently receive $7/hour and will be increasing in the 2026 budget
*Cross Plains-Berry Fire District: Reviewing the 2017 intergovernmental agreement; Village of Cross Plains is holding an informational meeting on the future of the EMS on September 16 at 7:00 pm.
*Town's equalized value increased by 74 million and 18% last year and this year an increase of 33 million and 0%. Meeting with the DOR to discuss how they figure the percentages.

Adjourn: 7:46 p.m.

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

October 20, 2025, 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 15, 2025
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: Amendment to the Agreement for Emergency Medical Services with Cross Plains Area Emergency Medical Services District
7. Discussion/action re: Proposed Resolution from the Village of Cross Plains to authorize a levy limit exception for charges assessed by the Cross Plains Area EMS District and Cross Plains-Berry Joint Fire District
8. Discussion/action re: Revising Recycling and Solid Waste Ordinance 206.1
9. Discussion/action re: 2026 Budget
10. Budgetary Matters
    A. Discussion/action re: Payment of bills
11. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
    A. Fire Districts
    B. EMS Districts
    C. Other
12. Discussion of future agenda items
13. Adjourn

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