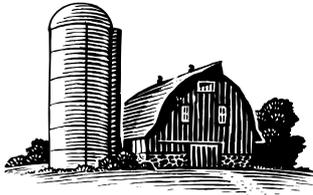


Grant Town Hall
 9011 County Rd WW
 Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
 715/423-9193



Board of Supervisors

Chair

Sharon Schwab 325-3827

Supervisors

Richard Kertis 421-5644

Jim Wendels 423-3496

Clerk

Vicky Zimmerman 325-6319

grantclerk@wctc.net

Treasurer

Dorothy Raasch 423-6589

Planning & Zoning

Zoning Administrator

Marty Rutz 335-6835

Plan Commission, Chair

Jim Wendels 423-3496

Public Works/Roads

Full-Time Employee

Garry Saeger 423-9118

Election

Chief Inspectors

Julie Kramer Kelley Steinke

(Democrat)

(Republican)

Poll Workers

Diana Luecht

Garnet Tucker

Jean Zeman

Avis Schroer

Cherie Hanneman

Elaine Eberhardt

Dorothy Cook

Marge Weinfurter

Janis Ristow

Carol Studzinski

Thea Provost

Kathy Olson

Sandy Brody

Monthly Board Meetings

October 8 November 12

[Note: Meetings subject to change]

Budget Hearing

November 20

Fall 2008

Levy Limit or Increase? - By Sharon Schwab, Chair

For several years towns and villages state-wide have been held to a 2% increase in the local levy. Since assuming office three years ago, the Town Board has struggled with this imposed levy cap. We all agree that holding down taxes is a good thing; however the price of our services in this same time have skyrocketed

What to do? Some municipalities are cutting services, laying off employees, consolidating or merging departments, etc. In truth we don't have a lot of services. We have a transfer station for all our solid waste and recycling needs and these costs have increased more than 3% per year. We contract for ambulance service and fire protection. After more than a year's effort we expect that the \$20,000 cost of Higgins Ambulance Service will be divided among all Portage Co. residents rather than just Town of Grant residents. But, our fire protection contract with Grand Rapids has gone from \$22,000 in 2005 to nearly \$90,000 in 2009. That's a 300% increase and that amount must come from the local levy.

Take out your tax bill. Only 8% of your total property taxes go to the Town of Grant. For example, if you paid \$3000 in taxes last year \$240 went for all town services.

This year we will collect \$193,578 in taxes. The 2% levy limit will allow us to increase our tax base by only \$3,871.56. That just won't do. In the last two pages of this newsletter we are proposing an increase reflective of what we really need - \$100,000. That may seem like a lot but please know this. We need \$21,000 to pay for the fire protection increase in 2009, \$15,000 more to keep pace with fuel costs, and we must rebuild our contingency fund which has been whittled away by these same increases in 2008.

If you paid \$240 last year we are asking you to consider a 50% increase; \$120. If not we will need to make further cuts in road construction and maintenance (pg 2), an area of greatest concern and need. Please read through this newsletter and consider our request. Thank you.



Roads, roads, roads....

(Look inside for details)!

Transfer Station Hours

Wednesday

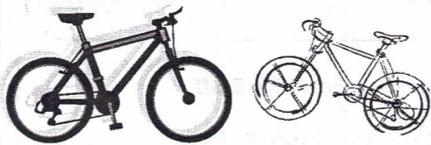
Saturday

Sep - Oct	11AM- PM	9AM-5PM
Nov - Mar	11AM-4PM	9AM-4PM
Apr - May	11AM-5PM	9AM-5PM
Jun - Aug	11AM-7PM	9AM-5PM

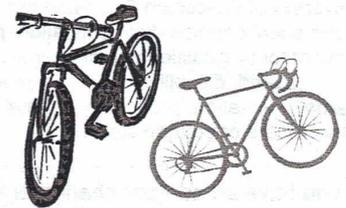
2007 Road Construction Update - by Jim Wendels, Supervisor

Due to budget constraints, only a handful of road construction projects could be awarded in 2008 for the Town of Grant. We will continue to monitor our budget status as the year goes on and if the budget permits, we may be able to award another project or two. The projects awarded and their status is as follows:

- Lake Road (110th Street – CTH F) – This project consisted of asphalt wedging, improving the dip that existed in the roadway at the intersection of 110th and Lake and a single coat chip seal on the entire segment. Project complete. **\$31,746.60**
- 90th Street (Quarry Road – CTH W) – This project consisted of placing 2" of new gravel on top of the gravel placed last year and paving with 1 ½" asphalt at 20' width. The placement of gravel is complete and paving is scheduled for completion by September 12th. The Town of Grant will place 2' gravel shoulders on each side of the pavement once the paving is complete. **\$102,383.20**
- 90th Street (Resetting of culvert pipes from Mill Road – Griffith Street) – This project consisted of the Town of Grant removing and resetting the existing culvert pipes and backfilling with a more native material to the area in an effort to reduce the heaving and dips which occur every winter and spring at these locations. The areas of excavation and pavement removal will be paved with asphalt at the same time as the 90th Street construction project above. **\$8,232.60**



The Stanley Project - Free Bike Program Helps People Get Moving!



Do you need a bike? Do you want a way to get moving outside this spring? The Stanley Project can help! The organization is run by Jim Traenkenschuh and Larry Frostman, who enjoy spending time fixing bikes. Over the last three years the Stanley Project has been refurbishing bikes, they have given away 1053 bikes to the people of our community.

- **Where:** 1626 West Pearl Drive (off of West River Dr.), behind Tradition Cleaners.
- **What:** Free Bikes. The Stanley Project refurbishes donated bicycles for the community.
- **Cost:** FREE. No income qualifications. No paperwork.
- **Hours:** Monday - Saturday 12pm - 6pm

The Stanley Project accepts donated bicycles or bicycle parts at any time.

The Stanley Project is an official nonprofit organization.

Road Report – By Dick Kertis, Supervisor

According to my digital rain gauge, we have received less than one-tenth inch of rain per week for the last five weeks. So, we find the water truck to be a very useful piece of equipment.

After putting the finishing touches on installing an electric actuator to open and close the 100 square inch dump valve (controlled by the driver from the cab), and designing a simple splash plate that uniformly spreads the water the width of the truck, we can now add moisture to problem washboard areas that cannot be corrected without moisture (as dust cannot be compacted)!

With some residual chloride remaining from previous applications in recent years, our dust problem areas haven't been quite as severe this year and by spreading a little water here and there, we can avoid spending \$3,500 on a load of chloride this year. This savings alone pays for the water truck and pump (\$2,506) plus a couple hundred gallons of fuel, not to mention what we will save by water ahead of the paving on 90th Street South.

As a recent meeting is was tossed around about when we should look into having the pile of broken concrete at the Transfer Station crushed into road base. A company from Antigo, WI was contacted and they came out and gave us an assessment. They estimated our pile at about 3,000 cubic yards. They estimated it would cost us about \$5.00 per cubic yard to reduce it to road base. This is a pretty reasonable price for base materials but we would have to wait until someone else in this area had stuff to crush before they would move in and do ours. So, if someone in this area has crushing to be done, we could be scheduled along with them, but for now, the crushing is on hold. They have us on their list.

We have finally had a chance to address the numerous wintertime dips on 90th Street from Griffith Street southward to just past the old Hanneman place south of Quarry Road. Seven culvert locations were dug out to remove the gravel and road base materials that was used to backfill these pipes when they were originally installed. This material (which is unlike the natural mucky-silty materials that the road is built on) does not take on moisture so it doesn't expand along with the road bed when it freezes; therefore you wind up with the abrupt dip. We replaced the gravel with native soil taken from our Transfer Station property right next to the job site. This sandy material is not exactly like the roadway itself, but should be a major improvement. The first pipe just south of the Bloody Run was completely removed as it served no purpose because with a little ditch cleaning, this water will drain directly north to the Bloody Run rather than cross over to the east side. The two pipes between County Road W and Deer Road were both lowered 12 inches each. Also, the two larger diameter pipes south of Quarry Road were dug out and re-laid. Rather than being spaced out about 80 feet or so, these two pipes were re-laid side by side in what appears to be the main channel. These pipes were also lowered 10 inches on the west side and 4 inches on the east.

