



Farmington Town Hall Newsletter

Issue 30 www.farmington-waupaca.com

Fall-Winter 2023

Farmington Town News:

Town Board meetings are held every **third Monday @ 6:30pm** at the Town Hall located at the corner of State Road 54 and County Road Q. Agendas are posted in the *Waupaca County Post*, on our website www.farmingtonwi.com and at the town hall.

TUESDAY, April 16, 2024 - Annual Town meeting of Electors...at 6:30pm.

Agenda items are the audit and financial report along with any other business that may legally come before the Board. **A regular Town Board meeting will follow.**

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2024 will have 4 major elections:

February 20 – Spring Primary

April 2 – Spring & Presidential Preference

August 13 – Partisan Primary

November 5 – General Election

Election times are 7am to 8pm at our Town Hall, E913 Prairie View Lane.

Reminder: Go to www.MyVote.wi.gov to fill out and submit an absentee ballot request or even a new registration form.

Absentee voting will take place at the Town Hall, M-F 8am to 1pm beginning two weeks prior to election day, ending Friday before.

WisDOT is planning Hwy 54 road work sometime during **2025** from Portage Cty line to Foxfire.

The Town currently oversees three cemeteries: **Barton, Salem and Sheridan.** Sites are available for purchase at \$500.00 which includes Perpetual Care. Anyone interested can contact the Cemetery Secretary, Kathy Kasza at the Town Hall (715-258-2779). You can also go on our website www.farmingtonwi.com to view the Town updated Cemetery Ordinance with Rules and Regulations.

Taxes will be mailed out mid-December. PAID to Waupaca County Treasurer and mailed to 811 Harding St. Waupaca 54981

Dog licenses are available after January 1, 2024. Please bring along proof of rabies vaccination. (M/F - \$10; N/S- \$5.00 **PAID AT TOWN HALL**)

Snowmobile News: The Town Board approved the Scandinavia Vikings and County Line Trail Blazer snowmobile clubs request to run trails in the Town road right-of-way. Best to check with the clubs and Waupaca Cty Parks & Rec Dept to learn if trails are open. Contact information:

Tim Dwyer (Scandinavia) 920-858-8583

Craig Nelson (Trail Blazers) 715-281-9051

Cty Park & Rec 715-258-6243

Snow Removal continues with Faulks Bros. As per Town Ordinance 5/20/19(2019) do not snow blow or shovel snow onto the roads. For any questions, contact Town Cell (715-513-0013); Caroline Murphy; (715- 498-9820); Craig Nelson (715-281-9051); Phil Durrant (715-281-8747).

Road Weight Limits will be placed on all of our roads at the same time that the Waupaca County Highway Commissioner establish theirs. (Usually sometime in March). Permits requested by vendors are available at the Town Hall by contacting the Town Clerk at 715-258-2779, coming to the Town Hall during regular hours of M-F 81m-1pm, and on our website www.farmintonwi.com.

Summer Road Work: We cracked filled five roads, overlayed two road sections, patched two roads, worked on two culvert sections and seal coated four roads.

Reminder: The Town trims trees in our Town right-of-way. We **DO NOT** pick up leaves/brush from private property. Do not throw them in our Town right-of-way.....Thank you.

WI Burning: Permits are required by the DNR .Obtain a free permit online instantly with an email address. at www.dnr.wi.gov. Or call the hotline 1-888-WIS-BURN (947-2876) from 7am-10pm daily to have a permit mailed to you. After 9am on the day you want to burn, check the daily burning restrictions and select the county where you plan to burn. Fire conditions change quickly.

Using Aerators and Aeration Systems.....DNR

Knowing the rules can help keep people safe and help protect structures from ice damage.

State Regulations: DNR permitting **IS NOT** required provided:

1. The aeration system is attached to a legal structure (pier, retaining wall, etc.) This can be a previously permitted structure or a structure that is exempt from permitting.

2. The mixing action from the aerator does not disturb the lake bottom. Pointing the aerator flow perpendicular to the lakebed or towards the water surface will help ensure that the lake bottom is not significantly disturbed.

Other Regulations:

In order to protect public safety, ice holes formed from an aerator must be marked with one of the following methods. Please contact the local sheriff's department to report a violation of this requirement (s.167.26 WI Stats.)

- * Erect and maintain a barricade around the holes consisting of uprights that are spaced at adequate intervals to maintain the barricade and that are connected by a continuous rope, cord, or similar material placed at least 2.5 feet and not more than 4.5 feet off of the surface. The connecting rope, cord or similar material shall have reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted ribbon or tape attached to it, so as to be highly visible, and shall be of sufficient strength to allow for the retrieval of the barricades following melting of the ice.

