



Town of Washington Messenger

December 2020



I am honored to serve our residents in the Town of Washington as we continue to work together to move our Town forward.

2021 is fast approaching, and it can't get here soon enough!

Some accomplishments this year include instituting measures at the Transfer Station to protect folks from Covid-19. We are sorry for the inconvenience at times, but we will always put the safety and health of our residents first.

As part of the CWPP, our brush site remains extremely popular with Town residents - as you can see from the large pile of brush!

Our town roads are notably some of the finest in the county. To keep them that way, we've repaved a number of them this year.

The new Fire Station located on Rangeline Rd. is scheduled to open in 2021. The Eagle River Fire Department is looking for personnel to staff the new station. Please consider reaching out to the Fire Department to offer your services to help protect our community.

We welcomed Sherry Schmidt, who is our new Deputy Clerk, to the Town along with Davey Tomlanovich at our Transfer Station. We thank Howie Franzen and Croydon Kemp for the hard work they did at our Transfer Station earlier this year. We wish them great success.

Your input is valued and we look forward to hearing from you. Please try and attend our town board meetings or let us know if you would like something added to our meeting agenda. You can reach out to any board member. Their contact info can be found on our website at town-of-washington.org

On behalf of your Town Board, Carole, Keith, Katie, Michele, and Sherry along with the Town Crew, Paul, Kevin, Terry, and Davey we hope you embrace 2021 with an open heart and go forward with faith, hope, and courage.

Jim Egan,
Town Chairperson

**Did you know we send a monthly
electronic newsletter?**

Stay connected. Be in the know.

Sign up on the Home page
of our website

town-of-washington.org



We are pleased to announce the resumption of the Town of Washington Adopt-a-Road program. It has been inactive for a number of years due to lack of a coordinator. Anne Shapiro has

generously offered to coordinate the program starting next year.

Because we've been unable to locate records from the previous program, we'll need to start anew. If you were a volunteer in the original program please contact Anne. We need to know who you are! We also need new volunteers! Please contact Anne if you'd like to join the team. You can reach Anne via email at shapanne@gmail.com or by phone at 224-456-4120.

Many thanks to Anne for helping get this valuable program up and running again!



We are reviewing our ordinances and either rescinding, amending, or readopting as indicated. They are then codified and placed in the Code of Ordinances.

We adopted an Ordinance to Prohibit Hunting with Firearms on Certain Town Lands. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect individuals from dangers associated with the discharge of firearms while hunting on Town lands that have significant human activity. Those lands are the transfer station, the sledding hill, and the gravel pit/brush site parcels. Hunting with firearms is allowed on all other Town lands.

Ordinances contained in the Code of Ordinances can be found on the Ordinance page of the town website at town-of-washington.org

TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

It has been an "interesting" year at the transfer station, to say the least. In January we began checking transfer station permits. This came about after receiving numerous comments and complaints that non-residents were using our facility. Our annual tonnage of garbage had increased more than 30% in 2019.

In March, the Covid-19 pandemic arrived adding additional challenges. Social distancing was instituted and only one vehicle at a time was allowed. Walking garbage in was not allowed. These measures will continue until the pandemic ends.

You have seen new faces at the transfer station, and it has been difficult recruiting and retaining transfer station attendants. Our attendants are now Town employees.

No doubt you have noticed the cleanliness and organization at the site. This is to the credit of our attendants. They are self-starters, saw the need, and got the job done. We appreciate the wonderful job!

Only town residents are allowed to use the site. Permits are checked. Those without a permit are turned away. Initially, in excess of fifty vehicles were turned away on some weekends!

We will continue to check permits. No permit, no admittance, no exceptions. Please take care not to lose your

permit. Replacement permits are subject to a \$40 replacement fee.

We are pleased to report there has been a significant reduction in tonnage of garbage since we began checking permits. Compared to last year there has been a reduction of more than 77.5 tons of garbage! It costs \$65/ton to dispose of solid waste.

This has been a long and often difficult process. We appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we worked through so many challenges together. Thank you!

