



COUNTY OF EAU CLAIRE ~ STATE OF WISCONSIN  
5750 Old Town Hall Road  
(715) 834-3257, FAX: (715) 834-3325

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## TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 31 No. 1 ~ March, 2010

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### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

This winter has been a very snowy and icy season. The road crew has been on call 24/7 to provide snow removal to ensure the safety of our residents. I would like to thank them for the outstanding job they have done removing the snow and ice from our roads. Providing for safe travel on our town roads is of primary importance to the Town of Washington.

The changes made to the emergency ambulance service for the Town of Washington has been very successful in improving the level of service to our residents.

Mediation continues with the City of Eau Claire regarding the City's control within the three mile extraterritorial limit. There has been very limited progress, however, negotiations continue. Planning in general with our municipal neighbors will continue to be of primary concern as we endeavor to maintain our desired rural/urban mix.

Financially, the Town of Washington is in a good position. The Board along with our Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer will continue to carefully monitor revenues and expenditures at our Bi-monthly Town Meetings to ensure sound financial practices. In 2013 the Town will be debt free and the Town Facility will be paid in full.

The Town has taken a firm position in regard to the construction of the new jail in downtown Eau Claire. I personally believe the jail should be built in downtown Eau Claire for the following reasons:

1. Historically the County Courthouse has been in the downtown location since 1873 and the County Jail since 1879.
2. The cost of the downtown location is \$59 million **which is already included in your current taxes**. If the new County Justice Center for the jail, courts and sheriff's department is built at River Prairie or Highway 93 and 94 the cost will be \$105 million. With this alternative it is estimated the property tax levy rates would increase by approximately \$.50 per \$1,000 of equalized value, which equates to \$75.00 additional tax dollars on a \$150,000 home for the next 25 years.
3. Economically there would be a loss of 300 plus jobs from the downtown location.
4. In the current Courthouse there is enough space for an additional 2.5 court rooms if needed.
5. It will cost approximately \$15 million in renovation to prepare the downtown Courthouse for new tenants, if these services were to be moved.

On the April 6, 2010 ballot there will be an advisory referendum question regarding the jail location. I strongly encourage all residents in the Town of Washington to vote for Alternative 1.

## Meet the Candidates for Town Supervisor

### **Donald Perry (Incumbent)**

It has been my privilege to serve on the Town of Washington Board for the past ten years. During that time my focus has been to work with the Town's staff to deliver excellent service while at the same time managing the overall costs passed on to you the taxpayer. I believe that the Town should be managed in a way that offers great service while still maintaining low taxes. Along with the hard work of the staff these goals are consistently being met.

For the past three years I have been representing the Town on the County Comprehensive Zoning Plan. This plan is critical to ensure consistent growth within the Town and to allow residents to have input as to what type of growth and development takes place in their area.

I have represented the Town on the L.E. Phillips Library Board, County Park and Forestry Committee, County Steering Committee for Zoning and Planning as well as several ad hoc committees. This participation has given me a great understanding of how to better serve the residents and plan for the future.

I would like to continue as your Town Supervisor and ask for your continued support in the in the April 6, 2010 election.



### **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 second term of office is coming to an end.

During my second term I continued to serve as 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 was required to complete and implement a comprehensive land use plan by 2010, and last fall the new comprehensive land use plan for the Town was adopted by the Town Board.

In 2007 I was appointed to the Eau Claire County Board of Land Use Appeals. This appointment has allowed me to become familiar with the aspects of the County's zoning ordinances as well as the County staff working in the Planning & Development Department.

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 6, 2010. Thank you.



**Randall Lahr**

I have been a resident of Town of Washington for the past 33 years. I am a happily married man and live at the edge of the Town with my son and daughter. I am an entrepreneur where I have worked in the construction business for 35 years. I am part owner of a local eating and drinking establishment that does a huge fundraiser every year.