- * Erect and maintain a visual warning mechanism that is highly visible and that is reflectorized, fluorescent, or lighted.

Other Best Practices:

Please be aware you may be liable for any accidents that occur due to improperly marked ice holes. Disputes between neighboring landowners may be handled through a civil action. To avoid accidents or injuries, here are some additional best practices that should be followed:

- * Limit the open water in the pier vicinity by orienting the circulator to create an up flow of water

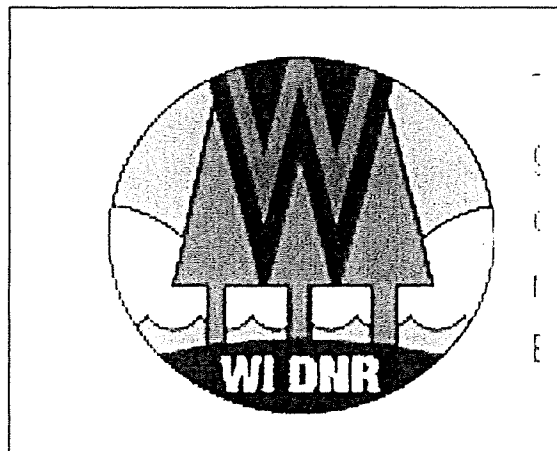
- * Operate the aerator or circulator on a timer to limit run time to the duration necessary to keep the pier ice free

- * Install the aerator in a manner that avoids impacting the ice on your neighbor's property or creates unsafe ice conditions in recreational areas known to be used by ice skaters, fishermen, snowmobilers, etc.

Importance of Safety and the Laws related to ATV/UTV operation.....Jonathan Kaiser, DNR

Emphasizing the importance of safety and the laws related to ATV/UTV operation on the roadways (routes), the DNR has provided a quick reminder about the following requirements:

- * Headlights must be activated
 - * Operators must operate on the extreme right side of the roadway in a single file.
 - * ATV/UTV must be publicly registered and display the related rear license plate.
 - * Proof of registration and ATV Safety (when required) are required to be carried on the machine.
 - * Any operators or passengers under the age of 18 must wear a DOT approved helmet.
 - * All UTV occupants must wear their seatbelt while under way.
 - * ATV Safety certification is required for any operators born on or after 01/01/1988.
 - * In order to operate UTV's on a roadway, operators must be at least 16 years or older.
 - * For ATV's, any operators between the ages of 12-15 must be accompanied by an adult while on a roadway. No operation under the age of 12 is allowed.
 - * The legal blood alcohol content limit for ATV/UTV operation is 0.08%, and operators who are found to be at or above the limit may be arrested for operating under the influence similar to motor vehicles.
 - * ATV/UTV use is not allowed within the boundaries of Hartman Creek State Park.
- A quick link to the Wisconsin DNR's ATV/UTV website is
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/atv>.



Care of Dogs and Cats...

With the resignation of Autumn Murphy as Town Humane Officer and the annual meeting request of residents for adding the servicing of cats, the Town Board accepted, at their August 21, 2023 board meeting, the proposal submitted by the Humane Society of Waupaca County. **The town will not be responsible for picking up the animal(s) found in the Town of Farmington; it will be the resident who will need to deliver the animal(s) to HSWC. Citizens with proof of residency in the Town of Farmington, which find a stray animal(s) in the Town of Farmington, may bring the stray animal(s) in by appointment during HSWC regular business hours and must call (715-258-2545) ahead to schedule the drop-off.** This service is based on where the animal is found, not where the resident lives. HSWC will provide residents with traps should they need one to contain the animal(s). It should be noted that any dangerous animal(s), animal abuse or hoarding situations need to be reported to the Waupaca County Sheriff's Department for enforcement.

Waupaca Cty Planning & Zoning News.....

The Town of Farmington works cooperatively with the Waupaca Cty Planning & Zoning Office for the administration of Comprehensive Zoning within the town. The Planning & Zoning Office serves as the facilitator for all Zone Map Amendments, Conditional Use Permits, and Land Use Permit applications. Comprehensive Zoning exists, in part, to protect public health, safety, comfort, convenience, prosperity, aesthetics and other aspects of general welfare by setting reasonable standards to which structures and uses must meet.

