

## Vol. 27, Issue 4

## Winter 2024

## CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER

By the time you have received and are reading this addition of the town newsletter, we all have enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday. And most, if not all town residents have already dealt with the annual event of what to do with fall leaves. You all have heard (read) my thoughts on the fallen leaves of fall. So, I'm going to "leave" that alone. I'm just saying....

On positive notes: I want to thank all of our town voting residents that exercised their right to vote and cast their vote this past November election, voter turnout of 96% of registered voters. Fantastic! With that goes a huge appreciation and thanks to all of our dedicated poll workers and town clerks that put in a full day, I'm talking almost 24 hours, of polling work duties. Thank You, Thank You, Thank you! Also, in the process of voting approvals; I would like to thank all of the town residents that attended the public hearing and approval of our 2025 proposed town budget. For those that may still want to see the 2025 town budget summary, you can request one from the clerk's office during normal business hours. So too, thank you to those same in-attendance town residents for the successful authorization of sale of Town property: 30.55 acres for \$800,000 to Jefferey D. Ogden.

Looking ahead to 2025, the major town investment project is the reconstruction of Larson Road from County Road CB west to Clayton Avenue. Our longrange road improvement plan for this road, as everyone knows, has been advanced, given the construction of the new Neenah High School. As has been stated in previous newsletter articles, we have granted Local Roads Improvement Aid "LRIP" 70%/30% funds to help with this road project. Also, it was recently announced by the state DOT the following:

"RE: ID 6430-24-00, Larsen Road Intersection, WIS 76, Winnebago County: This email is to continue outreach related to the above Wisconsin



**Bob Schmeichel** 

Department of Transportation (WisDOT) improvement project at the intersection of WIS 76 and Larsen Road in the Town of Clayton. In late 2022, WisDOT selected a singlelane roundabout as our preferred alternative at this intersection. At that time, we indicated that construction was scheduled for 2026, but we would make every effort to advance this date if possible. Due to the strong efforts of our WisDOT team in working through the design, environmental documentation, right-of-way plat development, utility coordination, and real estate acquisition, we are pleased to let you know that construction for our WIS 76 & Larsen Road roundabout has been advanced into 2025. We anticipate construction will begin in late June/early July 2025 with completion in Fall 2025."

When told of this project in late 2022 and having been awarded LRIP funding for our Larsen Road reconstruction, I started to talk to DOT representatives about the timing of our project and concerns of

## **CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER**

#### (Continued from page 1)

construction traffic on our newly constructed road. Whether or not that effort rang true with the higher echelon of the DOT or not, this is great news. Yes, this no doubt will be a commuting challenge for numerous people however it will be all in the same construction calendar year of 2025! The last leg of this road reconstruction "corridor", Oakridge Road from County Road CB east to the Neenah city limits is still projected to be completed in 2026.

So, now we go on to the end of the uproarious year 2024. With that I offer a couple "2024 Fun Facts".

The 2024 Olympics had an equal number of male and female participants for the first time. The 2024

Olympics had 329 medal events, which was the second most in Olympic history and 5,084 medals were produced for the 2024 Olympics, and 18 grams of iron from the Eiffel Tower were used in their creation

Speaking of France and the French. France is known for its wonderful cuisine. Well did you know that the tall white hat that all true French cooks wear is called a toque blanche, which is French for "white hat". And that it is made of 100 folds representing "100" ways to make eggs. And I'm not "eggaggerating"!

Finally, I and the entire Town Board and Town Administrative Staff wish One & All a "Joyous Christmas Holiday and a Happy New Year"

Bob Schmeichel Town Chairman

## PARKS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

Hopefully you have been able to visit all of the Town Parks and CB Trail this past year!

We continue to make improvements to better serve you and improve your outdoor experience!

We have been in a constant battle with dying Ash trees and the ever invasive Buckthorn. We have been approved for several Wisconsin DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife grants. These are match grants to make the best use of your tax dollars.

In 2025 we will continue to improve our playgrounds, extend the Prairie and Oak Savannah at Conservancy Park, and Reforestation to replace our Ash trees with other diverse but hardy species.

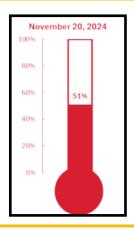
We are always interested in your feedback, donations and telling us about your great experiences with the Parks and CB Trail! Working for you... Tom Jankowski Chair Park and Trails Committee

## NEXTREX CHALLENGE UPDATE

The recycling challenge is going great! As of November 30th, we have reached 51% of our goal of 1,000 pounds! Keep up the great work. Just a reminder: *All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue*. Not sure what is acceptable for the recycling program? Try these tests to see if your plastic is acceptable or not.