The compactors have been reprogrammed to cycle automatically and to crush smaller batches which puts less strain on the motor. For this reason cardboard boxes must be broken down and no larger than 2' X 2'

Eagle Waste informed us of some changes. For recycling, only plastic bottles and containers marked with #1 or #2 are allowed. Please check your plastics. All other numbers are garbage.

No carcasses of any kind are allowed at the transfer station. You may bring carcasses to the Highway G Landfill located at 7001 Hwy G, Eagle River, WI. Please call ahead as carcasses need to be buried. 715-479-2938

MAINTAINING OUR ROADS

Having well maintained roads is arguably one of the highest priorities for our residents.

With the price of oil reduced approximately 25%, and with very favorable interest rates in 2020, it made sense to obtain a loan to finance our road maintenance projects. To that end, the Town borrowed \$1.3 million dollars to repair or repave 9.1 miles of Town roads.

The loan was obtained from the State of Wisconsin for a period of ten years with no prepay penalty. The approximate cost to taxpayers will be \$30.00 per \$100,00.00.

It is estimated the town will save approximately \$300,000 over what this project would have cost at typical oil prices.

The following roads were repaired or repaved in 2020 as part of this project:

- Smile A White Lane - 0.10 mi
- E. Bass Lake Rd - 2.42 mi
- Nine Mile Rd - 2.23 mi
- W. Bass Lake Rd - 0.994 mi
- W. Carpenter Lake Rd - 1.69 mi
- N. Carpenter Lake Rd - 1.13 mi
- Valeria Rd - 1.10 mi



DO YOU RENT YOUR HOME?



Act 59 defines a short-term rental as a residential dwelling that is offered for rent for a fee and offered for fewer than 29 consecutive days. It must be for 7 consecutive days or longer. Please see Act 59 for details.

If you would like to rent your home under Act 59, there are several steps that must be taken prior to your first rental.

You must contact the Vilas County Health Department to schedule a home visit.

You must register with the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue to obtain a sellers permit number for remitting state and county sales tax (5.5%).

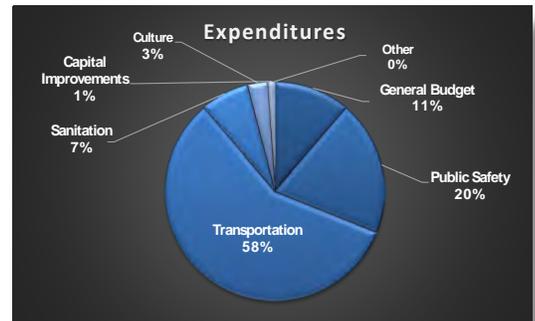
You must register with the Town of Washington and obtain an Accommodations Tax Permit .

You are required to collect room tax in the amount of 4.5%. This Accommodations Tax Return is remitted to the town Treasurer on a quarterly basis.

If a rental agency is remitting your taxes on your behalf, you still are required to be registered with the Township and remit a tax return every quarter.

Contact Katie Hayes at katie.townofwashington@gmail.com for more information or visit our website at town-of-washington.org, Community tab, Rental Property.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2020



ERFD STATION #2 UPDATE

Construction of ERFD Station #2 is nearing completion. When complete, the facility will be certified as a fire station. It is anticipated this will occur sometime in 2021.

A company called the ISO (Insurance Services Office) creates ratings for fire departments and their surrounding communities. The ratings calculate how well-equipped fire departments are to put out fires in that community. The ISO provides this score to homeowners insurance companies.

The ISO fire insurance rating is a score from 1 to 10 that indicates how well-protected your community is by the fire department. In the ISO rating scale, a lower number is better.

A lower ISO score may translate to a lower homeowners insurance premium, as it means your home is at a lower risk for serious fire damage. Once the fire station is certified, you may wish to contact your insurance provider.

At this time, the facility is being used for storage and as a training facility. You may see wrecked vehicles on the property. These vehicles are used to train firefighters in vehicular extrication.





