

TOWN OF ROCKLAND

Quarterly Newsletter

www.townofrockland.org

Fall 2015

Rockland Town Hall

1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road

Phone: 336-2814

Website: www.TownofRockland.org

Chairman

Dennis Cashman, 336-7814

Supervisors

Alan Lasee, 366-3859

Vicky Van Vonderen, 609-7724

Clerk

Jann Charette, 336-2814

jcharette@townofrockland.org

Treasurer/Dog Licenses

Mary Van Dyck, 336-5968

Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector

Bob Gerbers, 655-8602

Assessor

Robert Taicher, 863-6454

Planning Commission Secretary

Jann Charette, 336-2814

Board of Appeals

Frank Hutjens, 336-9359

Town Hall Rentals

Kim Winkler, 309-0765

kwinkler@townofrockland.org

Harter Fox Valley Disposal

Garbage and Recycling Service

1-888-804-8556

A Note from the Chairman:

Last year, the Town of Rockland applied for a grant for fire signs thru FEMA, but did not get accepted. Once again we applied this summer for a grant for the fire signs, and as of today we have not received an answer. Please see Randy Hansen's article in this newsletter for more information on this grant.

In October, we will be cutting grass on the town road ditches to the backside of the ditch. This process removes all vegetation and helps with snow removal on our roads.

Farmers are now harvesting their corn, hauling manure, and plowing fields, so there will be more tractors and trucks using the roads. This is a busy time of the year for farmers, so please be patient and drive safely around farm equipment.

Enjoy the fall weather and hope to see you at the next town board meeting.

Thank you,

Dennis J. Cashman



5K Dog Walk/Run

Saturday, October 17th @ 8:00 a.m. Meet at Someday Farms, 5338 STH 57, to register and catch a shuttle to the Fox River Trail starting line for a 9 a.m. start. Please contact Matt Giese, (920) 371-6433 for more information. Proceeds to benefit the K9's for Warriors organization.

Hello Rockland Residents,

Fall is here! As you are enjoying our beautiful country roads to take in the fall colors, please be mindful of the traffic on our roads: vehicles, school busses, farm equipment, bikes, walkers, and horses.

TOWN SLOGAN AND LOGO CONTEST

Matt Giese, owner of Someday Farms, LLC, 5338 STH 57 appeared before the Town Board on September 8th to offer a \$250 award for the creation of a Town slogan and logo. The purpose for this contest is to help Rockland create a brand for itself which would be used on signs and other materials to identify Rockland as its own community.

Matt then appeared before the Planning Commission to discuss the rules of the contest. Based on their recommendations, on September 21st, the Town Board approved the Town Slogan and Logo Contest with the following rules:

- **Contest will be open to anyone over the age of 13**
- **The slogan and logo winner will be chosen based on how well the entry depicts Rockland's work ethic, agricultural heritage, topography, and quality of life.**
- **\$125 will be awarded to the winner of the selected slogan and \$125 will be awarded to the winner of the selected logo.**
- **The deadline for the entries is January 4, 2016. Entries can be submitted electronically, in person or by mail to: Clerk Charette, 1712 Bob-Bea-Jan Road, De Pere, WI 54115 or jcharette@townofrockland.org.**
- **The Planning Commission will review the entries in January and then forward the top 5 selections in each category to the Town Board for final approval.**
- **Notices of this contest will be sent, in the near future, to our schools, the Wrightstown Spirit, and placed on our website: townofrockland.org.**

Matt, thank you very much for your contribution to create a Town slogan and logo. Matt believes, as do the residents that participated in our Comprehensive Plan development, that Rockland needs a brand; it needs to establish its own identity if it is to remain a viable community and NOT become part of the city of De Pere.

To clarify a misconception about annexation, the city of De Pere cannot take land from the Town. Residents request annexation and if their land borders the city, the property owners can annex their land without opposition from the Town. For property owners to develop their land within our Town, Rockland needs to offer opportunities. Your Town Board will be discussing how best to create opportunities for undeveloped land to remain in the Town in their future meetings.

A great starting point for our own identity is to create our slogan and logo. Another great starting point is for residents to say we live in Rockland and become participants in our discussions as we move forward.

Good luck to all contestants; we look forward to see the ideas for our slogan and logo.

Take care and as always, thank you for your support..

Supervisor Vicky Van Vonderen



A Note From Supervisor Alan Lasee.....

Hi Folks, Do you like the way our township is? Since the last newsletter we have adopted a new comprehensive plan. Some parts I agree with and some I don't. The plan calls for retaining our agricultural activities but it also recommends promoting development, (Ag related) and also having smaller lot sizes for development. I believe that those 2 recommendations are not compatible. Having more homes near farming activities on smaller lots doesn't make sense. I believe people who moved here like more space and it improves the quality of life for all of us. There is a movement in our town to go out and promote Rockland and establish our "identity" by putting up signs and having a "logo" etc., etc. Do we really want more people to move here? If you leave an urban area and come here, then leave your city ideas there. I am blessed by great neighbors. Jan and I are happy with every one of them but promoting our town leads to more development and more changes. Rockland can be Brown County's best kept secret. What's wrong with that?

