

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2008 VOLUME 29, ISSUE 1 NEWS & INFORMATION

REGULAR MEETINGS

Town Board:

1st and 3rd Thursday
7:00 p.m.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Municipal Building:

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD

Chairman,
Thomas Hanson

Supervisor,
George Losby

Supervisor,
Don Perry

Supervisor,
Michael Stacy

Supervisor,
Karen Tomesh

WASHINGTON TOWN STAFF

Administrator,
Micheal Peterson

Clerk/Treasurer,
Janelle Henning

Administrative Asst.,
Kimberley Bunderson

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I am using this opportunity to clarify the change in emergency ambulance service for the Town of Washington.

The major impacts of the change are:

- Improved level of service to our citizens
- Higher level care provided by Township Fire Dept., Inc. First Responders
- Lower cost to individual users of service
- No change in how service is requested or dispatched
- Increased cooperation between the towns and the City of Eau Claire

Until March 1, 2008 emergency ambulance service and non-emergency ambulance service between institutions has been provided by Gold Cross Ambulance Service. Non-emergency ambulance service between institutions is planned and scheduled in advance while emergency ambulance service depends on the equipment and personnel being available at all times.

For several years Gold Cross maintained two units to meet the needs of the emergency medical services (EMS) outside the City of Eau Claire. There has never been a contract between the towns and Gold Cross Ambulance Service; the service they provided was on a best effort understanding and had not been problematic. In April of 2007 this service was reduced to only one unit. As a result, Eau Claire Fire Department began responding to a large number of EMS calls outside the City.

During 2007, a number of discussions were conducted between the several towns surrounding the City and both Eau Claire Fire Department and Gold Cross Ambulance Service. After much deliberation within each municipality and between the various organizations, it became clear that the best solution would be for the towns to contract for emergency ambulance service with the Eau Claire Fire Department. Gold Cross Ambulance Service will continue to operate one ambulance and provide non-emergency ambulance service between institutions.

Access to emergency ambulance service is a service that all citizens may at sometime require, but it is not a service provided by tax dollars. Emergency ambulance service requires the vehicle, trained personnel, a large variety of equipment and numerous supply items. The cost to a user of such service is based on a fixed cost plus equipment, supplies and actual mileage transported.

The contract we have with the City states that the Town of Washington user of the emergency ambulance service will pay the same cost as a City of Eau Claire citizen plus \$250. \$50 of which is to offset the initial \$5,000 fee paid by Town of Washington for the service.

2008 ROAD PROJECTS

Please be aware of the following road projects that are tentatively planned for the 2008 road construction season:

Andrew Drive
Ashley Road
Canterbury Road
Carol Street
Conch Avenue
Dana Street
Grey Friar Lane
East Lexington Blvd.
Giese Road
Gunnes Road
Kestrel Drive
Martin Road
McElroy Road
North Elco Road
Priory Road
Raber Road
Short Street
Vold Court

SPRING CLEAN-UP

The Town has purchased a new street sweeper. Sweeping will begin as soon as possible after the spring thaw.

TAX REMINDER

Just a reminder that your second installment of property taxes is due by July 31st.

Make your check payable to Eau Claire County Treasurer Larry Lokken and mail to 721 Oxford Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE – CONTINUED

The agreement with Eau Claire Fire Department will also allow our Township Fire Department First Responders (Emergicare) who have advanced training to provide a higher level of care in the field. This would be in the form of providing advanced respiratory procedures as well as more advanced diabetic treatments. This service level increase is scheduled to begin May 1, 2008.

Overall we believe that the Emergency Ambulance Service provided by this contract with the City of Eau Claire will be superior to past service and result in an approximate \$500 savings to the individual user.



ELECTION NEWS

Remaining 2008 Election Dates

April 1, 2008 – Spring Election

September 9, 2008 – State & County Partisan Primary

November 4, 2008 – General Election

Voter Registration

If you are a new resident of the Town of Washington or a first time voter you may come into the office to register to vote prior to an election. This may prove to be quicker than registering on Election Day. You can register on Election Day as well. Proof of residency is required.

