



TOWN OF BLACK WOLF 2012 SPRING Newsletter

Website: townofblackwolf.com E-mail: tbw@northnet.net

Newsletters are published twice a year, Spring and Fall.

Please keep this issue for reference. Check our website for additional information and past Newsletters.

2012 ELECTIONS:

April 3rd Presidential Preference and Nonpartisan Office and Referendum

May 8th Primary Recall; June 5th Recall Election

If there is no Primary Recall, then May 8 will be the Recall Election Date

August 14th – Fall Primary (changed from September)

November 6th – Presidential Election

Voters must sign the poll book to obtain a ballot. The poll book contains a signature block for each voter. Only one poll book needs to be signed.

Voters unable to sign the poll book because of a physical disability are exempt from this requirement. If you are unable to sign because of a disability, Election officials will write “exempt” in your signature block.

VOTER REGISTRATION CHANGES

You can register to vote up until the Friday before an election or on Election Day. You must reside at your address for 28 consecutive days to be eligible to vote, and you may no longer use a corroborating witness as proof of residence. Proof of residence in Black Wolf is required when registering to vote.

Voting Absentee in the Clerk’s Office

Absentee voting in the clerk’s office is now restricted to the two weeks before an election. **Absentee voting now ends at the close of business the Friday before the election.**

FORMS: Application for Absentee Ballot forms and Voter Registration forms are available on the website: Forms page.

ELECTION HOURS: 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING: April 10th, 2012



The Annual Meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.** This is a meeting of the electors and is open to the public.

Town residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

This is a time for residents to present and discuss concerns and/or issues they would like the town officers to consider.

We welcome your comments!



GARBAGE AND RECYCLING

Remember that all garbage/recyclables must be **IN THE CARTS**. Do not place any items/bags, etc. next to them as Veolia will only pick up what is in the cart (lid closed). If you need an extra cart, you may set up extra service with Veolia (800-688-4285) for a monthly fee. Place carts no more than 10’ off the road, in the driveway, next to each other, with both carts facing the road.



OPEN BOOK

The Open Book is expected to be held in June, according to our Assessor John Bodouski with Bowmar Appraisals (920) 733-5379. Watch the website and posting boxes for more information, or call the Town Hall office at 688-1404. This is the time when you can meet with the assessor if you have questions on property assessments.



TOWN BURNING POLICY:

There are no ordinances which prevent burning in the Township; however, please respect your neighbors and observe good safety practices. Be especially careful to burn only during calm periods of the day or early evening. Be sure to notify the Van Dyne and City of Oshkosh Fire Departments if you’re planning a large burn.



FIREWORKS - EXCESSIVE NOISE

Since we don’t have a fireworks or noise ordinance, we depend on residents to be courteous and considerate of their neighbors when holding events that might include fireworks, shooting guns, loud music, large crowds, etc. Please be aware of your neighbors’ who may be dealing with an illness or other serious problems that you are not aware of, and how your noise would impact their rights. Ending events at a reasonable time in the evening shows you respect the fact that others might have a need for quiet for a variety of reasons

Sanitary District Quarterly Bills

You can drop off payments for your quarterly sanitary district bills in the slot on the door of the Sanitary District building. That’s the building located East of the Town Hall. Contacts:



Chuck Linde – (920) 527-1270

Scott Mateyka – (920) 216-6773

Jenny Oleson, Treasurer - (920) 420-1208

OBSTRUCTIONS FROM NATURAL WATERCOURSES

Albeit we have had a very minimal spring runoff due to the lack of snowfall last season, we still need to be aware of the issues associated with water flow through the township. One issue that can come up over time is restricted water flow through natural watercourses due to sediment and other obstructions within these watercourses. When issues related to water flow or lack thereof are brought to the Town's attention, we generally have two points of reference when determining a resolution of the issues with watercourses, the first is Section 12 in the Town of Black Wolf Zoning Ordinances titled "Illicit Discharge & Connection Ordinance" and the second is found in Chapter 88, subchapter VIII of the WI State Statutes (referenced below.) This outlines what's considered an obstruction and gives definition as to how to resolve conflicts.

Please be aware of these topics as we move into spring and summer. If you would like to read the complete Town ordinance or the State Statutes, you can review them in their entirety by accessing them online at:

<https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/88>
<http://www.townofblackwolf.com/ordinances.html>.

Copies of the Town Ordinances are available at the Town Hall during regular business hours (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Fridays from Noon to 5:00 PM.)

88.90 Removal of obstructions from natural watercourses.

(1) Whenever any natural watercourse becomes obstructed so that the natural flow of water along the same is retarded by the negligent action of the owner, occupant or person in charge of the land on which the obstruction is located, the owner or occupant of any lands damaged by such obstruction may request the removal thereof by giving notice in writing to such owner, occupant or person in charge of the land on which the obstruction is located.

