



Greenfield News

I will try to bring everyone up to date on some important issues, some of which have caused unnecessary concern.

First let's talk about the upcoming re-evaluation scheduled for Spring of 2026. The State Department of Revenue has indicated that we are currently only evaluated at about 50% of actual value for our properties.

That means that we are required to do a full Town evaluation by our Town appraiser. This issue comes into play when properties within the Town, or like properties in the area, sell for a much greater amount than their current evaluation. For instance, if your, or like property was evaluated at \$200,000, but sold at \$400,000, the evaluation was incorrect.

The big question is, how will this affect my Town Tax bill? In general, there will be little effect on most tax bills. However, if you have made improvements to your property, compared to your neighbors, your property may show a larger percentage increase than your neighbors.

Now here is the real world. We have proposed a tax levy for 2026 of \$275,372.00. This is the total money that our taxpayers will pay to the Town of Greenfield. So, if we do not have to spend more money in the 2027 budget, your taxes should not increase very much or not at all.

I have been involved in creating a budget for the Town of Greenfield since 1997, and I always start the process by trying to not spend and tax more money than the prior year. In general, even with the inflation, we have stayed very close to that desired outcome. As you know, your Greenfield tax amount is minor compared to the other parts of your total tax bill. Let this play out, and I think we will be ok.

Now let's talk about something that could greatly affect your future tax liability. If the City of Baraboo wins its attempt to build TWO NEW FIRE-STATIONS, and succeeds in requiring the Towns of Greenfield, Fairfield, Baraboo, and Village of West Baraboo to pay about 30% of the approximately \$32,000,000 cost for these structures, it could change everything.

To date, the Towns and Village have opposed the TWO FIRE STATION plan. An ad hoc committee has been formed to evaluate the issue, and so far, suggest some cost-cutting ideas.

I have spoken multiple times in various meetings in opposition to the cost and immediate need for TWO FIRE STATIONS. If the 32-million-dollar proposal happens, that portion of our Greenfield Town taxes could increase by at least 30-40% for 40 years; yes the loan is for 40 years.

I am not sure how this will end, as many meetings are going on, but will try to keep those interested up to date as good as I can.

Thank you,

Terry Turnquist
Chairman Town of Greenfield
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