Our grant application has been written and submitted for 2021, the fifth year of our Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, several projects in our 2020 grant were cancelled.

The following projects are included in the 2021 grant:

- Contractor chipping of the brush pile and hauling chips away
- Spring newsletter
- Brush site signage
- Home Ignition Zone assessments for Anvil Lake residents
- Roadside chipping offered to Anvil Lake residents

More information will be provided in the 2021 spring newsletter.

If fully funded, these projects will total \$10,000, the maximum funding possible. All previous CWPP projects have been fully funded by the DNR. We have received funding in the amount of \$27,879 in the first four years of the program. There has been no cost to the town.

Your yard waste from our brush site has been put to good use in a partnership with Northland Pines School District.

The yard waste deposited at the brush site is chipped, and over the years a "mountain" of wood chips has developed with nowhere to safely dispose of them.

In June of this year our town crew delivered truckloads of wood chips to the Northland Pines School District's 58 acre school forest located on Chain O'Lakes Road. The chips will be used to cover 1.25 miles of paths around the school forest. A win-win partnership for the town and school district!



Left to right:
Scott Foster NPSD
Carol Pluedemann NPSD
Carole Linn - TOW
Jim Egan - TOW

S. MILITARY ROAD PROJECT

The Town of Washington, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation plans on reconditioning South Military Road between the Oneida/Vilas County line and WIS 70 by pulverizing the existing pavement and paving new asphalt.

The proposed construction will occur during summer/fall of 2021.

Work will be staged around local events and holidays. South Military Road will be closed to through traffic during construction but will remain open to local traffic. Motorists can expect to encounter daily flagging operations and a gravel driving surface for the majority of the project.

Access on South Military Road will be maintained during construction for first responders, property owners and to recreational facilities. Brief interruptions in access may occur temporarily at driveways when crews are pulverizing and paving. The contractor will be required to notify homeowners and businesses prior to construction.



Wisconsin Public Service has an upcoming project in the Town of Washington during the 2021 construction season to replace primary overhead distribution lines with new underground cable at the following locations:

- Herdner Road
- Hwy 45 north of Hwy 17
- North Carpenter Lake Rd from Rangeline Rd
- West Bass Lake Rd
- Tambling Lake NE side
- South Anvil lake Rd

OAK WILT IS SPREADING IN OUR TOWN

The Town of Washington now has seven confirmed cases of oak wilt.

Oak wilt is a FATAL fungal disease that affects virtually all species of oaks. There is no known treatment for oak wilt. Once introduced through a fresh wound on an oak tree, the disease will move into the roots and begin spreading underground to neighboring oaks. In this way the disease will kill more and more oaks each year if it is not treated and stopped.

Trees within 50 feet of a diseased tree can be infected.

Any injury or wounding to an oak tree will leave it vulnerable to oak wilt whether it be from storm damage, pruning, or trimming. Wounding includes areas where bark is scraped or scuffed off, broken branches, and root damage. All can be an entry points for oak wilt.

Initially, single branches on infected trees wilt and die. Leaves on these branches often turn tan or dull green, starting at the tips or outer margins. Leaves may droop, curl, or fall from the tree. Infected trees die. OAK WILT CAN KILL OAKS IN LESS THAN ONE MONTH.

The highest risk period for transmission is from April 15 – July 15. During that time,

creating fresh wounds on an oak tree can attract beetles and bring in the fungus. If you prune/wound/damage oaks during that time, immediately apply tree pruning paint within 15 minutes to protect the tree.

Treatment to stop an oak wilt requires killing some healthy trees around the diseased trees and killing the root systems using herbicides or ripping the root systems out of the ground. Just cutting trees down will not stop the fungus. Treatments can be successful, but they are costly and time consuming. Avoiding wounding the oaks April 15 – July 15 is a favorable, easier, and cheaper option.

Be sure to destroy the wood from diseased oaks by burning or burying it. Do not bring it to the brush site.



Prune oak trees only during the dormant season when sap feeding beetles are not active. If pruning during the growing season

is required (e.g., due to storm damage) immediately cover wounds with pruning paint.

