

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Quarterly Newsletter

www.townofrockland.org

Winter 2014

Rockland Town Hall

1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road

Phone: 336-2814

Website: www.townofrockland.org

Chairman

Dennis Cashman, 336-7814

Supervisors

Glen Schwalbach, 532-6330

Vicky Van Vonderen, 609-7724

Clerk

Jann Charette, 336-2814

jcharette@townofrockland.org

Treasurer/Recycling Bins/Dog Licenses

Mary Van Dyck, 336-5968

Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

Bob Gerbers, 655-8602

Assessor

Robert Taicher, 863-6454

Planning Commission Board

Vicky Van Vonderen, 609-7724

Board of Appeals

Frank Hutjens, 336-9359

Town Hall Rentals

Joan Zillges, 360-5789

jzillges@townofrockland.org

Harter Fox Valley Disposal

Garbage and Recycling Service

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A Note from the Chairman:

On November 17th, 2014, we held a public hearing on the proposed 2015 town budget and a Special Town Meeting of Electors. At the public hearing, we reviewed the budget and answered any questions and concerns from the electors. At the Special Town Meeting of Electors, the electors approved the 2014 allowable tax levy payable in 2015 in the amount of \$456,036.00. The Town's tax levy rate will be approximately \$2.42 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. When you receive your tax bill, please review it and remember the Town only has control over the Town tax rate, not the schools, county, or state tax rate portions.

With snow already on the ground, the snowplowing season has begun. We are contracted with the Brown County Highway Department for snow plowing and salting of our roads in the town. If your road gets missed, please call one of the Town Board Members.

As a reminder, if you push snow across the road from your driveway, do not leave piles of snow on the edge of the roadway. This directly violates Wisconsin State Statutes Sec. 86.01 and Sec. 346.94(5), and is unsafe for drivers and plow trucks. Remember... SNOW means SLOW!!!

I would like to thank Gerald Van Den Elzen from Van Den Heuvel Electric for volunteering his time to help install two new parking lot lights at the town hall.

Have a great Holiday Season!!!!

Dennis Cashman



Congratulations Rockland Residents!

You did it! You captured the Fall Voter Challenge and the traveling trophy by having the highest voter turn out percentage (77.1%) at the November 4th election. GREAT JOB ROCKLAND! It was a busy day and it would not have gone so well without our hard-working and dedicated election workers. Thank you to each of you that came and voted! And thank you to each of you who worked that day to ensure that our electors' privacy, time, and vote were protected and honored. The traveling trophy will be on display in the town hall until the April 7, 2015, Spring Election. If we want it to remain in our town hall until April 5, 2016 (the next election), you know what you need to do. Come out and vote on Tuesday, April 7, 2015! For more details on the award, please visit the Town's website at www.townofrockland.org.

SPRING ELECTIONS/CANDIDATE INFORMATION

The Spring Primary (if needed) is scheduled for Tuesday, February 17, 2015. The Spring General Election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 7, 2015. The ballot will include races for Brown County Executive, Circuit Court Judge, State Supreme Court, State Court of Appeals, local school boards, and our own races for Town Board Chairperson, Town Board Supervisors, and Town Treasurer. Supervisor Glen Schwalbach will not be running for a Town Board Supervisor position in the Spring Election. If you are interested in running for this position or any other position noted above, the proper paperwork needs to be filed in the appropriate office no later than 5 p.m. on Tuesday, January 6, 2015. I will have office hours that day from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Candidate packets for the Town of Rockland offices are available in the Clerk's office and online at www.townofrockland.org. Click on Voting & Elections/Candidate Information.

REGISTRATION

As I mentioned in the last two newsletters, Wisconsin law requires all voters to provide a document establishing their proof of residence as part of the voter registration application. Therefore, if you are new to Rockland or are a first time elector (who is not a military elector or a permanent overseas elector) you will need to provide a valid proof of residency regardless of how and when you register. To view the list of acceptable forms for proof of residency, please go to http://gab.wi.gov/sites/default/files/publication/154/003_proof_of_residence_pdf_15987.pdf. You also can go to myvote.wi.gov and complete a fillable registration form.