- Will the package stretch when you pull it. If yes, it can be included. If it tears like paper, please do not put it in the bin.
- Is the package shiny or does it make a crinkly/crunchy sound in your hand? If yes, do NOT recycle in the NexTrex bin.

Our challenge period runs through June 30, 2025 and have only another 487 pounds to collect to be eligible to win a new park bench.





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## SUPERVISOR'S INSIGHT

Understanding Property Taxes and Taxing Jurisdictions in the Town of Neenah

Town of Neenah may collect your property taxes, but did you know that the money you pay in property taxes is distributed to several different taxing jurisdictions? Only a portion of what you pay actually stays in the Town of Neenah to fund the annual budget. Each of the jurisdictions use the funds for different purposes, such as education, public safety, and infrastructure. Here's a breakdown of how this works.

A taxing jurisdiction is a governmental entity or district that can levy taxes on properties within a specific area. In the Town of Neenah, there are four taxing jurisdictions:

- 1. Town of Neenah: \$0.07 of every dollar you pay in net property taxes stays in the Town of Neenah. In total, the Town will collect \$553,649 in property taxes to fund the 2025 budget. This portion of your net property tax stays in the Town to help fund the administrative services, fire protection, road maintenance, parks, and recreational facilities Total levy for Town of Neenah = \$553,649.00
- Neenah Joint School District: More than half of every dollar paid in net property taxes (\$0.53) is for Neenah Joint School District. This helps fund public education, including teachers' salaries, school facilities, and extracurricular programs. Total levy on your taxes for Neenah Joint School District = \$3,992,231.25
- 3. Winnebago County: Winnebago County levies its own property taxes to fund regional services such as county-wide health programs, sheriff's departments, or county roads. The county's share of property taxes is \$0.34 of every dollar paid in the Town of Neenah. Winnebago County levy in the Town = \$2,581,794.67
- 4. Fox Valley Technical College. About \$0.06 of every dollar in net taxes is distributed to Fox Valley Technical College for their levy in the Town of Neenah. Total 2024 Levy in the Town for Fox Valley Technical College = \$494,851.12.



For example, a home with a \$250,000 assessed value will pay approximately \$3,856 in net taxes with the following allocation due to each taxing jurisdiction:

Town of Neenah	\$ 269.92
Neenah School	\$ 2,043.68
Winnebago County	\$ 1, 311. 04
Fox Valley Tech	\$ <u>231.36</u>
Total Net Taxes	\$ 3,856.00

There are other items on your property tax bill which impacts the Total Due including first dollar credit, lottery gaming credit garbage, recycling, stormwater and other special charges. For more information about your tax bill visit <u>https://townofneenah.com/property-taxes/</u>.

Understanding your tax bill and where it goes is important. Although you may pay thousands of dollars in taxes, only 7% of your net taxes stays in the Town of Neenah to fund fire protection, road maintenance, road repairs, road construction, parks and trails maintenance and improvements, elections, and the general administrative expenses for the Town of Neenah

If you have questions about your property tax bill, contact the Town Office for more information.

Tom Wilde, Town Supervisor

## **INFORMATION FOR 2024 PROPERTY TAX PAYMENTS**

2024 Property Tax Bills will be mailed in mid-December.

Due Date: In Full or First Installment payments are due to the Town of Neenah on or before January 31, 2025. Online Payments: Tax bills can be paid online through Winnebago County website:

<u>https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/treasurer</u> In-Person Payments: In person payments may be made in the office during regular office hours with the following additional hours:

December 24th— 25th	Holiday—Office Closed
December 26th -27th	8:30 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
December 30th	8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
December 31st	8:30 a.m. —3:00 p.m.
January 1, 2025	Holiday—Office Closed

By Mail: Town of Neenah 1600 Breezewood Ln Neenah, WI 54956 <u>Escrow Checks</u>: If you are paying with an escrow check, make sure to properly endorse the check. Checks with missing signatures cannot be accepted.

<u>Receipts:</u> If you require a receipt, enclose a selfaddressed, stamped envelope with your payment. All payment information and receipts are available on Winnebago County website as soon as payment is posted, you can print tax information for your records.

<u>Refund Policy:</u> If the amount on your mortgage escrow check is larger than the amount of your tax bill, the full amount of the check will be applied to your tax bill and a refund check will be issued within 15 days.

TEXT / EMAIL NOTIFICATIONS TO TAX PAYERS

Winnebago County Treasurer's Office has a subscription feature allowing property owners to receive text and/or email notifications when tax bills are created, tax bill payment is received, tax bill installment payment is due or the tax bill is marked as delinquent. Visit Winnebago County website for additional information.





