



Town of Washington Messenger

December 2022



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

We are continuing to allow 2 vehicles at a time to enter inside and outside of our transfer station. We are sorry for the inconvenience at times, but we will always put the safety of our residents first. Permits will be checked.

As part of the CWPP, our brush site continues to remain extremely popular with town residents. With the storms this year, we had large amounts of brush brought to the site. The brush site is for resident use only. Contractors are not allowed to use the site.

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 Eagle River Fire Department is looking for additional personnel to staff both stations. Please consider reaching out to the Fire Department to offer your services to help protect our community.

We welcomed to the town, Tiffany Bolte as our new Deputy Treasurer and Rich Kuethe as a transfer station attendant. Both are great additions to our town team.

We had several storms again this year and I want to compliment our town crew on their amazing work ethic. They were able to clean up the roads quickly, so we all could travel safely. Please thank them when you see them.

We continue to partner with SonicNet and Spectrum and other providers to expand internet in the town. Great progress has been made this year and expansion will continue in 2023 and beyond.

Please remember to check on your neighbors, especially the elderly and disabled, during storms and winter. Remember to also make sure your pets are safe.

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, Art, Katie, Nancy, Tiffany and myself, along with your town crew, Paul, Kevin, Terry, Davey and Rich, we hope you embrace 2023 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?**

**Sign up on the Home page
of our website**

town-of-washington.org



INTRODUCING...

At the July meeting of the town board, Tiffany Bolte was appointed as our Deputy Town Treasurer.

Tiffany brings a wealth of knowledge to the town along with more than 27 years of experience.



She graduated from Northeast Wisconsin Technical College in Green Bay as a Paralegal.

Tiffany has worked as a bookkeeper responsible for accounts payable, accounts receivable, payroll, general ledger, quarterly reports, year-end reports including W-2 and 1099 processing, tax

preparation, and insurance processing including health, business, and liability insurance.

She has worked as a legal consultant on case files, research, assembling paperwork for court, working with clients and attorneys to prepare cases for trial, draft documentation and correspondence, and calendar appointments and hearings.

A big welcome to Tiffany!



A HUGE thank you to Michele Sanborn for serving as our town clerk for the past twelve years! Michele did an AMAZING job!

Michele was always willing to help whenever asked – whatever the task. And she's been mentoring our new clerk, Nancy. Nancy is learning from the best!

We are so grateful to Michele for all she did for the Town of Washington.

Thank you, Michele. We miss you!

REVALUATION

Wisconsin Law requires municipalities to periodically revalue all property to keep pace with changes in the market. During a revaluation, all assessments are examined and adjustments are made where necessary to guarantee that all property is assessed at market value.

"Revaluation" generally means placing new values on all taxable property for the purpose of a new assessment. The previous year's assessment roll is not affected. The intended result of a revaluation is that assessments of all property represent the full taxable value of the property.

The last revaluation in the Town of Washington was performed in 2011. Hoffman Appraisal Service will be reviewing all properties in the Town of Washington for 2023. The purpose of the revaluation is to ensure equity in regard to the assessed values throughout the Town. Revaluation notices will be sent to all property owners sometime in mid to late summer of 2023.



BROADBAND

Two internet service providers are currently working on expanding broadband services in our town.

Spectrum/Charter is installing fiberoptic cable on the west side of town.

SonicNet is completing installing service to the Bass Lake/East Cranberry Lake areas.



A new SonicNet fiber project for the Everett/Eagle Waters/Rangeline roads area is expected to start in spring of 2023.

SonicNet provides regular updates which are posted on our website and in our monthly electronic newsletter. SonicNet is accepting applications for service. You can reach SonicNet at 888-631-9666, or via email at info@sonicnet.us. Details about the service and pricing are available on their website at www.sonicnet.us/fiber-internet-service-plans/



Our Adopt-A-Road program is up and running but needs more volunteers! This is an important program for our town with many positive benefits. Why not adopt a segment of town road? Help keep it looking clean and beautiful.

Years ago, the Adopt A Road program was fully operational. However, we have no records from the previous program. If you volunteered for the program in the past, please contact program coordinator Jill Faulkner, and let her know which road segment you covered and if you would like to continue.

The Town provides all the materials and support.

All that is required is for you, or your group, to pick up litter twice a year (spring and fall) on your desired segment of town road. Please consider volunteering!

To volunteer or for more information, please email Jill at Jill.adoptaroad@gmail.com or reach her by phone at 630-750-6563.

Adopt-A-Road applications can be found on our website.

TRANSFER STATION UPDATE

The transfer station has never looked better and functioned more smoothly than under the management of Davey and Rich. Thank you both for a job well done!

After three years of checking permits of each transfer station user, people without a permit continue to try and use the transfer station! In order to ensure only town residents are using the facility, we will continue to check permits EACH TIME you visit. Photos of your permit are not acceptable. You will be turned away without your permit.

Take care not to lose your permit. Replacement permits are subject to a \$40 replacement fee. Contact Katie Hayes, Town Treasurer, at katie.townofwashington@gmail.com for a replacement.