ABSENTEE VOTING

Over 8% of our electors chose to vote absentee this past election. Please know that you can vote absentee in any election. To request to receive an absentee ballot by mail, please go to www.townofrockland.org; click on Voting & Elections/Voter Registration. Please print and complete the GAB-121 form. You can then e-mail, fax, or mail the completed GAB-121 form back to me. As long as I receive it by 5:00 p.m. of the 5th day preceding the election (Thursday, February 12, 2015, or Thursday, April 2, 2015), I can then mail you an absentee ballot. Otherwise, I will be offering in-person absentee voting in the Clerk's office prior to each election. Please watch for a posting of notice of these hours or check the Town's website, or just give me a call at the office 336-2814. In-person absentee voting can only take place Monday through Friday between the hours of 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Please note that the office will be closed on December 25th & 26th and January 1st & 2nd in observance of the holidays!

I hope that you and your families have a joyful Christmas & a Healthy and Safe New Year! Clerk Charette

THANK YOU TO OUR 2014 ELECTION WORKERS: Toni Carter, Mary Ann Jansen, Randy Hansen, Kathy Anderson, Alice Daul, Alan LeClair, Jodi Kaftan, Kay Remmel, Donna Koehler, Judy Schwalbach, Sue Vande Voort and Barb Zambon whose professionalism and work ethic allowed this year's elections to be run so smoothly and efficiently. Thank you for your time and contribution!

Hi All,

I'd like to update you on the work of the Wisconsin Wind Siting Council (WSC) on which I serve as the representative for Wisconsin towns.

In 2009, the state legislature created the Wind Siting Council. The statute requires the WSC to report to the legislature every five years on research regarding health impacts and state and national regulatory developments with recommendations for legislation. The first five-year report was released at the end of October.

For anyone reading the full report, it is essential to understand how the Wind Siting Council is comprised. The majority, eight members, are advocates for wind energy, many with financial interests in wind development and some being benefactors of tax subsidies. The minority, six members, are primarily focused on health and safety issues.

The WSC's majority voted to exclude the very significant Public Service Commission (PSC)-funded report by four acoustic consulting firms in the Shirley Wind Farm in Brown County, Wisconsin. In addition, the majority voted not to report on 1) the regulatory requirements of non-U.S. nations, 2) the operators' complaint logs, 3) the affidavits from Wisconsin residents who attested to their negative health impacts, 4) the resolutions sent to the legislature and the PSC by local government boards, and 5) the testimony of residents who have suffered negative impacts.

The majority voted to accept the health report draft, as final, without a paragraph-by-paragraph discussion, resulting in irrelevant studies and misleading conclusions remaining in the report. For example, the report cites surveys, done among respondents in wind projects, that state "...most respondents did not report annoyance or adverse health effects..." The main text does not point out that these projects consisted of small 0.5 megawatt wind turbines and respondents were as much as 8000 feet away. Turbines in the Shirley Wind Farm are five times larger (2.5 megawatts) and located as close as 1022 feet to homes.

The majority voted to reject the minority's list of recommendations for legislation, including requesting acoustic and epidemiological studies.

The Minority Report addresses the inadequacy of Wisconsin's wind siting regulations, and includes recommendations for legislation to provide safer wind projects in the future.

The wind industry and their attorneys have misleadingly cited the main report without mentioning the Minority Report which was supported by 43% of the WSC members. The wind industry will repeat the usual arguable comment that there is no scientific proof (ignoring scientific evidence) that wind turbines harm people. They will not support additional studies for which they may not be able to control the outcome.

Glen R. Schwalbach, P.E.

Town Supervisor



Hello Rockland Residents,

As the New Year begins, the Planning Commission and the Town Board have more new ordinances that will be adopted by March 2015. The ordinances we are working on are:

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESS (AB) DISTRICT

The intent of this district is to maintain, encourage, and promote agriculturally related business endeavors on appropriate lands within the community. This ordinance supports and enhances the viability of agriculture as an economic activity for our town by combining agriculture with retail services and single family dwellings.

A public hearing on this ordinance will take place on Monday, January 19, 2015 at 6:30 pm at the Rockland Town Hall. A copy of the ordinance will be available two weeks prior to the hearing on our website: TownofRockland.org or at the town hall.

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY (IOH)

On November 17, 2014, the Town Board selected Option F, which states that the Town of Rockland will abide by Act 377, which is state law. Our surrounding towns and Brown County are also selecting this option:

IOH and Agricultural Commercial Motor Vehicles (Ag CMV) can have a maximum weight of 23,000 pounds per axle and a gross vehicle weight of 92,000 pounds. If this type of vehicle exceeds those limits, a permit must be applied for through the Town. The exceptions to the axle limit but NOT the 92,000 gross vehicle weight limit are Category B vehicles.



