

Greenfield Winter 2016 Newsletter

Roadwork Plans

Since taking care of our roads is one of the most important and certainly the most expensive part of our budget, we need to maintain them on a regular basis.

The cost of completely tearing up a road and resurfacing it has become very expensive. At the present time the cost to repave a road is more than \$100,000 per mile, so we will be using the seal-coating method whenever possible. We accomplished this during the summer and now will wait and see what winter brings us.

We will be looking for next summer's road projects as we get through the winter and for now it looks like we will be doing some work on Man Mound Road. The rest of the roadwork will depend on what the surfaces look like in late April when we do our road evaluation trip.

We will be paying special attention to the ditches and culverts along our Town roads this winter and spring. You may have noticed that once in a while there is water running across a road because of a failed or non-existent culvert. We will be taking note of these situations and the plan is to get the plugged or failed culverts fixed and clean out the ditches so the water can run down-hill like it is supposed to do.

In some occasions the landowners have filled in the ditches without a culvert, so that they could get into their land easier. However, this process may cause a backup in water movement and is creating the situation where the water then runs over and under the road. This damages the road and also causes a very dangerous situation when the temperature is below freezing. This situation will be corrected by having the County Highway Department remove the offending fill and clean out the ditch so that it can do what it is meant to do.

IS YOUR DOG LICENSED???

Sauk County Ordinance 27.05 requires all dogs over 5 months of age be vaccinated against rabies and licensed. Licenses in the Town of Greenfield are \$11.00 or \$6.00 if the dog is spayed or neutered. Fees go to Sauk County to support the local animal shelter. Kennel Licenses are available for \$100.00 for 12 tags.

Due to a computer conversion on our dog licensing records, we may have lost some information regarding our dogs in Greenfield. So if your dog does not have a current license for 2015, please send your fees along with the dog's certificate from your veterinarian verifying rabies vaccination and if it has been spayed or neutered.

Please send the appropriate fees along with the certificate (I will return it to you) to Town of Greenfield, Jeneane Burton, Treasurer, S4285 Man Mound Rd, Baraboo, WI 53913. Questions to 356-6317 or jeneburton@centurytel.net. THANK YOU for your assistance in our efforts to keep all of our Town of Greenfield dogs vaccinated and licensed. (Jeneane Burton, Treasurer)

Town Website

We are trying to do better in keeping up our Town website, www.greenfieldsaukwi.org, and hopefully you can get up-to-date information on it very soon. We hope to keep all our ordinances, meeting and other important Town information on this site.

Take a look at the website and make comments if you care to. We can always use new ideas.

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IN CASE OF A FIRE

Sometimes fires do happen to us or our neighbors and we need to think a little bit about that.

The Baraboo Fire Department tries to do a good job when they are called upon, but the real story is that it will probably take about 15 minutes before they get to your house. This will depend somewhat on where you live in Greenfield and of course the people closer to the City will probably have a shorter response time.

Since I have about 32 years of experience in the fire-fighting, fire investigation and fire prevention areas, I will give you some things to consider.

Because of the longer fire response times that will occur because of where we have chosen to live, we must take some responsibility for our own safety. First and foremost, please make sure you have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in your homes. Not only will these devices give you early warning of a problem to let you escape, but it may allow you to deal with the problem before it becomes life threatening.

If you find the fire or carbon Monoxide problem early enough, you may be able to deal with the situation before the Fire Department gets to your home. I would still strongly suggest that make that emergency call just to make sure you have solved the whole problem and let the professionals look it over.

The other issue is to make sure that if a fire is noted in your home or that of others, that a 911 call has been made so that the proper people can get on their way to help. There have been many occasions in my professional experience that everyone thought that someone else had called the fire or police and in fact no one had placed that call. Make sure that someone

makes that 911 call. It is much better to have called 10 times than not at all.

Now let's think about the dangers in being close to a burning structure. There are many dangers to consider for bystanders in a fire situation. Are there charged electric wires that may come down if the integrity of the building fails? That happens quite frequently in rural fire situations and these charged wires can cause injury or death to both the firefighters and bystanders. Stay far enough back so that you are out of danger and not in the way of the firefighters.