At this writing, the 2 inch layer of gravel on the 90th Street construction project (County Road W to Quarry) will be placed this week (Labor Day) and will be paved the week after.



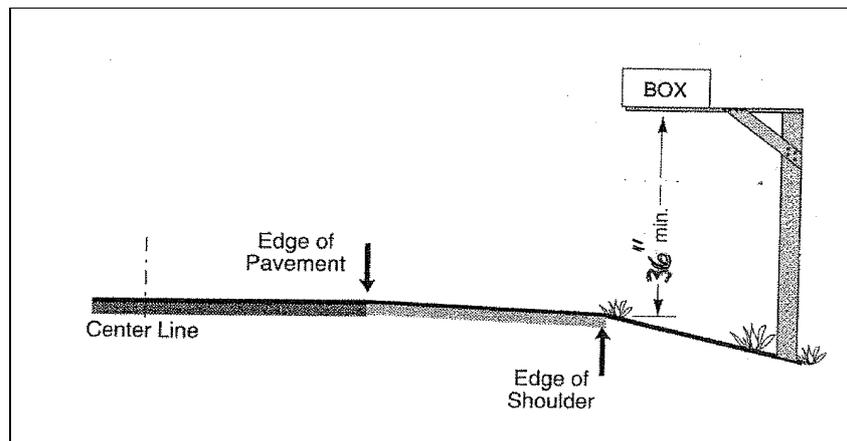
Mailbox Installation – by Jim Wendels, Supervisor

Here's a great fall project that the Town Board would like you to do! While the weather permits have your mailbox installed according to the diagram shown below. There are two key aspects of the installation:

1. Face of mailbox is directly over the edge of shoulder
2. 36" minimum height and not too much higher

If the face is aligned over the edge of shoulder gravel this allows us to clear snow and bench it back from the main traveled roadway and shoulders. This also allows our mail carrier to keep at least one set of tires on a surface that provides traction. In the case of an all gravel roadway or dirt roadway, this edge is defined as where the gravel or dirt meets the grass line. To allow our mail carriers to reach into the back of your mailbox without having to exit the vehicle, the height of the mailbox should be 36" or slightly higher.

Your cooperation with these installation details would be greatly appreciated by both the Town Board and the US Postal Service. Thank you!



Emergency Address Plaque Update – by Jim Wendels, Supervisor

Progress is underway to install double sided, reflective fire numbers at each address location in the Town of Grant. This was recommended by residents at April's Annual Meeting. A one-time \$30 Special Charge will appear on the 2009 tax bill for each address.

Zoning Administrator Marty Rutz is undertaking the field operations of this project and he has begun on the far south end of our township. The fire numbers will be situated at or near your driveway and upon and very near the roadway right of way line. The fire numbers are red/white in color, blend very well into the landscape, are not too intrusive and will be visible while traveling in both directions along the roadway both day and night. These signs have been encouraged for many years by our first responders, law enforcement agencies, ambulance service providers, and all the fire departments that serve our community. Please ensure they are well maintained and always visible as your life may depend upon them someday. Sample signs are displayed in the town hall on the back wall – take a look next time you are in there.

Plan Commission Update - by Jim Wendels, Supervisor

The Town of Grant Plan Commission has just embarked on an update to two of our Town's ordinances: Refuse and Recycling. These ordinances were last updated in 1994 and we are trying to address some concerns of both residents and the Town Board with the re-write.

For example, one primary concern among residents over the years is that our current ordinance does not allow us to accept any demolition material. In the case of say, building a new home or demolishing an old home, the reasons are quite obvious – we have neither the capacity nor the funds to cover these type projects. Let us say however, you are installing a new window or pre-hung door and have a small amount of material to dispose of from that project. We are trying to define what should be an acceptable level of demolition material we could accept and considering charging a nominal fee for some amount over that and setting a maximum amount accepted whether the resident pays or not.

As part of our research, I obtained a quote for curbside pick up at my location just to see how our fees and rules compare to the industry. The quote I received from a local provider was \$24/month (\$288/year) and had the following restrictions: 4 bags of garbage maximum; \$2 per additional bag; no recyclables accepted nor pick up available, no bulk items neither accepted nor pick up available, and no yard waste accepted nor pick up available. These are just a few of the highlights of the quote and it does not take long and a person really starts to appreciate the operation we run here in the Town of Grant for the nominal fee of \$65/year. We are meeting with Transfer Station employees, residents who have an interest and our Portage County Solid Waste Administrator as we embark on this rewrite and update. If you have any interest or ideas you wish to share please contact me or any other Plan Commissioner and as always, feel free to attend our monthly Plan Commission meetings.

