




Town of Springvale Newsletter January 2015



WINTER AND WINTER PLOWING OF ROADS

Plowing Priorities: Just a reminder of the plowing priorities set for dealing with a major snow storm. Metovale Road and Center Road will be the first priorities for plowing during snow storms as these are the most frequently traveled Town roads. With just a light snow, it takes about 4 hours to open all the roads in the town—then add time to that if there are drifts, so be patient when waiting for the plows to clear your roads.

Common Sense: Think ahead / call ahead before traveling off the **main highways** during a storm! 

Please note: If Fond du Lac County pulls their plow drivers off the roads during a storm, our Town will do the same.

One more thought on winter roads. The view the Town **is required** to take is what is best for the entire town. It may seem as though the Town should make sure the roads are open 24/7 because we all like to be able to come and go

Remembering summer --A thank you from Mike Oskola—our regular roadman—to those of you that cut the ditches along your property. It makes mowing the ditches much easier and makes more efficient use of his time.

when we want. But the fact is that when you chose to “live in the country” consideration should have been given to road conditions in the winter. If you know a storm is coming, perhaps you need to consider staying in town that night knowing you might not make it into work in the morning or home from work during a storm. The Town needs to take responsibility for the safety of the entire township and the benefit of the many vs the benefit of one or two. It also has to take the safety of the plow drivers into consideration, as well as the Town budget. Frequent calls to the Board members will not improve the situation as the crew members are doing the best they can considering the winter conditions they are facing. On the other hand—if there is a true emergency (such as medical) and a need to get out, please do call a Board member or call the Sheriff’s office and they will relay the message. Also, do let us know if a road is drifting where we may not be aware of it, or an icy intersection that needs salt/sand. It is all about safety for everyone.

Note: Wis. Stat 88.022 makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine to place an obstruction in a road or ditch. This includes pushing, blowing or dumping piles of snow in the road or ditch. It poses a danger to the plow (driver and equipment) when they are plowing and hit a pile of snow. Also, if a resident has caused the road to be slippery by pushing snow across the road, the resident could be liable if an accident occurs due to that slippery area.

RECYCLING: I would like to give you a couple reminders about garbage and recycle pickup. Garbage is every Tuesday morning, and Recycle is every other Tuesday morning (i.e. Jan. 19, Feb. 2, etc.). One thing to remember when putting both containers at the end of your driveway on a recycle day is to make sure they are at least three feet apart so the arm of the truck can pick the container up. It is possible that neither container will be emptied if they are not a sufficient distance apart. Also, to be certain your containers will be emptied, have them at the end of your driveway early in the morning. There are times when Waste Management has changed their route and residences previously not serviced until late morning had their containers emptied at 6:30 in the morning. Needless to say, they were not “happy campers.”



A letter from your Town Chairman



To the Town of Springvale Property Owners:

2015 has been an unusually busy financial year for the Town. I thought I'd share with you where your tax dollars have gone.

First as you may know the Town is split and served by two different Fire Departments, basically the western half of the Town is covered by Brandon/Fairwater Fire Department and the eastern half by the Rosendale fire Department. The Brandon/Fairwater Department covers the Villages of Brandon, Fairwater and the Towns of Metomen and partially Springvale and a small portion of the Town of Waupun. All municipalities cost share the expenses of this Department. Rosendale Fire Department serves the Village of Rosendale, Towns of Rosendale and Springvale; again with cost sharing with the other two municipalities, the Town Board is actively engaged with Budget, equipment and personnel issues.

Brandon/Fairwater Fire Department has order a new Fire Truck that will replace two of their older units. The Town of Springvale's share is \$65,609.76.

Rosendale Fire Department's driveway/parking lot has been deteriorating for a number of years. Repair or replacement has been on the long range plans of the department. In recent years the Fire Department has asked for and received bids to resurface the blacktop of the facility. Fortunately this year, with the reworking of State Highway 23, the Fire Department got a bid we could not refuse. The driveway/parking lot was reworked and paved. The Towns share was \$11,000.

During the Annual budget meeting with the Rosendale Fire Department, which also struggles with older equipment, we were notified that they are actively searching for a unit to replace their equipment response vehicle. It may be 6 months or 2 years before the right unit is found. As it stands today the Town's share will be approximately \$40,000.00.

A positive note for the Rosendale Fire Department: Rosendale Dairy paid for the purchase and installation of a natural gas generator to power the Fire Department during a power outage, thus allowing the department to be up to full electrical power during an emergency. Also several members of the fire Department volunteered many hours in helping with the installation.