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## APRIL 1, 2025 SPRING ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that at an election, to be held in the Town of Neenah on Tuesday April 1, 2025 the following Town offices are eligible to be elected to succeed the present incumbents.

The term for all Town offices is two years, beginning on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Three Town Board positions are up for election :

Chairman Board Supervisors Incumbent Robert Schmeichel Incumbents Brooke Cardoza Incumbent Thomas Wilde.

The term for Sanitary District offices is six years, beginning on Tuesday, April 15, 2025. Commissioner incumbent Steve Coburn (not seeking re-election)

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that the first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2024. The final day for filing nomination papers is 5:00 pm on Tuesday January 7, 2025.

NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, that if a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 18, 2025.

## SANITARY DISTRICT #2 COMMISSIONER

Town of Neenah Sanitary District #2 is seeking to fill a vacant position of District Commissioner. The incumbent Commissioner, Steve Coburn is not seeking re-election in Spring 2025.

The Commission is responsible for oversight of the Sanitary District including financial and operational functions. The District contracts for daily management of the system and the administrative functions are managed through the Town of Neenah office.

District meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Neenah Office. Commissioners are compensated for their time. No experience is necessary, you will be provided on the job training and the necessary resources to learn about the District.

If you are a community minded individual with good communication skills, we would love to talk to you and answer any questions you may have.

Please contact the Town Office for additional information.

## EMPLOYMENT DEPUTY CLERK – TREASURER

Interested in working in a fast paced environment with something different every day from elections to tax collection and everything in between?

We are adding to our office staff , hiring a second part time Deputy Clerk-Treasurer. The candidate will serve as a key member of our team assisting with duties of the Town Clerk-Treasurer. The work requires a high attention to detail and meeting legal and procedural deadlines. The position requires solid accounting skills to manage budgets, payroll and tax collection. Excellent customer service skills are also necessary for interacting with the public

An associates degree from an accredited college or university in business administration or other related field, or equivalent experience is required. This position is part-time (20—30 hours per week).

Visit Town of Neenah website for a full job description and information of how to apply.

## Introducing Friends of Town of Neenah Fire Department

The Town of Neenah Fire Department has long been a cornerstone of safety and health for our community. Recently, The Fire Department established a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization called *Friends of Town of Neenah Fire Department* which provides a resource for funding opportunities to meet

the needs of the Fire Department and our community. Obtaining the 501(c) 3 status was a critical step for applying for funding through grants. Here's why:

- 1. Eligibility for Foundation and Government Grants
- 2. Tax-Exempt Status Enhances Credibility
- 3. Tax-Deductibility of Donations
- 4. Access to a Broader Range of Funders
- 5. Increased Trust from Funders



The Friends of Town of Neenah Fire Department will apply for grant funds for lifesaving initiatives, allowing the department to upgrade equipment, provide advanced training for firefighters, and enhance public education programs on fire safety and prevention.

A goal for 2025 is to obtain funding for battery operated extrication equipment (Jaws of Life) to upgrade the existing equipment improving the speed of cutting, lighter in weight and more portable for our emergency responders. These fund raising efforts will make the Town of Neenah a safer place for families, businesses, and visitors.

# SUPPORT THE ADVERTISERS that Support our Community!

BUILDING PERMITS											
AUGUST 2024											
Dan Luett - Black Haak Heating	113 Woodside Ct	HVAC	\$14,000								
Steven White	116 Wenban Ave	HVAC	\$8,000								
Angelo Van Bogart	6780 Woodenshoe Rd	Garage	\$60,000								
Aaron Bekteshi	1318 Harvest Moon Dr	Electric Solar Panel	\$9,600								
Mary Beth Mastorides – Modern Sheet Metal	1529 Hidden Acres Ln	HVAC	\$5,000								
	SEPTEMBER 2024										
Jonathon Tess - ARD Builders LLC	646 Dartmouth Dr	Remodel	\$60,000								
Midwest Mini Storage P1, LLC	187 Rockwood Ln	Construction Building 1	\$337,600								
Mission Veterinary Partners - Bayland Builders LLC	417 Tullar Rd	Remodel	\$185,000								
Mark Wildenberg - Junior Jolivard	564 Hunters Point Rd	Remodel	\$62,000								
Sidney McGinnis	142 Courtney Ct	Shed	\$5,300								
	OCTOBER 2024										
Dave Blurton	825 Terra Cotta Dr	HVAC	\$11,000								
Kevin Tarr - DVR Construction LLC	1542 Hidden Acres Ln	Deck	\$20,000								
Heidi Hines - Ideal Bathroom Solutions LLC	800 Cty Rd G	Plumbing	\$8,700								
Matthew Gamerdinger	1823 Cty. Rd. A	Deck	\$12,000								
Amanda Yunker - Home Backup Systems	1532 S. Park Ave	Electric Service	\$15,000								
Tom Wilde - Kramer Heating & Cooling	163 Kuettel Ct	HVAC	\$10,000								
Daniel Stubing	131 Old Orchard Ln	Garage stall & Electric	\$16,000								
AlexSchmitzer	175 Rockwood Ln	New home	\$400,000								
AlexSchmitzer	175 Rockwood Ln	Detached garage	\$38,000								
leff Bessette	1259 Radcliff Rd	Shed	\$25,000								
Rob & Kim Underhill – Leks Construction	219 Limekiln Dr	Kitchen Remodel	\$152,000								
Donald Nussbaum - Bruce Mound Builders	665 Dartmouth Dr	Shed	\$16,400								
Jeanie Dorow - Van's Heating & A/C	224 Adella Beach Rd	HVAC	\$5,600								