Some helpful definitions:

Implement of husbandry: A self propelled or towed vehicle manufactured, designed, or reconstructed to be used and that is exclusively used in the conduct of agriculture. An implement of husbandry may also include any of the following:

Category A: Farm tractors

Category B: Self-propelled combine,; a self-propelled forage harvester; self-propelled fertilizer or pesticide application equipment but NOT including manure application equipment; or towed tillage, planting, and cultivation equipment and its towing power unit; or another self-propelled vehicle that directly engages in harvesting farm products, directly applies fertilizer, spray, or seeds but NOT manure; or distributes feed to livestock.

Category C: A farm wagon, farm trailer, manure trailer, or trailer adopted to be towed by or to tow or pull another implement of husbandry.

Permits to exceed weight limits: Later this month, our website: townofrockland.org will contain a separate section on this new law, including the link to the Wisconsin website for more information. This section also will include the permit to exceed the weight limit; including Category B to exceed the 92,000 gross vehicle weight.

The following methods can be used to send the permit to exceed the weight limits:

Email: jcharette@townofrockland.org

Mailed or drop off*: Rockland Town Hall; 1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road; De Pere, WI 54115

(* Part-time office hours. Please call beforehand, if dropping the permit off at the office).

Our Town Clerk, Jann Charette, will collect the paperwork and make sure it is complete before passing it on to Chairman Dennis Cashman, who will approve or disapprove the request. If you have any questions regarding this permit process, please contact the following:

Permit paperwork: Jann Charette via email above or (920) 336-2814

Permit approval/disapproval: Dennis Cashman (920) 336-7814

MOBILE TOWER SITING ORDINANCE

On July 2, 2013, a new state law was adopted restricting our local authority regarding wireless telecommunication siting. Basically, we cannot have an ordinance stricter than the state regulations. In January 2015, our Planning Commission will be reviewing a mobile tower siting ordinance recommended by the Wisconsin Towns Association.

PLANNING COMMISSION MEMBER NEEDED

Susan Zeamer will be resigning from our Planning Commission when her term expires in April 2015. Susan is a well respected member of our commission and will be missed. Her contributions to our many projects ensured that our projects would be of the highest quality; including the spelling and grammar. Rarely, did we get grammatical or spelling errors passed her.

Anyone interested in joining our commission, please contact Dennis Cashman at 336-7814. Any member of the Planning Commission will be happy to answer questions regarding how our Commission works. Their contact information is on our website: [www: townofrockland.org](http://www.townofrockland.org)

FEMA FIRE PREVENTION AND SAFETY GRANT RESULTS

This past year we submitted a grant proposal for fire address signs and smoke detectors. We were not awarded a grant for this project. However, Randy Hansen has agreed, with Town Board approval, to resubmit the grant proposal. This time the grant only will be for the fire address signs.

Thank you Randy and the Fire Sign Grant Committee for all your hard work on our initial grant proposal. Because of the work you did on this initial proposal, our second request can be amended. Thank you Randy for being our grant writer for our second attempt.