A change in the way a piece of property is used may require a Conditional Use Permit or a change in the zoning of a property. For both of these processes, the first step will be to speak with the Planning & Zoning Office (1-715-258-6255) to determine what is necessary. They will then facilitate any applications and work with the Town and the Planning & Zoning Committee to schedule meetings to consider the proposal. Conditional Use Permits and Zone Map Amendments can take a few months to obtain approvals for, so please plan accordingly.

If you are considering a project on your property that involves the placement, construction, reconstruction, structural alteration, relocation, or addition to a building or structure, a Land Use Permit is required to make sure the project will meet appropriate setbacks and other required standards. Please be in contact with the Planning & Zoning Office well in advance of your proposed project to apply for a Land Use Permit. That is required for all structures including, but not limited to, houses, accessory structures (sheds, garages, carports, etc), decks, patios, permanent pools etc. as well as placing impervious surfaces in shoreland areas.

If a project is started prior to obtaining the necessary approvals, the permit fee is doubled and it is possible that the structure(s) may need to be relocated or removed from the property at the owner's expense. Please make sure to take the time to contact the Planning & Zoning Office before starting any project.

Something new this year – Building Inspection in the Town of Farmington is now handled through the Waupaca Cty Planning & Zoning Office. Waupaca Cty has contracted with General Engineering Company (GEC) for building inspection services. Rodney Schoepke is our GEC representative handling all Building Permit issuance and inspection. Rodney can be contacted at 608-617-9253 or via email at rschoepke@generalengineering.net If you are planning any type of construction project, please be in contact with Rodney well in advance of your project.

If you have any Planning or Zoning related questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Waupaca Cty Planning & Zoning Office at 1-715-258-6255.

What is CodeRED and what is it used for?

CodeRED is a mass notification system that enables local public safety personnel to alert residents and businesses by telephone, text message, email, and social media of time-sensitive information, emergencies, or urgent notifications. The system can reach registered individuals in minutes to ensure information such as evacuation notices, missing persons, inclement weather advisories, and more are quickly shared. Only authorized officials have access to send alerts using the CodeRED system.

When will CodeRED be used?

Any message regarding the safety of our residents and community will be disseminated using CodeRED. We can send out alerts via phone, text, email, and social media in a variety of situations including boil water notices, gas leaks, evacuation notices, police activity, fire emergencies, missing persons, and more. Please keep in mind that as you register to receive CodeRED alerts, you have the ability to select the types of messages you wish to receive and your preferred means of communication.

Is there a cost to register for CodeRED?

No, registering for CodeRED phone calls, text messages, and email are free. Simply sign up on our enrollment website and select your preferred means of communication.

How will I know when CodeRED is calling?

A CodeRED message will have the caller ID

866-419-5000 for emergencies and caller ID

855-969-4636 for non-emergencies. We suggest that you program these numbers into your cell phone as a "new contact" and use "CodeRED" as the contact name. If you need to replay the message received, you can dial this number and listen to the message again in its entirety.

Why is CodeRED important to me?

Officials will send messages to alert you of emergency details, instructions, or precautions that you need in order to make well-informed decisions and remain safe. This system is precise enough to geo-target residents within an exact area of impact, so that only those people who are affected by emergency situation are notified.

How do I sign up?

Visit our website and enter the required information online (address, name, phone number(s), and email). This is the quickest way to sign up because the information you supply is immediately registered in the system. If you do not have Internet at home, please consider visiting a library or asking a friend or family member for assistance.

Can I register more than one phone number or email for my address?

Yes, you can register more than one phone number and/ or email address for your location when you register for CodeRED.

What do I do if I receive a CodeRED message?

If you receive a CodeRED phone call, listen carefully to the entire message. You can repeat the message by pressing any key. Do not call 911 for further information unless directed to do so, or you need immediate aide from the police or fire department. If you receive a CodeRED email or text message, please be sure to read the entire message carefully and follow all instructions.

What if I miss a CodeRED phone call?

The CodeRED system will leave a message on your answering machine or voicemail if you miss a CodeRED phone call. If you do not have an answering machine, the system will consider the call as "incomplete" and will attempt to call again after several minutes have passed. If your phone line is busy, CodeRED will try two more times to connect. At any point, you may re-dial the 800 number on your caller ID to hear a replay of the message sent.

Waupaca County CodeRED registration

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/en-US/BFE3C24ED5EB>

OR Text

AlertMeWaupaca to 99411



Harter's Garbage and Recycling Update.....

Should any resident have their pick-up missed....please call Harter's at 715- 446-5400 on the day it is missed.

As a reminder..... We do not have any seasonal suspensions of service. Please move carts away from the road until you return for service.



Town Election News.....