(2) If the obstruction is not removed within 6 days after receipt of such notice and if the obstruction is located in a village or town, the owner or occupant of the damaged lands may make complaint to the village or town board, filing at the same time a copy of the notice. The village trustees or town supervisors, after viewing the watercourse and upon being satisfied that the complaint is just, shall make recommendations in writing to the owner or occupant of the lands where the obstruction is located, for the removal of such obstruction. If such recommendations are not followed within a reasonable time, the village or town board shall order the obstruction removed. The cost of view and of removal shall be charged & assessed against the lands from which the obstruction was removed and shall be collected as other special assessments are collected.

(3) Whenever any natural watercourse becomes obstructed through natural causes, the owner or occupant of any lands damaged by the effect which the obstruction has upon the flow of the water may go upon the land where the obstruction is located and remove it at that person's own expense. Such person is not guilty of trespass for entry upon the land but is liable for damage caused to crops or structures. The rights and privileges conferred by this subsection also extend to the agents or employees of the person causing the obstruction to be removed.

(4) This section does not in any manner limit the scope of s. 88.87.



CELL TOWER LEASE PURCHASE

The Town Board has been considering, for quite a while now, the sale of our lease for the tower located on our old town dump (leased to SBA Communications).

Lately, we've received correspondence from both our current lessee, SBA Communications, and another entity who is interested in buying the lease, AP Wireless Infrastructure Partners. Both entities have offered terms that include buyouts of approx. \$200,000 over a term of between 40 and 75 years.

At this point, the board has not taken any action other than to field these requests and to keep the communication open for further developments relative to term offerings.

Hopefully we will have more specific term sheets from both firms on best offers to give electors at the upcoming Annual Meeting in April so that a course of action can be determined.

Chris Martell, Constable (920) 688-2445



Spring is here and it's time to send out a few reminders about pets. The Town's dog ordinance states that dogs must be **UNDER CONTROL** at all times. This doesn't mean that the dog needs to be on a leash, but if that's what is needed to keep a dog under control, then do so. Also, be sure to remove your animal's waste and properly dispose of it when you return home. Don't leave your dog's mess for someone else to clean up.

If your dog does get away, call me at home (688-2445) so that I can make a note of it and call you back if I get a call or find your dog. If you find a dog running loose **DO NOT CAPTURE OR HOLD THE DOG!!** Don't let it in your garage, put it in your kennel, tie it up or let a stray in your house! There have been many instances that a seemingly friendly dog turns on and harms the person(s) that has captured them. All stray or strange dogs should be treated with caution and not approached.

Also, try not to leave food out for animals. If you feed them, they will return. This applies to dogs and cats. There are no ordinances regarding cats in the Town. If you have strays in your area and you want them captured, again, call me at home and I will do what I can to capture them. If you trap a cat on your own (without the knowledge of the Town) you will be responsible for the disposition of the animal.

All animals are taken to the Oshkosh Area Humane Society. If you take a dog or cat to the shelter without prior authorization from the Town, you will be charged \$35 per animal (or \$35 for a litter of pups or kittens). If your pet has been captured and taken to the shelter, there is a fee for picking the pet up. Once an animal has been taken to the shelter, it must be claimed at the shelter.

The Town's ordinance allows three dogs per household and the dog(s) must be licensed: \$3 if neutered or spayed; \$8 if not. Dog tags are issued by the Treasurer, John McDermott.

TOWN ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

We currently have an elected Town Clerk and elected Town Treasurer. The current terms of the two people in these positions will expire in the 2013, April election. As residents and citizens of the town, it is statutorily your right to change the structure of these two positions to become appointed positions. That means that your elected Town Board would then be responsible for appointments to these positions. The elected/appointment option of Town Clerk/Town Treasurer choice will be on the agenda for discussion at the April, 2012 annual town meeting. Also, part of the agenda item will be information on a third option, which is to establish a combined Town Clerk/Treasurer position.

Here is a brief description of the duties of each of these positions. In short, responsibilities for a Town Clerk include: conduct all election activities, paralegal opinions, department head functions, customer service, communications to boards and committees, communication management, and cash management. He or she must be bondable. The position can become complex and technical.

Some responsibilities of the Town Treasurer are to receive and disburse town money and keep the books. The Treasurer deposits the money and suggests deposit options. The Town Treasurer performs all duties relating to taxation. He or she is integral to management of the annual town budget process.

Please note that any structure change is not likely to make a change in the personnel currently in these two positions. As a board member, I would like to commend our current elected Clerk and Treasurer on jobs well done.

There are pros and cons in the choice of election or appointment of these positions. We look forward to your input and direction at the upcoming annual town meeting.