Zoning Update – by Marty Rutz, Zoning Administrator

The first 3 months of 2008 were really slow - probably because everyone was having so much fun playing in the snow! April and especially May were really busy with permits, and now with summer winding down we are at a total of 31 permits. On average we issue about 56 permits yearly, so it looks like we are right on track. Here's the break down of permits to date: 22 accessory buildings, 1 new residence, 2 porches, 3 additions, 1 pool and 2 razes.

I would like to thank everybody that has called me to find out if they need a permit. Quite often you do not need one but may just need to adhere by the setback required in your zoning district. I often get asked, "Do we need a permit for a fence"? No, you do not, but please call to let me know what your plans. I can offer you some suggestions and explain some of the problems we have had with fence placement in the past.

Don't hesitate to call if you have any questions. I am available 7 days a week! I hope you have a safe and wonderful fall!

Town of Grant Zoning Fees – Effective July 1, 2008

Type	Conservancy/Residential/Agricultural	Commercial/Industrial
New residence including mobile home (new or old) & commercial/industrial building	\$200.00	\$400.00
Additions: Primary residence or Commercial/Industrial Building	\$100.00	\$200.00
Establish an address	\$30.00	\$30.00
Moving a previously located residence or commercial/industrial building into the town	\$300.00	\$400.00
Moving residence or commercial/industrial building within the town	\$200.00	\$400.00
Moving accessory building within the town	\$100.00	\$200.00
Moving accessory building into the town	\$200.00	\$400.00
Moving building through the town on town roads	\$30.00	\$30.00
Accessory building or addition under \$1000 or 100 square feet or less	\$0.00	\$0.00
Accessory building or addition above 100 square feet to 200 square feet	\$30.00	\$60.00
Accessory building or addition above 200 square feet to 2500 square feet	\$50.00	\$100.00
Accessory building or addition above 2500 square feet	\$75.00	\$150.00
Razing any building	\$15.00	\$15.00
Signs and Billboards	\$25.00	\$50.00
Public hearing fees	\$150.00	\$300.00
Quarrying – Permitted Use	\$50.00	N/A
Quarrying – Conditional Use (Does not include public hearing fees)	\$250.00 minimum plus \$50.00/acre greater than 1 acre in size with a maximum amount of \$1,250.00 (Example for 3 acres: \$250 + \$150)	
Decks, Porches, Pools	\$15.00	\$30.00
Telecommunication Tower Permit Fees	\$2500 – Collocation on existing tower & \$5000 – New Tower	
Penalties – Failure to purchase a permit prior to construction, moving or demolition shall result in twice the cost of such permits		
Fees are charged by current zoning district or proposed zoning district at the time of construction		

“Live Well, Live Long, Town of Grant!”

You're invited to attend an informational gathering to learn about the Good-For-Your-Life Classes coming soon to the Grant Area Community.

If you are (or a family member is) age 50 or older and interested in living well and living long, this gathering is right for you!

- **Learn** about new Portage County Aging and Disability Resource Center programs and services to help you live safer, happier, and longer in Grant.
- **Sample** the *Good-For-Your-Life Classes* that will be coming soon to Grant.
- **Discover** which classes are right for you and register your interest for fall and winter sessions.
- **Share** your ideas and preferences for class times and settings.
- **Connect** with others who have similar interests about living well and living long in the Grant Area Community.
- **Learn** how to request a free falls risk assessment and free home safety check.
- **Consider** becoming an ambassador for falls prevention in your area.

When: Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 6:15 – 7:45 p.m.

Where: Grant Town Hall

Refreshments provided (healthy ones, of course).
Please bring a friend.

It's free, but please call 346-1401 to register!

Our *Good-For-Your-Life* line-up of classes includes nationally recognized independence-enhancing programs. *It's all about staying active and being smart to prevent falls.*

Sponsored by Safe Steps Plus+
Aging and Disability Resource Center of Portage County
For accommodations or transportation, call 346-1401.