The Town of Washington is acting proactively. To help prevent injury to oak trees during roadside mowing, a plan has been initiated to remove low-hanging overhead oak limbs in the right of way during the less vulnerable period. This will allow mowing in the right of way without injury to oak trees.



If you have questions, please email Linda Williams WDNR Forest Health Specialist at Linda.Williams@wisconsin.gov or contact her by phone at 920-360-0665.

More information including a map of locations can be found on the News page of our website.

HELPFUL TAX INFORMATION

- When paying taxes by mail indicate your telephone number on the check. This will ensure payment is properly applied. It also ensures we have a way to contact you if necessary.
- Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your payment if you would like a receipt. Receipts cannot be mailed without the self-addressed, stamped envelope.
- Postmark governs the payment date.
- Mail payments to 2145 Pinewood Dr, Eagle River, WI 54521
- Payment by credit card is available (for a fee) for the 2020-2021 tax season. Details are available on our town website Taxes page.
- Tax payments for the *exact amount only* may be made in person at mBank of Eagle River located at 400 E Wall St.
- Visit the Vilas County website at webtax.co.vilas.wi.us for payment amount, tax receipt, or copy of your tax bill.
- 2020 tax payments are posted on the Vilas County Treasurer's website and updated weekly.
- Pay taxes with a personal check, cashier's check or money order payable to the Town of Washington.
- Personal property taxes are due in full by January 31, 2021.
- Real estate taxes are due as follows:
 - Full payment or first installment by January 31, 2021 to the Town of Washington Treasurer.
 - Second installment due by July 31, 2021 to the Vilas County Treasurer
- Each year we receive escrow checks in excess of tax due. The town policy regarding these payments is we will refund checks at our next regularly scheduled meeting. The Treasurer cannot endorse an escrow check and return it to the taxpayer. Escrow checks must be used for the payment of taxes only.
- If your mailing address is incorrect, send a signed address change request along with your tax payment.

ARE YOU A DOG OWNER?

Without a current dog license, it would be difficult to identify the owner of a lost dog. As a result, your pet may end up at the Vilas County Animal Shelter.



Licensing your dog is the LAW. Wisconsin State Law requires dogs five (5) months of age or older to be licensed annually. The license year is January 1 through December 31. The license fee is \$5.00 for a neutered or spayed dog, and \$10 for an unneutered or unspayed dog. A late fee of \$5.00 is due after April 1.

A copy of your dog's current rabies vaccination MUST be included with a separate check made payable to the Town of Washington for the Dog License fee. A stamped, self-addressed envelope is required for receipt and tags.

For questions please contact Katie Hayes, Town of Washington Treasurer at 715-477-2745.

DRIVEWAY AND FIRE NUMBERS

Prior to construction of any new driveway or to apply for a fire number, contact Michele Sanborn, Town Clerk, at 715-479-8886.



Fire number application and driveway permit can be found on the Forms and Permits page of our website.

PLACING SNOW ON ROADS IS A NO-NO

Snow blowing or shoveling snow back into the road is not legal per Wisconsin statute 346.94(5) which states "No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof."



You may not plow snow onto roads, right of way, or your neighbor's property!

TOWN CONTACT INFO

Jim Egan	Town Chairman	715-479-2074
Keith Numrich	Town Supervisor	715-479-8031
Carole Linn	Town Supervisor	715-479-6873
Michele Sanborn	Town Clerk	715-479-8886
Sherry Schmidt	Deputy Town Clerk	715-479-8886

Katie Hayes	Treasurer	715-477-2745
Town Shop		715-477-2024
Paul Chlapecka	Town Foreman	715-891-4833
Hoffman Appraisal	Town Assessor	715-536-6236
Melissa McDonald	Animal Control	715-617-1979



2021 Transfer Station & Brush Site Regulations

Transfer Station Summer Schedule

May 1 thru October 4
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday
8 AM till 12 Noon

Transfer Station Winter Schedule

October 5 thru April 30
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
8 AM till 12 Noon