Do not create a problem by leaving your vehicles in the area that is needed by the firefighters. You should not be that close to a structure fire to create this problem.

Another thing to consider is what might be burning in the structure, especially if it is an out building that may contain explosive fuels or chemicals. That is a serious problem as many of us store our extra fuel or chemicals in our pole sheds or garages. Don't put yourself in danger just to get a better seat to watch the fire.

If you were the person who first noted the fire, at some point the Fire Department should want to talk to you as to what you saw. It can help them a lot in their investigations to determine the causes of fires. The information obtained from bystanders before the arrival of the Fire Department can be a crucial part of the investigation.

So in review, make sure the 911 call is placed, don't get too close to the fire, and make sure your various home alarm systems are working. Lastly, please don't try to be a hero when the situation is far beyond on what you can handle. If you get hurt or lost while trying to play firefighter, you become part of the problem and not the solution.

Another issue that firefighters have to deal with in rural areas is the driveway that accesses the

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burning structure. Dennis Brush from our Plan Commission and I met the Kevin Stieve, the Baraboo fire chief to discuss the driveway issue with him. In general, many of the rural driveways can create a serious barrier to fire suppression efforts. In general, the driveways are not wide enough or have tight curves that create issues for the newer and larger fire trucks. It might be serious enough to not allow the fire apparatus to even get to the burning structure.

This is a more prevalent situation where the driveway goes through a wooded area. We are now looking at our Driveway Ordinance and hopefully we can make sure that we allow for the width and clearance needed for emergency vehicles. We should be more concerned about the safety of the residents than we are about cutting down as few extra trees.

Budget for 2016

The major increases in our Town budget were caused by thousand dollar raises in both the Ambulance and Fire budgets, and a little increase in trash and recycling costs. However, most residents will see a small raise in their tax cost for Greenfield. In general, I think that we did quite well at holding it to that small increase.

Plan Commission openings

If anyone is interested in becoming a member of our Plan Commission let me know. Call Terry at 608-355-0668. Right now there are no openings that I know of, but it would be nice to have a list of those of you who be interested in case of an opening on that commission.

Snow Plowing

Please remember not to plow your driveway snow into the Town or County roadway. If in the process of plowing your driveway and some

of that snow gets on the roadway, you must clean it up yourself. Everyone has been very good about this, but it deserves mentioning.

Town rules and procedures

I would ask all of you that if you have questions about our building or land use procedures, please contact me. I will try to give you the correct answer or get you in touch with the people who can help you. Several of us received an UNSIGNED letter complaining about a structure that was being built.

Let me make something clear. If I am the only one who gets an UNSIGNED letter complaining about something, the letter usually becomes part of my woodstove lighting process. If you are worried about something give me a call. I will be glad to talk to you about the issue. To my knowledge, I have never backed away from a discussion, an argument or any fruit pie with ice cream on it. Let's work together.

To clear up some issues. There are no rules on how large a home can be as long as it meets the required setbacks of the lot is being built on. It is not the Town's business to determine how large, what color, or what style you want your home. Garages can be as fancy as the owner wants and has the money to build them. Garages can have bathrooms and sinks if so desired as long as they empty into a legal septic system. They can have as many electric lights and outlets as the owner wishes. However, they cannot be used as permanent living quarters.

Don't send me anymore UNSIGNED letters, I have plenty of newspapers to help start my woodstove. Let's work together, but do it up front, no hidden agendas.

Trash and re-cycling contract

We signed a five year contract with Peterson Sanitation at our last Board meeting. In the next five years the cost will go up from \$11.82 a

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month next year to \$12.82 a month five years later. I think that is a great bargain, and think they generally do a darn good job.

As always, remember that if our Friday pickup falls on a holiday, the pickup will be on Saturday. It is always better not to leave the trash and recyclables out longer than necessary.

Trash left in the ditches

Again this past year, we have had to clean up junk thrown into our ditches. It varies from tires to old furniture, old style television sets and a multitude of other items that the littering offender doesn't want. Well, we don't want it either. It cost us money to have the County Highway Department clean it up, and it seems like that we could use the money for better purposes.