Road and Bridge Update:

The mild winter has been a pleasant surprise from a Town budget stand point. Minimal snow and ice means minimal expenditures. Money not spent on winter maintenance means tax savings. This is something most of us enjoy. We utilized the "corn-row snow fence" idea for the first time this year by obtaining an agreement with the farmer who works the land bordering E. Fahrwald Rd. and E. Nekimi Ave. (East of US 45). These sections of road have been known for high snow drifting for a number of years. The farmer did not harvest a number of corn-rows, which in turn allows the corn to act as a snow fence. Observations made by our snowplow drivers, on the few snow events that we did have, suggest that the program was very successful. We certainly plan to continue this approach. Any suggestions as to where use of corn-row snow fences may benefit other areas are very welcome.

We have selected the engineering firm of Donohue & Associates, Inc., Madison to complete the design for the replacement bridge on Black Wolf Avenue. Design work is expected to begin in July, 2012. There will be informational meetings to solicit citizen input and keep everyone informed of all aspects. Bids are expected to be let early 2013 with construction soon to follow.

The Town has requested and been accepted for completion of a Town-wide sign inventory and proposed sign maintenance plan. The inventory and maintenance plan is being conducted by the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. You may have noticed workers taking

photos in our Town. They photographed every sign in our Town for inventory of each of them as well as a quality record. The inventory and maintenance plan will be valuable in the effort to keep our road, street, bridge, traffic and information signs up to State and Federal standards. This is a safety issue that deserves our utmost attention.

As usual, a joint Town/County road inspection of our public town roads will take place in April to evaluate spring road conditions and plan our maintenance program.



Firefighters Needed!

Been thinking about volunteering?

Help protect our community

- Serve your community close to home
- Join a great group of men and women
- Meet new people
- Learn new skills

We are in need of firefighters and first responders.

Open to all residents living or employed in Friendship and Black Wolf. No experience necessary. We will train you! Call (920) 688-2875 or email us at vdvd@charter.net

PLANNING A PARTY?

Occasionally we are asked about renting out the Town Hall for parties. Currently the town hall is only used for civic and educational functions. The Van Dyne Lions Park has asked us to put in an ad for their facility, as follows:

Rental for special occasions	Wedding receptions
Van Dyne Lions Park Club House	birthdays
700 Lone Elm Road	anniversaries
Van Dyne, WI	graduations
Phone: 920 688-3372	meetings
Email: rosy0007@charter.net	

LET'S HAVE THE PARTY AT THE
VAN DYNE LIONS PARK

CALL 920.688.3372
FOR MORE INFORMATION

The Town Board is considering running advertising for businesses in town to offset costs of publication and mailing. If you would like to submit an ad for an upcoming newsletter please send it to the town hall for consideration. Costs for placing an ad in the bi-annual newsletters will be determined.

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month."

In the spring, I have counted 136 different kinds of weather inside of 24 hours



Town of Black Wolf

380 E. Black Wolf Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902

Phone: (920) 688-1404

FAX (920) 688-1405

E-mail: tbw@northnet.net

Website: townofblackwolf.com

Town Chairman: Frank Frassetto

Supervisor I: Mike Pollack

Supervisor II: Robert Keller

Treasurer: John McDermott

Clerk/Office Mgr: Ellen Chmielewski

Constable: Chris Martell

Deputy Clerk / Office Assistant: Mona Schultz

Zoning Administrator: Tom Verstegen

Building Inspector: Dave Frank

Assessor: Bowmar Appraisal, John Bodouski

Town Hall Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 12 noon – 5:00 p.m.

Use the drop box located by the front door when the office is closed.

Please note: Phone calls should be directed to the Town Hall, unless it's an emergency. Messages will be taken and forwarded to the proper individual or department, thus eliminating the need to contact town officials at their homes. Thanks!

Zoning Administrator, Tom Verstegen, Town Hall Office Hours

Mondays & Tuesdays 5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

Zoning permits and information may be obtained by contacting Tom at the Town Hall on Monday or Tuesday evenings (688-1404) or calling his cell phone (920) 379-3081.

Appointments can be made to meet with him at other times.

Building Inspector, Dave Frank

Building permits and questions are answered by calling Dave directly at (920) 233-1999.

Assessor:

Bowmar Appraisal, Inc. John Bodouski (920) 733-5369
3005 W. Brewster, Appleton, WI 54914

MEETING SCHEDULES – Town Hall

Special circumstances sometimes require the need to change meeting dates and/or times. Postings are updated on a regular basis. Check the website or posting boxes located at the following locations:

- Town Hall
- Lakeshore Mart
- Lakeshore Superette
- Ripple Rd across from Oshkosh Country Club

Town Board Meetings

7:00 p.m. – 2nd Monday of each month.

Planning & Zoning Committee Meetings

6:30 p.m. – 1st Tuesday of each month.