After attending Town meetings, it has come to my attention that the Town is growing. I believe it is time to have some new people with new ideas serving on the Town Board. I would be delighted to serve the citizens of the Town of Washington and I am confident I can bring new perspectives to the table. I have the expertise of running a business and I know how to work well with others to open lines of communication. Working in residential and commercial construction, I am very knowledgeable in planning and development.

I have the time and want to make the Town a better place. Please feel free to contact me with your questions and concerns at 828-0965 or email me at [rjl2bo@yahoo.com](mailto:rjl2bo@yahoo.com). I will be available for any inquiries or thoughts that you may have. I want to be involved and hands on with all the Town's activities.

I thank you for voting for me on April 6, 2010 knowing that together we can make a difference and a better place to live.



**2010 ELECTIONS**

April 6, 2010            *Spring Election ~*  
Court of Appeals Judge, Circuit Court Judge, County Nonpartisan Offices,  
Municipal Offices, School District Offices, referenda's for Altoona School  
and the Eau Claire County Jail

September 14, 2010    *Partisan Primary ~*  
Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator,  
Representative in Congress, State Senator, Representative to the Assembly, District Attorney,  
County Partisan Office (and referenda, if required)

November 4, 2010     *General Election ~*  
Governor, Lt. Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, U.S. Senator,  
Representative in Congress, State Senator, Representative to the Assembly, District Attorney,  
County Partisan Office (and referenda, if required)

**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.

**Election April 6, 2010**

The following Town Board positions will be on the ballot on April 6, 2010:  
Town Board Supervisor (Vote for no more than 2)

Randall Lahr            Karen Tomesh            Don Perry

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.

## **2010 ROAD PROJECTS**

Please be aware of the following road projects that are tentatively planned for the 2010 road construction season:

### **Road Projects**

Prill Road  
Clay Street  
Rose Street  
Sheeder Road  
Mall Drive  
Voetmann Road  
Choke Cherry Road  
Bowe Road

### **Chip Seal**

Steinke Road

### **Crack Fill**

Hickory Road  
Puese Road  
Ridgedale Road  
Ridgedale Court  
Balsam Road

\*Road projects are subject to change due to funding

## **CENSUS 2010**

Residents will be receiving the 2010 Census questionnaires between March 15 and 17, 2010. Please take 10 minutes to answer the 10 simple questions and mail it back promptly.

## **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING APRIL 19, 2010**

The Annual Town Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 15 at the Town of Washington Municipal Building, 5750 Old Town Hall Road, at 7:00 p.m.

## **BOARD OF REVIEW**

The assessment of your property is determined by the Assessor as of January 1 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.

The formal 2010 Board of Review is tentatively scheduled for the 1<sup>st</sup> week of June at the Town of Washington Municipal Building. It is open to the public.

## **TAX REMINDER**

Just a reminder your second installment of property taxes is due by July 31, 2010.

### **Make checks payable and mail to:**

Eau Claire County Treasurer – Larry Lokken  
721 Oxford Avenue  
Eau Claire, WI 54703

## **BURNING PERMITS**

If you have yard waste to burn after your spring clean-up you will need to call for a permit. 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.**

## **QUILTERS WANTED:**

Do you enjoy quilting? If so, quilter, Marky Kuba is looking for other quilters who live in the Town of Washington who would be willing to work on a quilt to raffle off in support of the Volunteer Fire Department. If you are interested contact Marky Kuba at 552-0728.

## **REST HAVEN CEMETERY**

Spring is right around the corner and cleanup of the Rest Haven Cemetery begins April 1, 2010. **ALL ITEMS MUST** be removed before Thursday, April 1, 2010. Any items left will be disposed of during cemetery cleanup. ***Flowers will be allowed from May 1 to October 1.*** Flowers must be limited to two items, bouquets, or vases per marker. Either natural or artificial flowers may be used. Thank you for your cooperation.

In an effort to enhance the aesthetic beauty of the cemetery as a whole, we ask if your plant stand(s) are showing signs of rusting due to the weather, that they be painted or replaced per cemetery rules and regulations. Plant stands are available at the Town of Washington for a minimal fee of \$35.00 and a \$10.00 setting fee. Rest Haven rules and regulations are available at the Town of Washington Municipal Building.