Working the Polls

Would you like to be a part of the election process? How about working the polls on Election Day! If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Janelle Henning, Clerk/Treasurer at 834-3257.

Election April 1, 2008

The following Town Board positions will be on the ballot on April 1, 2008:

Town Board Supervisor (Vote for no more than Two)

1. Don Perry 2. Karen Tomesh
3. Gary Zanko 4. Brian Westrate

Polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. All residents of the Town of Washington vote at the Town of Washington Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The assessment of your property is determined by the Assessor as of January 1st each year. Under Wisconsin State Statutes, the Assessor's values are assumed to be correct until proven otherwise, which places the burden of proof on the taxpayer. If you are not satisfied with the assessment of your property, the time for you to do something about it is during Open Book, which is held approximately one week prior to the formal Board of Review. This time is set-aside for property owners to view all Town of Washington property assessments.

If after reviewing your information at Open Book, you believe your property is not assessed fairly in relation to other comparable Town of Washington properties, you must file a written objection form to be heard by the formal Board of Review. Factual evidence must be presented at the hearing.

The formal 2008 Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for the 1st week of June at the Town of Washington Municipal Building. It is open to the public.



Meet the Candidates

Unedited comments from the supervisory candidates for Town Office are presented below.

Don Perry (Incumbent):

I have been a resident of the town of Washington for eleven years and have been an active member of the Town Planning Commission. I have been involved in the long-term plan for the Town's land use and financial management plans. I am a member of the Town Park Commission, Equipment Appropriation Committee, and have worked with town staff to update hiring and employee review processes. I have also participated in the creation of the wastewater management plan that is mandatory for DNR compliance.

At the County level I represent the Town of Washington on the Lowes Creek Park Long-range Planning Commission, Eau Claire County Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee, and have been a member of the Parks and Forestry Advisory Board and the L.E. Phillips Library Board of Directors. The County is an integral partner with the town and its future development; being a member of these committees and working with the County Board and its staff has allowed me to understand and make this partnership work smoothly.

The continued expansion of Altoona and Eau Claire is the next challenge facing our town; my experience is an asset in representing the town and our residents. My eight years on the Board has helped me to understand what the residents of the town desire for the future and that is the preservation of the town's rural character. I am asking for your vote in April and promise to work hard to bring excellent service to the Town of Washington residents.

Karen Tomesh (Incumbent)

I would like to thank the Town of Washington residents for allowing me the opportunity to serve as a Supervisor on the Town Board. It is difficult to believe my first term of office is coming to an end.

During my first term I had the opportunity to serve on the Town's Personnel Committee and was appointed Chairman of the Town of Washington Plan Commission. This Commission was formed in 2006 to participate in the comprehensive land use planning grant received by Eau Claire County. The Town is required to complete and implement a comprehensive land use plan by 2010. As of this writing the Town of Washington is expected to complete the process by Spring, 2009.

In 2007 I was appointed to the Eau Claire County Board of Land Use Appeals. This opportunity has allowed me to become familiar with the aspects of the County's zoning ordinances as well as the County

DOG LICENSES

Dog licenses are available at the Town Of Washington Municipal Building located at 5750 Old Town Hall Road. State law requires all dogs 5 months and older to be licensed. Please bring a copy of the veterinarian's record of current rabies vaccination, as written proof is REQUIRED.

Renewal of dog licenses are required annually.

Male / Female	\$20.00
Neutered / Spayed	\$10.00

BUILDING PERMITS

Will your project require a building permit? Building permits for Town of Washington residents are to be obtained from Eau Claire County Planning and Development. Please call 839-4741 for more information.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 17, 2008

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 17th at the Town of Washington Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road, at 7:00 p.m.

Karen Tomesh (Incumbent) – Continued

Due to the Town's proximity to the Cities of Eau Claire and Altoona we continue to face unique planning challenges which require cooperation between Town, County and City officials. The current Board members and Town staff continue to look for opportunities to work with and improve relationships with surrounding municipalities. The main goal behind these efforts is to maintain the many attributes the Town of Washington residents have come to enjoy.