If anyone is interested in serving as a poll worker, please contact our Town Clerk, Kathy Kasza at 715-258-2779. She will provide all information regarding poll worker training that will need to be taken. Reminder that 2024 will have three elections for sure, with the possibility of an additional election in February. Extra help is always appreciated.

Understanding the VA Home Loan Guaranty

WHAT IS A VA GUARANTEED HOME LOAN?

The VA Home Loan Guaranty program is a benefit for eligible Veterans looking to purchase a home as a primary residence. This includes existing homes, pre-construction homes, and the refinance of an existing home loan. You will need a Certificate of Eligibility (COE) which can be obtained via eBenefits, or through your lending institution. The VA home loan is not a one-time benefit. Once a VA home loan is satisfied, you can use the benefit again.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES TO A VA GUARANTEED HOME LOAN?

- Equal opportunity for all qualified Veterans to obtain a VA loan
- Reusable
- No down payment (unless required by the lender or the purchase price is more than the reasonable value of the property)
- No mortgage insurance
- One time VA funding fee that can be included in the loan
- Veterans receiving VA disability compensation are exempt from the VA funding fee
- VA limits certain closing costs a Veteran can pay
- Can be assumed by qualified persons
- Minimum property requirements to ensure the property is safe, sanitary, and sound
- VA staff dedicated to assisting Veterans who become delinquent on their loan

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Generally, the following people are eligible:

- Veterans who meet length of service requirements
- Servicemembers on active duty who have served a minimum period
- Certain Reservists and National Guard members
- Certain surviving spouses of deceased Veterans

Note: There are other groups of individuals who may be eligible. To determine your eligibility, check eBenefits, contact VA Eligibility Center at 1-888-768-2132, or contact our office at 715-258-6475.

Understanding these and other VA Benefits can seem daunting, but the Waupaca County Veterans Service Office can help. If you could use a little help navigating the VA Benefit system please schedule an appointment today!

Jesse P. Cuff
Waupaca County Veterans Service Officer
Courthouse, 811 Harding Street
Waupaca, WI 54981
715-258-6475 -
www.facebook.com/WaupacaVeteransOffice
Hours: Monday – Friday 8a-4p

For more information:

<http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/index.asp>

<http://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets/survivors/Survivorspension.pdf>

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF FARMINGTON, WAUPACA COUNTY, WISCONSIN
YEAR 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 20th, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall of Farmington, a PUBLIC HEARING on the PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET of the Town of Farmington in Waupaca County will be held. The proposed budget in detail is available for inspection at the Town Clerk's Office from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The following is a summary of the proposed 2024 budget.

	2023 <u>Budget</u>	2024 <u>Budget</u>	% <u>Change</u>
<u>REVENUE</u>			
TAXES	\$ 733,836	\$ 769,945	4.92%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	557,300	449,090	(19.42%)
LICENSES & PERMITS	28,600	31,265	9.32%
FINES, FORFEITURES & PENALTIES	100	100	0.00%
PUBLIC CHARGES FOR SERVICES	2,400	398,335	16497.29%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL CHARGES	2,500	1,050	(58.00%)
MISCELLANEOUS	51,000	52,000	1.96%
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES	-	579,143	100.00%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 1,375,736	\$ 2,280,928	65.80%
<u>EXPENDITURES</u>			
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 222,252	\$ 223,732	0.67%
PUBLIC SAFETY	189,559	219,951	16.03%
PUBLIC WORKS	505,095	717,795	42.11%
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES	11,000	13,200	20.00%
CULTURE, RECREATION & EDUCATION	70,175	69,900	(0.39%)
CONVSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT	27,500	38,000	38.18%
CAPITAL OUTLAY	325,155	973,350	199.35%
OTHER FINANCING USES	25,000	25,000	0.00%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,375,736	\$ 2,280,928	65.80%
TOTAL REVENUES OVER(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	\$ -	\$ -	

	Fund Balance January 1	Total Revenues	Total Expenditures	Fund Balance December 31	Property Tax Contribution	Equalized Tax Rate
All Governmental Funds Combined	1,190,630	2,280,928	2,280,928	1,190,630	697,945	\$0.92987

Following this Public Hearing on the 2024 Proposed Budget we will hold the Special Meeting of Electors to adopt the town tax levy followed by the Town Monthly Board Meeting.

Given under my hand and official seal at the Town Hall of Farmington in Wisconsin this 27th day of October 2023.

s/Kathy Kasza, Clerk-Treasurer

Published: November 9, 2023 & November 16, 2023