Cemetery lots are available for purchase at the Town of Washington Municipal Building located at 5750 Old Town Hall Road. The cost is \$600.00 per space. For more information or to make an appointment, contact Diane Krinkie, Deputy Clerk at 834-3257.

## **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS**

Currently at the Town of Washington fire station, there are 21 active firefighters and 13 first responders. So far this year, the fire station has been a busy place! In the town there have been 26 calls as of the beginning of March and a total of 55 calls in the entire department. Thank you to all of our volunteers for your hard work during trainings and responding to calls!

Although it is still early in the year we are preparing for the upcoming brush fire season, this is usually the busiest time of our year. Just as a reminder, when burning brush with a permit, the person who was issued the permit **must** attend the fire at all times and monitor the environmental conditions throughout the burn. If you live in an area that has special DNR restrictions, such as along Nine Mile Creek Road, you need to get a free burning permit from the DNR. The DNR permits last for one year and require a separate permit from the Township Fire Department each time you burn. Failure to do so may result in consequences from local agencies. To obtain a burning permit and information on burning regulations, you can contact the Township Fire Department at 715-834-6868 between 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday or your local DNR office. Burning regulations can also be found at [www.townofwashington.org](http://www.townofwashington.org) under Fire Department or at [www.townshipfire.org](http://www.townshipfire.org) under burning policy. Questions about the DNR burning permit can be found at [www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire) or call 1-888-WIS-BURN.

In a few months, the Town of Washington fire station will receive a new rescue truck, to replace our old one. We hope to have the truck before our upcoming Charcoal Chicken Dinner Fundraiser on Sunday May 16<sup>th</sup> so we can have it on display for the public. The hours for the fundraiser are 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. We will also be having the fall Corn and Brat Feed Fundraiser; dates have not been set yet, but watch for future advertisement in August. The funds we raise from the fundraiser will be used to buy equipment for the new rescue truck, update some old equipment around the station, and also provide gear for the volunteer firefighters. The money raised from our last fundraiser was used to buy a new siren for the rescue truck, a new backboard, and rescue basket. Also, we supplied uniforms, flashlights, and hand tools to all the firefighters. We really appreciate all the help and support we receive from the community and we hope to see you at the spring Chicken Feed!

Lastly, we would like to tell you more about our fire department. The Town of Washington station is one of five stations, and is known as Township Fire Department Station 2. The Township Fire Department includes the towns of Union, Seymour, Brunswick, Pleasant Valley, and Town of Washington. We are all part of the same department. Within our station we have two engines, two tenders (also known as tankers), a wildland fire truck, and a rescue truck. Being our station is one of the busiest around, training is essential with our trucks and equipment. Some of the training topics that have been presented this past year include firefighter survival, wildland firefighting, vehicle extrication, hazardous materials, and vehicle operations, just to name a few. Remember, we are always looking for volunteers at the fire station. If you are interested, visit our website at [www.townshipfire.org](http://www.townshipfire.org) to view the requirements and instructions on how to apply. Again, thank you for your support!

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
5750 Old Town Hall Road  
Eau Claire, WI 54701

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**TOWN OFFICIALS:**

Administrator/

Clerk/Treasurer: Janelle L. Henning 834-3257

Deputy Clerk: Diane Krinkie 834-3257

Deputy Treasurer: Donna Fitzgerald 834-3257

Chairman: Micheal Peterson 835-2377

Supervisors: Charles Bauer 832-7048  
Donald Perry 831-9584  
Michael Stacy 834-5665  
Karen Tomesh 835-4742

***Town Board Meetings***

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 7:00 p.m.

***Hours of Operation:***

Monday - Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

***DON'T FORGET*** to visit the Town of Washington Website: The site includes: town facts, map with directions, Board and staff, calendar of events, agendas and minutes, notices, forms and permits, Municipal Codes, budget information and more. [www.townofwashington.org](http://www.townofwashington.org)