I would appreciate your vote and continued support on April 1. Thank you.

Gary Zanko

Born in Duluth, MN, attended the University of Minnesota, Duluth on a football scholarship. Graduated with a B.S. degree in Technical Education. I have taught in MN, Superior, WI and 27 years in Eau Claire. I coached varsity football. I have taken 43 graduate credits in Safety Education at Stout. I moved to the Town of Washington in 1970.

I have been a union member of the Steelworkers, Teamsters, American Federation of Teachers, and MN/WI Ed. Assoc.

I am currently President of Chippewa Valley ATV'ers, and have been active as a member of many church boards and committees. I have been on many committees sponsoring equal rights for women in the work place and in schools.

With my background in education and working with many different personalities, I offer a good choice for the town board.

I believe one of the biggest problems facing the Township is our neighbor to the north. Land use and the movement of people out of the city to the rural area is a large concern, and the large loss of farm land. When this happens that land will never be used for farmland again, and leads to houses being built where ever the people want to build on that property. This sort of building does not lead to the orderly installation of sanitary service in the future. Now that I'm retired from teaching, I could be a valuable asset to the Town Board and seek your vote in April.

Brian Westrate

I have been a resident of the Town of Washington my whole life. After receiving a degree in Business/Political Science from Bethel College I came home and started a small business in Eau Claire.

Through blood, sweat and tears I've built my company into a growing enterprise currently

employing 12 people. The last seven years have taught me many valuable lessons including how to budget, cut costs, and maximize available resources. In this time of budget shortfalls I

BURNING PERMITS

Do you have yard waste from spring clean-up to burn? Burning Permits are required for burning in the Town of Washington. Call Township Fire Department at 834-6868 on the day you wish to burn between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. to receive verbal authorization and a permit number.

Burning Hours:

6:00 p.m. – Midnight, Mon. – Fri.
8:00 a.m. – Midnight, Sat.

No burning on Sundays or holidays.

BRUSH & YARD WASTE DISPOSAL

Eau Claire County has a brush disposal facility on County Highway Q (Olson Drive) in the Town of Seymour, 800' east of Seven Mile Creek Landfill and on the same side of the road. The brush site is for residential use only. The brush collected at Olson Drive is ground into mulch which both residents and businesses may take free of charge. Yard waste is not accepted. Watch for information from waste haulers as to spring yard waste pick-up

dates. Contact Eau Claire County at 839-6190 for more information.

Brian Westrate – Continued

intend to use my business experience to help efficiently run our town government.

I believe that the government who governs best, governs least. I will work for you to keep government from interfering in your life. At the same time I will work to ensure that your hard-earned tax dollars are efficiently and effectively used to provide you with legitimate services.

Beyond my professional life, I focus on spending time with my wife and 15 month-old daughter, volunteering in our community, and spending time outdoors. I am currently serving as the president of our 72 home neighborhood association, the president of the Indianhead Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, and a member of the Executive Committee of Chippewa Valley Young Life.

The Town of Washington is changing fast, and new challenges require fresh perspectives and ideas. It's time for new blood. I'm asking for your vote so I can put my experience to work for you. Thank you. For more information visit www.votewestrate.com.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS

Mark your calendars! Washington Volunteer Firefighters will be hosting the 44th Annual Chicken Feed on May 18th. Serving will be between the hours of 11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Please come and enjoy this community event. We appreciate your support!

REST HAVEN CEMETERY

Cemetery lots are available for purchase at the Town of Washington Municipal Building at 5750 Old Town Hall Road. The cost is \$600 per lot. For more information or an appointment, contact Mike Peterson at 834-3257.

For those who own cemetery lots,
just a reminder that flowers are
permitted from April 1st until
October 15th in a pedestal-type urn
and/or flower receptacle affixed to
the grave maker. Either natural or
artificial flowers may be used.



5750 Old Town Hall Rd.
Eau Claire, WI 54701-8948

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Eau Claire, WI
Permit 60