TRANSFER STATION REGULATIONS

- Transfer station permits are numbered. This number is ASSIGNED TO YOU! If you lend or give your permit to others not entitled to use the Town of Washington Transfer Station you risk confiscation of your permit along with loss of your transfer station privileges.
- If your permit is confiscated for misuse, you will not be issued another.
- The issuance of replacement permits will be limited. Contact Town Treasurer for replacement.
- LOST OR MISPLACED PERMITS ARE SUBJECT TO A \$40 REPLACEMENT FEE.
- Open bed trucks and trailers used to haul garbage or recyclables to the transfer station MUST have loads covered in transit.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic, social distancing will be practiced, one car only in the drive thru, and you may not walk garbage or recyclables in.
- These rules and regulations may be subject to change at any time.
- **The Transfer Station will be closed on Easter and Christmas Day 2021.**

A partial list of items NOT accepted at the Transfer Station includes but is not limited to:

Junk automobiles & trucks	Engine blocks	Tires	Rear ends
Computers & printers	Snowmobiles/PWC's/ATV's	Lawn clippings, leaves	Appliances
Monitors	Furniture	Pine needles	Concrete
Animal carcasses & hides	Drywall	Demolition materials	Windows
Electronics of any kind	Asbestos	Doors	Waste chemicals
Propane containers & bottles	Toilets	Drain oils	Televisions
Appliance compressors	Carpet	Water heaters	Transformers
Wood	Transmissions	Cardboard drums	

BRUSH SITE REGULATIONS

- Brush site opening/closing dates will be posted on the town website at town-of-washington.org
- This is a service to our residents and NO contractor dumping is permitted. If you hire a contractor, they must dispose of brush at their customary disposal site, NOT the town brush site.
- You can bring grass clippings, leaves, pine needles, sawdust, branches, brush, limbs, logs or any type of clean wood. NO STUMPS.
- Tree limbs/trunks/logs can be no larger than 8 inches in diameter and no longer than 6 feet in length.
- NO painted or varnished wood, concrete, stones or brick, plastic, metal, or nails are allowed.
- NO MAN-MADE OBJECTS.
- Please place plastic bags in container provided.
- Wood chips are free to take. Take as many as you like.
- Abuse will result in reduced hours or closure.



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**

2021 Recycling Guidelines

PAPER, CARDBOARD & CARTONS

Break down all large items to maximize space



Envelopes & Junk Mail



Newspapers



Magazines



Office Paper Products



Phone Books



Flattened Cardboard



Milk & Juice Cartons



Cereal & Food/ Beverage Boxes



Hardcover Books (covers removed)



Wrapping Paper (no foil or ribbon)



Empty Paper Towel/ Toilet Paper Rolls

METAL

Rinse clean

NO E-WASTE, TV'S, COMPUTER ITEMS, BATTERIES



Aluminum & Steel Cans



Aluminum Pie Tins



Empty Aerosol Cans



Clean Aluminum Foil



Small Metal Appliances



Small Plumbing Fixtures & Pipes, Misc. Scrap (limit 2ft x 2ft; 35lbs)



Metal Pots, Pans & Utensils

PLASTIC CONTAINERS

Rinse clean, remove & discard plastic lids & caps

NO PLASTIC BAGS/FILM, STYROFOAM OR SYRINGES



Look for this

#1 Plastic

#2 Plastic



Only plastic bottles & containers marked #1 or #2

(coffee & beverage containers, milk/water/juice bottles, detergent/shampoo bottles)

GLASS

Rinse clean, remove & discard plastic lids & caps

NO WINDOWS, MIRRORS, CERAMICS OR LIGHT BULBS



Brown, green, blue & clear glass bottles & jars

Place all recyclables loose in the recycling bin
DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES

Cardboard boxes **MUST** be flattened
and no larger than 2'X2'

Place large metal items and scrap metal
in the open-topped container
outside the building

NEW THIS YEAR

Only plastics marked #1 & #2 are recyclable

All other plastics should be placed
in the garbage dumpster



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**