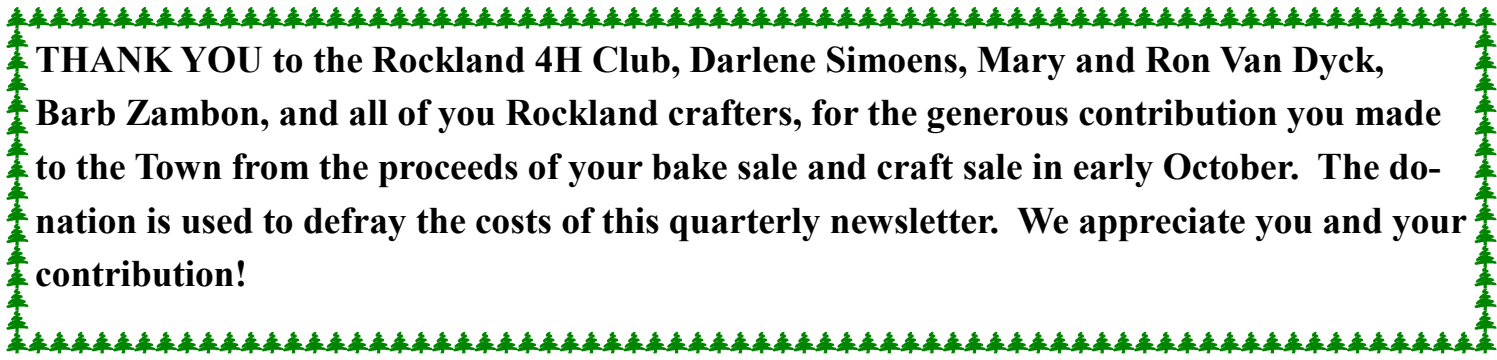
CONCLUSION

It has been a very busy year; but a good one for your Town Board and we look forward to another good year.

Thank you all for your support this year and my wish for you: Merry Christmas and Happy, Healthy, New Year!

Vicky Van Vonderen, Supervisor

ROCKLAND 4-H NEWS
Happy Holidays from the 4-H Club to all – our 4-H Christmas activities start with our Christmas party on December 9th at 6:30. This year – members decided to bake and decorate cookies at home, bring them to the party and sort, plate, and wrap with deliveries to Friends of 4-H, Grandparents, and a local Assisted Care facility. There will certainly be a variety of cookies. As the cookies are being packaged – another group will be wrapping gifts. Once the cookies are packaged and gifts wrapped – it’s time for Christmas Bingo, Pizza, and cookies. We have adopted a family for Christmas. This year, the family has ties with the 4-H Club and organization. We’ll be shopping on December 6th at Shopko at 10:00 a.m. and purchasing gifts for 4 children – trying to bring some Christmas cheer to the family. We also support our adopted family with gift cards to Festival Foods and a gas card. I’m sure it will all come in handy. Funds used to purchase gifts - are from the money the members made while working the Food Stands for local Horse Shows during the summer.
Members have all signed up for their 2015 4-H projects and planning and supporting those projects begins now. Our new officers will take their place at the head table to learn and develop their leadership skills.



THANK YOU to the Rockland 4H Club, Darlene Simoens, Mary and Ron Van Dyck, Barb Zambon, and all of you Rockland crafters, for the generous contribution you made to the Town from the proceeds of your bake sale and craft sale in early October. The donation is used to defray the costs of this quarterly newsletter. We appreciate you and your contribution!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from Treasurer Mary Van Dyck

December is when we all receive our tax bills for the property we own. If you do not receive your bill, please call the County Treasurer at 448-4074. Look over your bill. Make sure you received your lottery credit if you are entitled to it. Tax bills may be mailed to Brown County or you may pay in person at any Capital Credit Union, Greenleaf-Wayside Bank, or Denmark State Bank. The addresses of these places are on your tax bill. Remember if you want a receipt, you must check the box on your tax bill. It is a good idea to ask for a receipt. This way you know they received your payment.

RECYCLING NEWS

Please look over the recycling insert in this newsletter. Tri-County Recycling is offering more things that can be recycled. Look over what you can and cannot recycle. Also, with the winter weather here, please try to bring your garbage and recycling bins in as soon as possible. Also, put them at the curb as late as you can before pick up for Monday mornings. This will help our snow plow drivers. It was reported that several bins were still out on Tuesday, November 25th when the snow plows had to plow our town roads.

You now can recycle Christmas lights that you no longer want or that do not work. They may be taken to Green Bay Habitat for Humanity Restore (920-338-1650) or Menards will collect them until January 11, 2015.

DOG LICENSES FOR 2015

All dogs in the Town of Rockland must be licensed. This is a state law and there are no exceptions. Please fill out the form below and return it along with the appropriate fee to: Mary Van Dyck, 2185 Deer Point Lane, De Pere, WI 54115. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope. The fee for 2015 is \$5.00 for a neutered or spayed dog, OR \$10.00 for a male or female dog that is not neutered or spayed. A kennel license is \$40.00. Enclose a copy of the rabies shot history for each dog. This will not be sent back to you. Please make check payable to: Town of Rockland

Name of Dog _____ Phone Number _____

Name of dog owner _____

Address _____

Breed _____ Color _____ Chip no. if available _____

Male _____ Female _____ Neutered _____ Spayed _____

Date of Rabies Shot _____ Expiration Date _____



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