The Town board encourages you to thank and support either by saying thank you or a financial donation to the many volunteers of the Brandon/Fairwater and Rosendale Fire fighter and First Responders who serve our Town. Because of their assistance and dedication our Town and residents have help when needed.

Snow plowing: as I am writing this in early December, today it was 44 degrees and no frost. We believe that snow plowing is an issue, right? But to be prepared, the Town has made a new purchase this past year. Our snow plowing equipment consisted of a 1959 Oshkosh Four wheel Drive plow truck, an early 1980's John Deere road grader and a 2001 Sterling truck. A year ago we started to research the need and cost of replacing the 2001 Sterling plow truck. When the truck was sold it had 86,000 miles on it. It was well maintained, as the Town has been fortunate to access the Fond du Lac County highway Departments vehicle maintenance / repair shop. For the past several years the County Highway Department has been checking over the Sterling and Grader and making necessary repairs. Thus keeping us in good repair. Plus their shop rates are lower than a commercial facility.

After a lot of research, talking with other equipment owners and operators, and checking with various manufacture's the Town purchased a 2015 Western Star plow truck, it is the same size truck, based on wheel base, we have used in the past. As with 2015, the plow equipment has a better and newer design then 15 years ago. Thus make the unit more efficient and economical to use.

The total price for the truck and plow equipment was, \$147,528. The Town did not have enough cash on hand to make the total purchase. The Town has borrowed \$60,000 for the State of Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Lands at 1.5%. We plan to pay back this loan by 2018.

As a follow up on other equipment in the Town. Several years the Town purchased a 1998 one ton pickup truck. This truck has been equipped with a plow and salter for winter use on our smaller town roads, plus in the summer it has replaced out John Deere tractor which used to be used to do routine road maintenance, thus saving wear and tear on the tractor.

Now for the big question, where did the money come from to do all of this?

To start with, approximately 20 years ago the Town Board was thinking of the future and being very fiscally conservative, started two small funds to set aside monies for major purchases. Each year the Board contributed \$5,000 or more to each

money market fund as the budget allowed. One fund was for the Fire Departments, to help the town to meet its obligations to support Brandon/Fairwater and Rosendale. The other was for Town road equipment replacement or maintenance fund. The Town has been very fortunate that the earlier Town Board and current Board Members were and are planning for the future and what expenses might occur. As it stands today our Funds/Money Market accounts are down to the bear minimum. The current board hopes to keep the Town operating costs and expenses to a minimum in future years to rebuild those funds.

On to the Town's annual road repair/maintenance: The Wisconsin DOT supports our Town road with Tax payers dollars, The Town receives approximately \$82,500 annually. In looking at the past 3 years of our budget we spend approximately \$82,000 on road improvement, not including costs of equipment or manpower. We hope to be able to increase that to closer to \$90,000 in 2016. Road repair is filling in severe cracks in the road way with some cold mix black top, replacing as needed culverts signs, etc. Maintenance is chip sealing 2 or miles a year on our roadways, gravel and grading of various roads in the Town.

Why don't we do more black topping? Good question the answer is: \$

We can chip seal most of the Town roads at a cost (2015) of approximately \$25,000 per mile, depending if it needs wedging which increases the cost. Black top (2015) is approximately \$100,000 per mile, but more if the subsurface or base needs to be rebuilt. Our town roads, as in most rural areas of Wisconsin started with farmers throwing dirt from the ditches to elevate a road way. Most if not all of the Town roads have a very poor sub-base of gravel, most likely 6-12 inches in depth. For black top, you would need substantial more support in the sub base for black top.

The State Association of Towns has been very vocal in Madison with our elected officials to increase the share of DOT road dollars with the Towns. Right now, statewide Towns maintain 54% of the roads in Wisconsin and received only 4% of your tax dollars from the State highway fund. So if you have an opportunity to speak with your State Elected Officials in Madison, you might ask that the Towns receive a little more of their tax dollars locally.

If you should have any questions or suggestions please feel free to contact any of the Town Board members or attend our month meetings which are held the first Monday of the month at 7:00pm, meeting notices are posted I at:

Thank you,

Dan Dahlke

Chair, Town of Springvale

VOTING AND ELECTIONS

Unless you have been living under a rock, you KNOW there are going to be elections this year! And...as has been the history of elections in Wisconsin...there are changes. You WILL need to bring your driver's license or state photo ID with you when you vote. One more major change (at least for me and the poll workers) is a new voting machine. The Eagle machine that you have been putting your ballots into for many years has been "retired" and a new machine is here to replace it. I could go into all the reasons this is a good thing, but most of you truly don't care, so I won't, but I should note that the cost for the new machine has been paid by Fond du Lac County.