The following procedures remain in place at the transfer station:

- 2 vehicles are allowed in both the drive-through and side entrance
- Backing up is prohibited for safety reasons
- You may not walk your garbage or recyclables in
- Be mindful of those waiting in line. Empty your garbage quickly and limit conversation.

The metal dumpster, located outside the drive-thru, is for metal only. NO water heaters, lawn mowers, lawn tractors, appliances etc. All items must be placed inside the metal dumpster, not left beside or behind the dumpster.

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. Please stop in the landfill office before proceeding, as carcasses must be buried.

Oils of any kind may NOT be deposited at the transfer station. This includes cooking oil!

Cardboard boxes must be flattened and no larger than 2'X2'. Larger pieces jam the compactor which results in an unnecessary and expensive repair.

If you're not sure if an item can be brought to the transfer station, please check with Davey, Rich, or any board member before bringing the item. A partial list of common items not allowed at the transfer station can be found in the transfer station regulations attached to this newsletter.

Items not allowed at the transfer station can be brought to Republic Services or Highway G Landfill.

LEVY LIMITS 101

When used as a noun, the word "levy" means "the imposition or collection of an assessment." In other words, a levy is simply the tax that will be assessed on both real and personal property located within the town's jurisdiction.

Some towns in Wisconsin do not levy. They are able to generate enough revenue from other sources (i.e. general transportation aids, shared revenue, payment in lieu of taxes, building and zoning permits, royalty payments, utility aid, etc.) to cover their expenses for the year.

Other towns receive a limited amount of revenue from outside sources and rely heavily on their levy to cover expenses incurred in their town. Regardless, all towns are subject to local levy limits, otherwise known as the "allowable levy."

The allowable levy is the maximum allowable property tax that a town may assess on its properties without being subject to a penalty under Wisconsin statutes.

Around the middle of September each year, the Town Clerk receives an electronic notice from the Department of Revenue informing them that their municipal levy worksheet is available. The levy worksheet is used by the town to determine its allowable levy for the next fiscal year.

The levy worksheet includes an "allowable levy" preset by the Department of Revenue based upon the town's prior year's actual levy

Per Wisconsin statutes, it is the electors who have the authority to levy taxes in the town. Approval of the levy is considered by the electors at a special town meeting of electors which generally takes place in November of each year.

Once the levy has been determined, the clerk can determine the mill rate. The mill rate is the amount of levied taxes divided by the total assessed value of the town.

HOW YOUR TAX DOLLARS WERE SPENT IN 2022

ROADS \$670,000
FIRE COMMISSION \$118,000
AMBULANCE SERVICE \$85,000
TRANSFER STATION \$74,000
OLSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY \$34,000
AIRPORT COMMISSION \$28,000
CHAIN O' LAKES SAFETY AND AIS \$9,400
GENERAL GOVERNMENT \$168,000



It's hard to believe our Community Wildfire Protection Plan, created in 2017, is five years old! In order to continue the plan, it needed to be "refreshed."

The CWPP team members gathered on May 18, 2022, to begin the CWPP refresh process by completing a community risk assessment for the Town of Washington.

Gathering and discussing key information at specific areas of concern provided the foundation for developing hazard mitigation strategies and project ideas that were incorporated into the CWPP.

Over the course of the next several months, the updated CWPP was developed.

The 2023-2027 CWPP was adopted at the September Town Board meeting and is posted on the town website.

Our grant application for 2023 has been written and submitted. Projects included in the 2023 grant are:

- Brush site – contractor chipping and hauling chips away
- Spring mailing to all town property owners
- Home Ignition Zone assessments offered free of charge to Deerskin Lake residents
- Roadside chipping offered free of charge to Deerskin Lake residents
- Smokey Bear fire danger sign updates

The WDNR has fully funded all our CWPP projects. We've received \$56,538.90 total funding since 2017. There has been no cost to the town.

The brush site is the cornerstone of the CWPP and is loved by our residents. Usage continues to increase each year. In 2021 we averaged 350 visits per month. In 2022 we averaged 535 visits per month.

Wood chips and compost are available to take at no charge. You are also free to take any firewood you would like.

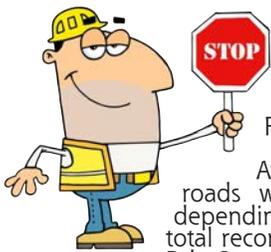
The brush site shares the same parcel as the town gravel pit. Sand is present at the gravel pit. Please DO NOT take any sand.

The brush site opening date is weather dependent and will be posted on our website. Closing date is October 31st.

Open hours are every Friday at 4PM until Monday at 6AM. The brush site will be OPEN on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day.

The brush site regulations are found within this newsletter. It is your responsibility to know and follow the regulations.

"DRIVEN" BY ROAD MAINTENANCE



Our town roads are some of the best in the county and beyond, and we work hard to keep them that way.

In 2022, one mile of East Anvil Lake Road was reconstructed.

