



DECEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

THE TOWN THANKS YOU for your input and comments whether indirectly or through the Town Meetings, Committee Meetings or other Town business. You may also call or email any Town Board member expressing your thoughts or to answer your questions. Take the opportunity to join others at the monthly Town meeting or sit in on Committee meetings. This is your Town.....

COMMENTS FROM "ZONING ORDINANCE COMMITTEE" CHAIRMAN

BOB DAVIS.... While very busy, 2025 has gone smoothly for your Zoning ordinance committee. New ordinances have been drawn up and approved by the Town Board. Other new ordinances, or amendments to existing ordinances, are currently in a drafting stage and should be in force in early 2026. This work is done to protect the citizens and environment of Big Bend. As a reminder, Land Use Permits for any property within the shoreland or wetlands are governed by the State of Wisconsin with zoning control being handled by Rusk County. All other Land Use Permits are issued by the Town of Big Bend. Building Permits, regardless of their zoning location, are controlled and issued by the Town of Big Bend. Sanitation Permits, regardless of the zoning location, are issued by Rusk County Zoning. Direct your questions on zoning to our Zoning Administrator, Daryl Dostal, at ddostal9999@charter.net or 715-458-0741. The Zoning Ordinance Committee meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the Town Hall at 9 AM. All meetings are open to the public.

COMMENTS FROM BIG BEND LEPC CHAIRMAN BOB DAVIS.....

Big Bend Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) We are thankful that 2025 has been a quiet year, thus far, with only one call-out of your LEPC team for some minor storm cleanup. Should the need arise, we are ready for any event that may happen during the winter season. Both our Town Hall and Wilson Road sites are fully equipped to operate as a command center. Standby power generation and radio communications equipment are operational at both locations. This provides us with the ability to have communication from all locations within the Town.

While three new people joined our group in 2025, the need for additional volunteers is always present - currently we are seeking an additional one or two members who either have permanent residence here or are in the Town a good share of the time. We will provide equipment necessary for each individual and they will be provided the training to function as a call out responder. If you are interested contact the LEPC Chairman, Bob Davis, at 715-828-2175.

TOWN ROADS.....

The Town continues to invest in roads. Infrastructure, roads, has been a major concern, as you can hear at the Town meetings. It is a very large task to keep up our 43 miles of roads with the use of gravel, seal coating, patching, and blacktop. This year with expenses increasing the Town reduced the maintenance of roads or repair of just a few roads. Wisconsin State Transportation Aid for roads funds increased slightly in 2025 and will increase slightly in 2026.

2025 TAX PAYMENT INFORMATION....How to pay my taxes

Payments by mail: You may pay by mail at any time. Your receipt is not valid until your check clears the bank. We do not accept credit card payments.

2026 In Person Payment Date at Town Hall: Saturday January 31 - - from 8am until 12 noon.

Address Changes: Please put the correct address on your payment stub.

Receipts: Must include self-addressed postage paid envelope if you want a return receipt for your payment. If you have multiple receipts, please send a large enough envelope with additional postage.

Name Changes: These cannot be changed by the Town Clerk. You must contact the Rusk County Register of Deeds. Have your actual deed changed for changes to take effect. The only exception is Personal Property.

Escrow Tax Payments: Please have your bank or lending institution verify your tax payment amount with you before sending a check. Overpayments are costly to the Town. Smaller overpayment amounts will no longer be returned to the taxpayer due to the expense of processing to the Town.

ELECTIONS - 2026....if needed

Spring Primary Election - Tuesday, February 17, 2026
Partisan Primary - Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Spring Election - Tuesday, April 7, 2026
General Election - Tuesday, November 3, 2026

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST..... Registered WI Voters may request an Absentee Ballot or obtain one online at <http://elections.wi.gov> - Form EL121 or request an Absentee Ballot for any election, you may make the request in writing to the Clerk. We will no longer be able to send the applications to you when you phone in a request. A copy of a photo ID must be submitted with the application. You may submit an application and photo ID by mail, fax or email.

TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS....How to reach the Town personnel

All Town personnel are part time - Town Board, Clerk/Treasurer, Maintenance, others are volunteers on committees. Our response to you will be as soon as possible. If we can't answer phone calls or return emails immediately Town Official's will get back to you as soon as possible. Office hours are during meetings, elections or by appointment. When the Town office is not staffed, leave a message on the Town Hall voice mail. Emergencies - Town Officials are listed in the web site, www.townofbigbend.com - Use "Town Contacts" tab.