I have a long time resident suggest that we have a fund to pay people if they report such activities and the offenders are arrested and fined. I like the idea, but have not found out yet just how we can legally do that.

At some point, I think these people would have to be ticketed by the Sauk County Sheriff's department. In the past Captain Terry Spencer of the Sauk County Sheriff's Department has done a super job of catching, and ticketing these people, so Terry give me a call about what we can do to solve this problem.

I certainly hope that the trash is not left by one of our own residents, and past history has proven that to be correct. Let us be watchful and take down a few license numbers if something does not seem right.

ATVs on our Roads

One more than one occasion I have had requests to make our town roads ATV trails. I have told them and will tell you that I think that would be a bad idea. I do not think that most residents of Greenfield would appreciate the

ATV's on their roads. It would be one thing if a resident wanted to run from one part of their land to another, but if it was designated an official ATV Trail, that information would be published in magazines and sent to various ATV clubs. The result of that would be the influx of non-residents using our roads with their off-road vehicles. I don't think we need that and I won't support that idea.

Questions about building permits and rules

If you have any questions about what you need to do a building project, rezone or anything that needs Town or County approval, please make the first call to Terry McCormick , 356-8591. Terry is our Land use Coordinator and he can direct you to the correct procedures and start the proper paperwork. Everything works out so much better if he have the correct information in the first place and you do not waste a month with the wrong or incomplete materials.

Our Plan Commission meets just once a month, so it is imperative if you are in a hurry to have the correct materials done for the first meeting available. If not you may put your project back at least 30 days.

The Town Board meets only once a month, about two weeks after the Plan commission. So things work out well if the Plan Commissions approves your project and then just two weeks later the Town Board deals with it. Then things go smoothly and not a lot of time is wasted.

From the Chair

As I finish this newsletter, I can look out my window and almost see Bluff Road. We are getting our first major snow event of this winter and some of us might wish it would be the last. However, it is more likely that more snow and cold weather is on the way. We have used this

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warmer fall weather to do some extra work along our roads, including what was stated in the roadwork part of the newsletter. If we have a little extra money in our budget, we try to get a head of some needed projects. We can't tell what is ahead for January, February and March, but so far we have saved some snow-removal money.

One issue we will face next budget year will be additional \$8,500 that we will be paying for our fire service. The reason for this is that about 10 years ago the Baraboo Rural Fire Department was eliminated in favor of just having the Baraboo Fire Department pay us for our equipment over a 10 year span. The Rural Baraboo Fire Department was a Fire Department in name only, and had very little authority in the operation of the Baraboo Fire Department. It made little sense to pretend that our rural partners had any authority.

It was decided that the equipment that was owned by the Baraboo Rural Fire Department would be appraised and then sold to the actual Baraboo Fire department. This was done and the amount of value for this equipment was then paid to the towns in reduced fire fees for the next 10 years. Well the ten years is over, and next budget year, we will have to plan for this increase. I think it was the right thing to do at the time and still think that way.

I wish to thank all the members of our Plan commission for the work that they do. In general, I believe that we are working to try to make the residents happy and yet somewhat follow our Comprehensive Plan when it is possible to so. There are occasions that the Plan is a bit unreasonable as to the real word and desires of our residents. But we are working to get things to work better and I compliment the members of the Plan Commission for their efforts.

I had several complaints again this year about dogs that are running loose in various areas. Please remember to keep your dogs either tied, penned up or on a lease. I fully understand that once in a while animals get loose, but it should not be a daily occurrence.

Phone Numbers

Chairman Terry Turnquist 355-0668

Supervisor John Geoghegan 356-3319

Supervisor Fred Collier 356-8445

Clerk Mary Friesen 356-0054

Treasurer Jeneane Burton 356-6317

Plan Commission Terry McCormick 356-8591

Building Inspector MR. Giese 697-7778

Planning & Zoning 355-3285

Alliant Energy 1- 800-255--4268

Emergency numbers:

Baraboo Fire Dept. 911

Baraboo Ambulance 911

Sheriff's Department 911