At this time, we're determining which roads will receive improvements in 2023 depending on funding. We're hoping to do a total reconstruction of 1 mile of North Military Rd. Stay tuned.

Special thanks to our road crew, Paul, Terry and Kevin, for clearing our roads and keeping them in great condition throughout the year. It's a never-ending job!

If there are items you would like placed on the agenda for either the annual or the regular monthly meetintgs, please let any board member know!



DO YOU HAVE RENTAL PROPERTY?

Wisconsin 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 Wisconsin Act 59 for more details.

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

It is recommended you verify permitted use with the Vilas County Zoning Department.

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 a Room Tax Permit.

You are required to collect room tax in the amount of 4.5%. The Room Tax Return is remitted to the town treasurer on a quarterly basis.

If your rental property is handled through Airbnb, VRBO or a similar rental clearing house, you still need to register with the Town of Washington and file a quarterly room tax return with the town. Failure to do so could result in fines and penalties.

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

CRANBERRY ISLAND

Progress has been made this season on the Cranberry Island situation. The pier was determined to be safe and will remain. Fire rings were removed as some island visitors cut down trees for firewood which harmed the forested landscape. Grills remain. Remember to bring your own charcoal.

The replacement of the current privy has been a challenge. Two potential sites have been identified and the Vilas County Forestry, Recreation and Land department awaits

a hand-dug perk test. At present only one business is interested in doing the perk test. The department's hope is that all will be completed before next season. The department is also working with the Vilas County Land and Water Conservation department on the erosion issues.

Volunteers from the Eagle River Chain of Lakes Association monitored the island this summer and helped with maintenance.

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 2022-2023 tax season. Details are available on our town website Taxes page.
- Tax payments for the *exact amount only* may be made in person at the Peoples State Bank located at 1011 E Wall St.
- Visit the Vilas County website at webtax.vilascountywi.gov for payment amount, tax receipt, or copy of your tax bill.
- 2022 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, 2023.
- Real estate taxes are due as follows:
 - Full payment or first installment by January 31, 2023 to the Town of Washington Treasurer.
 - Second installment due by July 31, 2023 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. Mail to Katie Hayes, 2145 Pinewood Dr., Eagle River, WI 54521.

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 you MUST complete a driveway permit application.

To obtain a fire number complete a fire number application.



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

For more info contact Nancy Sobraliski, Town Clerk, at 715-479-8886.

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 Chairperson	715-479-2074
Art Granat	Town Supervisor	715-891-2683
Carole Linn	Town Supervisor	715-479-6873
Katie Hayes	Town Treasurer	715-477-2745
Nancy Sobraliski	Town Clerk	715-479-8886

Tiffany Bolte	Deputy Treasurer	715-891-1271
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



2023 Transfer Station & Brush Site Regulations

Transfer Station Summer Schedule

May 1 thru October 9
Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday
8 AM till 12 Noon

TRANSFER STATION REGULATIONS

- Permit must be shown each time. Photo of permit is NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- 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 MUST have loads covered in transit.
- 2 vehicles allowed in drive-thru and side entrance, backing up is prohibited, and walking garbage or recyclables in is not allowed
- These rules and regulations may be subject to change at any time.
- **The Transfer Station will be closed on Easter, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day 2023. The Transfer Station will be open December 26, 2023**

Some items NOT accepted at the Transfer Station are listed below. If uncertain, check with attendant.

Junk automobiles & trucks	Engine blocks & transmissions	Tires, rear ends	Pyrex/heat resistant glass
Computers, printers & monitors	Snowmobiles/PWC's/ATV's	Lawn clippings, leaves, pine needles	Appliances
Mattresses	Furniture	Liquid paint - dry paint is accepted	Concrete
Animal carcasses & hides	Drywall, windows	Demolition materials	Light bulbs
Electronics of any kind	Asbestos	Doors	Waste chemicals
Propane containers & bottles	Toilets	Oil of any kind including cooking oil	Televisions
Appliance compressors	Carpet	Water heaters	Transformers
Wood	Roof shingles	Cardboard drums	Hazardous waste

Transfer Station Winter Schedule

October 10, 2023 thru April 28, 2024
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
8 AM till 12 Noon

BRUSH SITE REGULATIONS

- Brush site opening date will be posted on the town website at town-of-washington.org. Date is weather dependent.
- Brush site closing date is October 30, 2023 at 6AM
- 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 12 inches in diameter and no longer than 8 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, firewood, and compost are free to take.
- Sand is not to be taken.
- Abuse will result in reduced hours or closure.



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**

2023 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



soda, water, ketchup, peanut butter, salad dressing, vegetable oil containers



milk jugs, juice bottles, bleach, detergent, shampoo containers



margarine, yogurt, syrup, sour cream, medicine bottles

Only plastic bottles & containers marked #1, #2 or #5 are recyclable

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 metal dumpster outside the building

Only plastics marked #1, #2 and #5 are recyclable

All other plastics should be placed in the garbage dumpster



**No Permit
No Admittance
No Exceptions**