**DOG LICENSING** 

The licensing year for dogs is January 1 – December 31, Licenses for 2025 are now available.

The State of Wisconsin requires that all dogs receive rabies vaccinations by a

veterinarian, and are licensed annually by their local municipality. Be sure to bring a copy of your rabies certificate to the Town Hall when registering your furry friend (a copy is not kept on file).

Licenses obtained after March 31st will be assessed a late fee of \$5.00

#### How to obtain a license:

By mail: include a completed application (found on our website under Resources—Dog License ), rabies vaccination certificate, proof of sterilization, the appropriate payment, and a self-addressed stamped envelope. Once your license has been processed, your certificate and new license will be mailed back.

At the Town Office bring in your rabies vaccination certificate and proof of sterilization, along with the appropriate payment.

<u>License fee</u>: Spayed or Neutered: \$5.00 Not Spayed or Neutered: \$10.00

## **CLERK'S CORNER**

#### September – November 2024

- Approved final payment and delivery of Custom Fire Engine 39.
- Approved Resolution 2024-11 Certified Survey Map, 1295 W. Winneconne Ave
- Approved Resolution 2024-12: Combined Authorizing Resolution for Urban Forestry Grant and Urban Forestry Catastrophic Storm Grant Programs
- Approved Winnebago County Highway and Town of Neenah Maintenance Agreement
- Approved Resolution 2024–13: 2024 Budget Amendment for purchase of fire truck
- Accepted Resignation of Bryston Hickman from Town of Neenah Fire Department effective October 14, 2024.
- Approved Assessor Contract for 2025–2029 Assessment Years
- Approved Resolution 2024-14 Certified Survey Map, 1348 Larsen Road
- Approved Resolution 2024-15 Text Amendment Request for Winnebago County Zoning Code Chapter 23 of the Winnebago County General Code
- Approved Nominal Payment Parcel Report for Larsen Road Reconstruction Project
- Approved proposal from Clifton Larsen Allen for Audit Services for the 2024–2028 calendar year audits

performed in 2025 -2029. Approved Resolution 2024-18 allocating remaining American Rescue Plan Act funds estimated at \$16,549.79 to replacement doors in Apparatus Bay of the Town of Neenah Fire Department. Approved Resolution 2024-19 –

Adopt the 2025 Town of Neenah and Stormwater Utility District Budgets.

- Approved Resolution 2024-20 Approve 2025 Compensation Schedule
- Approved Resolution 2024-21 Accept Offer to Purchase from Jeffrey D Ogden for Town of Neenah property, parcels 010-021808 and 010-0280603; 30.55 acres for the price of \$800,000.
- Approved Resolution 2024-22 2025 Compensation Schedule for Town of Neenah Sanitary District #2
- Approved purchase of signal light equipment for Larsen Road project at Larsen Road and Rocket Way intersection.

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## 2025 Town of Neenah

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A Week Recycling -EAST side of Hwy 41 B Week Recycling- WEST side of Hwy 41 Large Item Pick-Up (Please call Harter's office at 888-804-8556 for pricing and to schedule.)

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Holiday Observance Jan 1st - New Year's Day May 26th- Memorial Day July 4th - Independence Day Sept 1st - Labor Day Nov 27th - Thanksgiving Day Dec 25th - Christmas Day

## SALT & STORMWATER – LEARN ABOUT STORM WATER RUNOFF

Using excess salt harms plants and animals, pollutes our water, damages buildings, and corrodes vehicles, roads and bridges. Once you put salt down, it doesn't go away. Instead, it travels into our lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, putting aquatic life at risk and endangering our freshwater resources. Salt also alters the composition of soil, slows plant growth, and weakens the concrete, brick and stone that make up our homes, garages, bridges, and roads.