RESOLUTION No. 3-08

2008 Town of Grant Tax Referendum

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin has imposed limits on town, village, city, and county property tax levies for 2007 and 2008 under Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602 of Wis. Stats.; and

WHEREAS, Wis. Stat. Sec. 66.0602 of Wis. Stats. limits the increase in 2008 to the local property tax levy to no more than the greater of two (2%) percent of last year's levy or a percentage equal to the percentage change in equalized value due to new construction less improvements removed, which for the Town of Grant is two (2%) percent; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Grant Board of Supervisors believes it is in the Town's best interest to exceed the State levy limit as described above by a percentage greater than two (2%) percent; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Grant levy was \$193,578 for the tax levy in 2007 (collected in 2008); and further, whereas, the State limit would restrict the increase to \$ 3,871.56, for a total allowable Town tax levy of \$197,449.56 for 2008 (collected in 2009);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Grant hereby supports an increase in the Town tax levy for 2008 (to be collected in 2009) to exceed the State levy limit and in fiscal years 2010 through 2013 to increase the levy by a percentage increase that is necessary to allow for a total increase in the levy of \$100,000 over the prior year's levy that is subject to the levy limits..

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Town Board of Supervisors directs that the question of increasing the Town tax levy for 2008 (to be collected in 2009) by 51.65%, which would increase the Town levy by \$99,983.03 over last year's levy, for a Town tax levy of \$293,561.03, and in fiscal years 2010 through 2013 increase the levy over the allowable limit by the percent that is necessary to allow for a total increase in the levy of \$100,000 over the prior year's levy that is subject to the limits in section 66.0602 shall be submitted to the electors in a referendum at the November General Election to be held on November 4, 2008.

ADOPTED this ____th day of September, 2008.

_____ Sharon Schwab, Town of Grant, Chairperson

_____ James Wendels, Town of Grant, Supervisor

_____ Richard Kertis, Town of Grant, Supervisor

Attest: _____ Vicky Zimmerman, Town of Grant, Clerk

Dated: _____ Posted: _____

**NOTICE OF REFERENDUM
TOWN OF GRANT
NOVEMBER 4, 2008**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the Fall General Election to be held in the Town of Grant, Portage County, Wisconsin, on November 4, 2008 the following question shall be put to a vote of the electors by referendum ballot. The question shall appear on the ballot as follows:

Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Grant for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2009 is limited to 2%, which results in a 2008 levy of \$197,449.56 for the portion of the levy subject to the limits in section 66.0602, Wisconsin Statutes.

Shall the Town of Grant be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2009, by a total of 51.65%, which results in a 2008 levy of \$293,561.03 for the portion of the levy subject to the limits in section 66.0602, and in the fiscal years 2010 through 2013 increase the levy over the allowable limit by the percent that is necessary to allow for a total increase in the levy of \$100,000 over the prior year's levy that is subject to the limits in section 66.0602, Wisconsin Statutes?

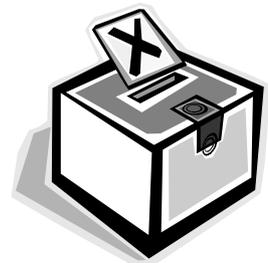
Yes No

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

A **"Yes"** vote on this referendum question means you authorize the Town to increase the portion of the 2008 levy that is subject to the levy limits by a total of 51.65% for the fiscal year 2009, and you also authorize the Town, in fiscal years 2010 through 2013, to increase the levy by a percentage increase that is necessary to allow for a total increase in the levy of \$100,000 over the prior year's levy that is subject to the levy limits.

A **"No"** vote on this referendum question means that you do not authorize the Town to exceed the levy increase limit established in section 66.0602 for fiscal years 2009, or 2010 through 2013.

Vicky Zimmerman, Clerk





Flu Shots - Friday October 17th
10 – 11:30 AM @ the Town Hall



Tuesday, November 4, 2008
Poll Hours 7:00AM – 8:00PM

√ Absentee ballots available from the Clerk at 423-9193 (hall) or 325-6319 (home)

Town of Grant
9011 County Road WW
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

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