Voter ID Required: You will need to bring a current state issued photo ID with you when you come to vote (see options below). This is to prove your identity, not proof of residence—so if your address on your driver's license is not your current address in our township it is okay. If you do not have a current driver's license, you can go to the Wisconsin Division of Motor Vehicles office and obtain a state photo ID for free when you tell them it is for voting purposes. You will not be allowed to cast a ballot without a photo ID.

Following are the most common, acceptable IDs for voting purposes, and can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 4, 2014 election):

- A Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- A Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card or driver license without a photo issued under the religious exemption
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service
- A U.S. passport

Important things to know: The address on your ID doesn't have to be current. And the name on your ID doesn't need to be an exact match for your name in the poll book. (So, Richards who go by Rich, Bobs who are also Roberts and Susans with IDs for Sue can all relax.)

- Of course, there are certain requirements. Your ID should look like you. Even if you've colored your hair, shaved your beard or lost some weight, as long as your photo ID reasonably resembles you, it should be accepted.

Registering to vote: If you have moved into the Town of Springvale since the last time you voted or have never registered to vote, you will need to provide:

- If you have been issued a WI driver license or WI DOT-issued ID that is current and valid, you must provide the number and expiration date.
 - If your WI driver license is revoked, suspended or expired; or your WI DOT-issued ID is expired, provide the number and the last 4 digits of your Social Security number. If you have not been issued a WI driver license or WI DOT-issued ID, you must provide the last 4 digits of your Social Security number.
 - You also must provide a Proof of Residence Document when registering to vote in Wisconsin. A Proof of Residence Document is a document that proves where you live in Wisconsin. Please See below for common documents used to prove residence.
 - Photo ID is never required when registering to vote. However, a Proof of Residence document is always needed when registering to vote in Wisconsin
 - Voters must reside at their address for at least 28 days by Election Day in order to register to vote in Springvale.
- Voters who have moved within Wisconsin less than 28 days before the election must vote from their previous address, either by absentee ballot or at the polling place. Voters who have moved to Wisconsin from another state less than 28 days before an election are only eligible to vote in Presidential elections.
- Wisconsin law no longer allows a "corroborating witness" to provide Proof of Residence.

Commonly used proof of residence documents:

All Proof of Residence documents must include the voter's name and current residential address.

- A current and valid State of Wisconsin Driver License or State ID card.
- Any identification card issued by an employer in the normal course of business and bearing a photo of the card holder, but not including a business card.
- A real estate tax bill or receipt for the current year or the year preceding the date of the election.
- A university, college, or technical college identification card (must include photo) ONLY if the voter provides a fee receipt dated within the last 9 months or the institution provides a certified housing list, that indicates citizenship, to the municipal clerk.
- A gas, electric, or telephone service statement (utility bill) for the period commencing no earlier than 90 days before registration.
- Bank statement.
- Paycheck or paystub.
- A check or other document issued by a unit of government.
- Residential lease that is effective on date of registration. (Not valid if registering by mail.)
- This is not a comprehensive list, but categories of the most common types used by voters.

Absentee ballot requests:

Under Wisconsin law, voters do not need a reason or excuse, such as being out of town on Election Day, to vote absentee. Any voter who prefers to vote by absentee ballot may request one. You have several options for requesting an absentee ballot and casting your vote. If requesting an absentee ballot, you must now include a copy of your driver's license or state voter ID or passport as well as the application form.

Request an Absentee Ballot by Mail:

If you are a registered Wisconsin voter, you can download the [Application For Absentee Ballot](#) (GAB-121). Just complete the form and mail it to your municipal clerk's office. Your application must be received by the clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Thursday before the election in order for an absentee ballot to be SENT to you. Absentee requests must now include a copy of your driver's license or state voter ID or passport as well as the application form unless already on file with the Clerk.

Note: *If you are not already registered, you will need to [register to vote](#) before an absentee ballot can be sent to you.*

In-Person Absentee Voting at your Municipal Clerk's Office (Early Voting)

You can also vote absentee at your local municipal clerk's office. In-person absentee voting (also known as early voting) runs on **weekdays for two weeks before an election**, ending at 5 p.m. or the close of business (whichever is later) on the Friday before the election. **Early voting is no longer permitted on weekends.** If you wish to vote absentee in person, please contact the Clerk at 920 979-0620 or at pat.heyer@gmail.com to set up an appointment.