It only takes 1 teaspoon of salt to pollute 5 gallons of water to a level that is toxic for freshwater ecosystems. We can all work together to promote best practices!

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less likely it is that salt will be needed/the more effective salt will be.
- Sweep: Sweep excess salt from walkways and parking lots after a snow event, especially before a rain event to prevent salt from washing down the storm drain to our waterways.
- Switch: When pavement temps drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works in lower temperatures.
- *Hire a Trained Contractor:* If you hire a contractor to do your snow and ice removal, <u>check to see if they have attended a Smart Salting</u> <u>training</u>. If not, encourage them to attend <u>an upcoming training</u>.
- Love the lines: The brine stripes on roadways before a storm can reduce overall salt use by 30%! If you see brine lines, you know that your winter maintenance crew is protecting public safety while saving time, money and caring for the environment.
- Be Salt Wise all year! The salt you put in your water softener ends up in local freshwater streams. New, efficient softeners use less than one bag per month. If your softener is using more – have a professional tune it up – or, replace it with a high-efficiency model.

Do your part to help our community and local water resources. Be Wisconsin Salt Wise! Find out more at www.wisaltwise.com.

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#### Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday: 8:30am-4:30pm Tues-Thurs: 8:30am-12:30pm Friday: Closed

#### <u>Chairman</u>

Bob Schmeichel (920)729-5995 <u>rschmeichel@tn.neenah.wi.gov</u> Office Hours: By appointment.

#### **Supervisors**

David Bluma (920) 636-8340 dbluma@tn.neenah.wi.qov

Brooke Cardoza (920) 727-1750 <u>bcardoza@tn.neenah.wi.gov</u>

Jim Weiss (920) 727-1952 jweiss@tn.neenah.wi.qov

Tom Wilde (920) 427-9912 twilde@tn.neenah.wi.gov

Administrator-Clerk-Treasurer Ellen Skerke (920) 725-0916 <u>eskerke@tn.neenah.wi.gov</u>

<u>Deputy Clerk-Treasurer</u> Vicki Boushele (920) 886-7545 <u>vboushele@tn.neenah.wi.qov</u>

<u>Building Inspector</u> Gary Klinka (920) 727-9200 <u>Fire Chief</u> Dan Osero (920) 725-0916

<u>Plan Commission Chairman</u> Pete Weyenberg (920) 716-8309

Parks & Trails Committee Chair Tom Jankowski (920) 851-5539

<u>Weed Commissioner</u> Dave Bluma (920) 636-8340

Town of Neenah Sanitary District Commission #2-President Dan Osero (920) 740-5757

#### **Regular Meetings**

Regular meetings are held at the Town Hall beginning at 7PM. Special meetings may be held on other days and times. Town Board of Supervisors 2nd & 4th Mondays Town Plan Commission 3rd Monday Sanitary District #2 Second Tuesday PRSRT STD US POSTAGE PAID NEW BERLIN,WI PERMIT NO.188

### WINTER REMINDERS

OVERNIGHT PARKING - Overnight parking is not permitted on Town of Neenah roads

MAILBOXES and SNOW REMOVAL—My mailbox was hit now what?

- First assess the situation. Was the mailbox damaged by the force of the snow hitting the mailbox or was the mailbox physically hit by the plow equipment? More often than not, damage is caused by the force of the snow. Take some time now to ensure your mailbox is properly installed and secure to withstand the force of snow thrown off the snow plow.
- The mailbox policy states that a damaged mailbox from winter operations will be repaired with a plain standard box when it is evident that the snow removal equipment damaged the box.
- If you believe damage was caused by the snow removal equipment, call the Town of Office to report the damage and the Town will make the necessary arrangement for repair if warranted. 920-725-0916.

#### PUSHING SNOW ACROSS THE ROAD

- The practice of pushing snow across the road when plowing creates a hazard for the traveling public and creates a problem for the road plowing operation. It is a violation of Town of Neenah Municipal code to 13.06 to plow, shovel, blow, or place snow across any town road into any ditch. Violators will be fined \$50.00 for the first offense with increasing fines up to \$200 for each subsequent violation.
- ♦ This is an issue of public safety, the Town of Neenah and Winnebago County Highway Department requests your cooperation in curtailing this problem.

<u>PETS IN TOWN PARKS</u>: No animals or pets other than leashed dogs are allowed in Town parks. Dogs owners are required to immediately pick up and dispose of excrement on Town park property or adjacent to Town park property.