Lastly, your township now is like other units of government, we are in debt. We had to borrow nearly \$300,000 for the drainage problem I wrote about last time. Oh and one other thing, a citizen from Rockland, on behalf of the Town, has requested money from the Federal government (FEMA) so that we get "free" dollars, to pay for fire signs for everyone. Isn't that the same federal government that is in debt some \$19 trillion dollars? Fire signs are obsolete. Emergency equipment already has GPS technology on Board. Simply requiring everyone to have numbers on their mail boxes would solve the problem, but that's just me, old fashioned and leave me alone attitude. Thanks for your understanding. Alan

News from Rockland 4-H Club

Rockland 4-H had a very busy 2015. Several of our youth went on educational trips. These trips were to Space Camp where everything about space was learned, Madison Youth Conference where the youth learned about what happens in Madison and also had the opportunity to tour Camp Randall and had many chances to choose from including helping the elderly and learning photography tips. The American Spirit trip was to the east coast where the youth toured an Amish village, stopped at the 911 memorial, and went whale watching. The trip to Washington D.C. was seeing all the memorials in D.C. and meeting some of our congressman as well as seeing the Vietnam memorial.

Finland was also one of the trips this summer. Here Paul lived with a host family and learned all about Finland and what the people of Finland do and also what they eat. Some of the youth also went to Summer Camp in Crivitz and did crafts and learned many camp songs.

This year the club helped the Town by working at the paper shredding and cyber green recycling events. We also held a bake sale and booyah sale at the cyber green day and the Rockland craft day. We donated money to the Town for the newsletter.

In August the youth showed their chickens, rabbits, ceramics, photography, cultural arts, food projects, and clothing items at the Brown County Fair. In October we will hold our Achievement night. We had a great year and are hoping for another great 2016.

If anyone is interested in joining the Rockland 4-H Club, please call Darlene Simoens 336-1036 or me at 336-5968. We want to thank the Rockland Town Board for allowing us to hold our meetings at the Rockland Town Hall.

We are going to be having booyah and a bake sale at the Rockland Craft Show on Saturday, October 10. Come get your pies, cookies, breads, and booyah. Thank you! Treasurer Mary Van Dyck



Thank you

I want to send a special thank you to Eric and Brenda Burkard. When you walk into the lobby in the Town Hall you will see the beautiful wooden file holder that they built and donated to the Town. The file holder has many of the forms, including the Dog License Application, Town Hall Rental agreement, garbage/recycling calendars, etc., that you may need. Please feel free to peruse through the forms and take a copy of what you need. Thank you again to Brenda and Eric for their time, generosity, and outstanding workmanship!

Dog Licenses

Over the past few months, we have had the opportunity to use our pet licensing system software which logs the owner, pet type, pet name, color and contact information for dogs residing and licensed in the Town. In the first instance, the Sheriff's Department called to report a dog who had been hit by a vehicle. They were seeking contact information. Unfortunately, the dog had a collar on but no license on. After several attempts, we were unable to find an owner. In the second instance, a resident found a lost dog that had a collar and a license on it. Treasurer Van Dyck was able to look up the license number in the system and provide the contact information to the resident who then returned the dog to its owner.

Thank you to all of you who purchased a dog license this year. As you can see from above, it pays to purchase one. As you also know, we are required to purchase a dog license by January 1st each year under Sec. 174.05, Wis. Stats. License applications received after April 1st are subject to an additional \$5.00 late fee. Treasurer Van Dyck will be receiving the 2016 licenses in November and will be ready to issue them to you at that time. Applications will be available at www.townofrockland.org; click on License, Forms & Permits to obtain your application. They also will be available from the Treasurer and at the Town Hall.

Budget Public Hearing/Special Elector Meeting

The authority of a Town truly rests in the hands of its electors. This is even more so the case come budget time. By statute, the Board is responsible for preparing the proposed budget, conducting a public hearing on the proposed budget, and then adopting it. During this public hearing, you have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments on the proposed budget. Qualified electors then have the opportunity to vote at the Special Elector meeting (following the public hearing) on whether to approve the proposed tax levy. The proposed tax levy is usually the amount of tax dollars requested to make up the difference between what the Board is expecting in income and expecting in expenditures for that budget year. The levy amount is then divided into the Town's assessed value to determine the mill rate to be assessed per \$1,000 of property value. In 2015, the actual mill rate was \$2.4327 per \$1,000 of property value. On a \$250,000 home, the taxes you paid to the Town of Rockland were \$608.18. The remaining amount due on your tax bill were taxes assessed by Brown County, the state of Wisconsin, NWTC, and the school district you reside in.