TOWN WEB SITE....Your source of Town Information....

Check out the Town Web Site, www.townofbigbend.com, for the up-to-date town news and meeting information. Important information will be on the home page, note the ticker scrolling bar for meetings or events coming up, please take a minute to review the website. The Calendar for the Town of Big Bend or area events is a great place to see Town Meetings scheduled. The Web site has Town Contacts, Agendas & Minutes, Ordinances, Snow Plowing, Tax Information, Forms & Permits, Links, and more.

WILSON ROAD BRUSH DISPOSAL SITE.....

Wilson site news is located on the Town web site. Dates and hours of operation can be found on the web site under Calendar. The Wilson Road property is otherwise secured by an entrance gate. The site can be used by displaying your Wilson site Access Sticker. This sticker placed in the lower left corner of your vehicle windshield allows you as a Town of Big Bend taxpayer the ability to bring brush for disposal to the Brush Disposal Area. Please cover your loads. The site is available for small brush and leaves. Details, guidance of disposal and restrictions can be located on the web site.

DUMPING LEAVES OR BRUSH IN TOWN RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....

The Town Board receives complaints of leaves and brush being dumped in ditches and on other owners' property. The Board is asking that leaves and brush be disposed of properly. At this time of year when wing plowing it moves the leaves out of the ditch along the road and creates a road mess or hazard. Also dumping into the Town road right of way or other owner's property is illegal.

CLEARING OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....

The Town continues to hire a contractor to mow the ditches and widen the road, trimming trees. The current budget continues to provide a budget line item each year to fund the continuous control of brush and tree limbs that impact and encroach the Town roadways.

SNOW PLOWING....Gravel roads, citizen snow removal

Plowing or blowing snow into or across public roads into ditches/right-of-way is illegal. WI Statute 346.94(5). Also, section 86.022 makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine to place any obstruction into a road ditch which will impede drainage.

Our plows can be disabled if they hit a compacted snow bank or it can cause them to veer into the other lane. It is also a driving hazard. Violations may result in fines. This is a safety issue and if our plow is disabled, our roads cannot be serviced, impacting everyone.

The Town Board asks for your patience for plowing snow. The Town has 43 miles of blacktop and gravel roads to plow; we clear roads as quickly as possible. Main access to Hwy 40 and County F is a priority. Most snowfalls the Town normally has two 2 trucks on the road. Gravel roads present a problem in the late fall and spring. Soft gravel roads, not frozen up, tend to peel off layers of gravel - easily, thus some gravel roads are not plowed entirely clear, to the surface.

GARBAGE COLLECTION....Must be bagged....No Building Materials Accepted

All garbage collected at Town Hall must be bagged properly for acceptance. Fees are established for each size bag. Bag fees are: Up to 13 gallon size bag \$3.00, 14-32 gallon size bag \$5.00, 32 gallon size or larger \$7.00. Building Materials must be taken to the dump located in the Town of Stubbs.

RECYCLING....It is mandated by the State of WI for Rusk County. The Town of Big Bend Board elected to also recycle and accept garbage at that time. The Town is receiving invoices for NON-RECYCLABLE ITEMS and CONTAMINATION found in the BINS (dumpsters). **Please review the included recycling guidelines sheet for proper "Always Recycle" and "Do Not Recycle (Garbage) samples.** Please listen and work with our Town recycling attendants. Ask attendants if it is or isn't and where to place the questionable item(s). These contamination costs must be reduced to the Town. The Town does recycling and garbage as a service to our citizens and many of us would hate to see it go away.

PLEASE PREDETERMINE WHAT IS RECYCLABLE VS WHAT IS GARBAGE!!!

RECYCLE RIGHT

To learn more,
visit wm.com/recycleright



Always Recycle



Plastic Bottles & Containers



Paper



Glass Bottles & Containers



Flattened Cardboard & Paperboard



Food & Beverage Cans



Do Not Include In Your Mixed Recycling Container



NO Food or Liquids



NO Foam Cups & Containers



NO Green Waste



NO Batteries
Check local drop-off programs
for proper disposal



NO Loose Plastic Bags,
Bagged Recyclables or Film
Empty recyclables directly into
your bin.



NO Clothing, Furniture & Carpet

© 2022 WM Intellectual Property Holdings, LLC. The Recycle Right recycling education program was developed based upon national best practices. Please consult your local municipality for their acceptable materials and additional details of local programs, which may differ slightly.