I hope to see you at this year's budget public hearing and Special Elector meeting scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. so that you can learn firsthand about the proposed 2016 budget and vote on the proposed levy. See you then- Clerk Jann Charette

Status Update - Town of Rockland's FEMA FP&S Grant Application

Thought I give you a quick update on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Fire Protection & Safety (FP&S) grant application that the Town submitted to FEMA on April 13, 2015 in the hopes of receiving a \$39,674 monetary grant to fund the purchase and installation of 649 emergency fire (911) address signs. The grant approval period ends on September 30, 2015 and thus far the Town of Rockland has not received grant approval notification – so it appears that for the 2nd time in two years our application will not be approved.

A quick review of FEMA historical grant approval records indicated that our application, like all others, was a long shot to be approved. Under the authority of Public Law #93-498 (1974 law) U.S. Congress provides FEMA with an annual fixed amount of dollars it cannot exceed when approving FP&S grant applications. The fixed amounts were: 2011 = \$35 million; 2012 = \$35 million; 2013 = \$32 million; and 2014 = \$34 million. The Public Law encourages every single town, city, village, county, fire department, police department, EMS agency, non-profit organization, school, etc. across America to submit a FP&S grant application and FEMA has received thousands. And each year FEMA is only able to approve, on average, 8.6% of all the of FP&S grant applications it receives - a terrible approval percentage, but it is what it is....

Town history. In 2013 the Town had 2 residential fires that occurred at night and due to aged or missing numbers on mailboxes the responding agencies had difficulty locating the exact fire site and determine which driveway to enter. Based on those 2 fires the Greenleaf and Morrison Volunteer Fire Departments, the Brown County Sheriff Office, and County Rescue urged the Town to look into purchasing and installing emergency fire (911) address signs for all Town addresses to solve the oh-so critical time-on-scene response time. The Town agreed and directed the Planning Commission to research this critical public safety issue. Based on personal drive-by surveys it was determined that 68% of all homes and businesses in the Town FAILED the test of having reflective numbers on their mailboxes or to have the mailboxes closely located to their primary driveway. Thus the Town's public safety concern expressed by our emergency responders was confirmed. The solution was to purchase and install 649 emergency fire (911) address signs. It was also determined that applying for the FEMA FP&S grant to fund 90% of the \$39,674 cost was in the best fiscal interest of all Town residents – meaning the Town's cost share would only be \$1,889.00. In 2014 and now in 2015 it appears the Town's efforts to obtain a FEMA grant have not been successful.

What's next? The emergency responders and the Town's time-on-scene public safety concern still exist. To resolve it the Town Board must now decide how to fund the purchase and installation of the 649 emergency fire (911) signs. Options to do that are: 1) use a portion of the Town's share of the Packer Stadium tax revenue "rebate"; 2) apply a specific emergency fire (911) sign tax to everyone's property tax bill; 3) determine some other method to pay for the signs; or 4) Residents urge the Town Board to do nothing in the hopes that it's not your house, business, or barn where the next nighttime emergency occurs.

Randy Hansen



ROCKLAND CRAFT SALE

SAT. OCTOBER 11TH

9:00 A.M.– 3 P.M.

ROCKLAND TOWN HALL

Garbage & Recycling Bins

There have been a number of calls requesting replacement bins or new garbage bins over the past few months. If you should need one in the future please note the following: new residents moving into the Town should make their request for a garbage bin and recycling bin directly to Clerk Charette at 336-2814. Currently, the Town supplies the new recycling bin and Harter's Fox Valley Disposal provides the new garbage bin. A resident will then see a one-time charge of \$43.00 on their December tax bill to cover the Town's expense for the recycling bin. The current contract with Harter's absorbs the cost of the first garbage bin to a new property. Thereafter, if your garbage bin is lost, stolen, taken or damaged by you, you will need to contact Harter's directly for a replacement garbage bin. They will then collect payment for that replacement garbage bin directly from you.

Harter's runs a route twice a month on Wednesdays to replace or provide new garbage bins in the Town. If you need to replace your existing garbage bin, please contact Brittany at Harter's at (888) 804-8556 and she will arrange to swap your damaged recycling bin with a new one. Please note that if you are selling your property, the bins should remain with the property for the new owner to utilize.

Halloween Trick or Treat Hours: Saturday, October 31st from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you are interested in participating, please leave your porch lights on; this is the universal "open for trick or treating" sign that candy seekers look for.



Town Hall Rental: We have many residents who have taken advantage of renting our beautiful town hall for their shower, graduation party, birthday party, wedding reception, and more. If you would like to do the same for your special event, please go to www.townofrockland.org and click on resident information and then town hall rental.

STATE HIGHWAY 57 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE: Weather permitting, State Highway 57 at the Heritage Road intersection is expected to reopen the week of October 5, 2015. YAY!

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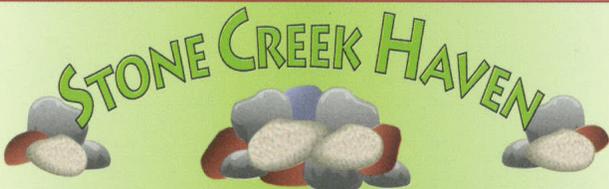
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