

Town of Maple Creek

Outagamie County
W10388 County Road W
New London, WI

◆◆◆
www.townofmaplecreek.com

WINTER 2015 NEWSLETTER

IOH (Farm Vehicles) Update

At a meeting on November 30, the Board adopted a new ordinance regulating the weight allowed of certain kinds of farm equipment on our town roads. This issue has arisen in recent years due to the increasing size and weight of some farm equipment, mainly liquid manure tanks, and the aging condition of many town roads. The State of Wisconsin acted in April of 2014, passing a complex law defining weights, sizes, classes of vehicles, what could be regulated and what couldn't. Further changes were made in spring of 2015. The State law requires townships to allow these heavier farm vehicles, but part of the law allows townships to require no-fee permits to be issued to IOH users, and also to specify specific routes if necessary. Maple Creek has adopted guidelines which limit any single IOH vehicle to 92,000 total pounds and 23,000 pounds per axle. For those interested, this is known as the "option E" approach. In the past, some farmers and custom manure haulers have requested to be allowed weights up to 140,000 lbs. Such weights would destroy our roads in short order. Maple Creek will not issue permits over the limits of 92,000 lbs total and 23,000 lbs per axle. Farmers and haulers should take this into account when doing their planning for next year; this may mean hauling more loads at less than capacity. Maple Creek cannot ask taxpayers to bear the expense of the road damage that excessive weight limits would cause. IOH permit applications for 2016 can be made to the town clerk. Any questions should be addressed to members of the board or the town clerk.

Head Groundskeeper Needed

The Town is in need of a Head Groundskeeper for next year. The duties of this position include keeping our cemeteries and Town Hall mowed, trimmed and picked up, ensuring the maintenance of our mowers and other equipment, and supervising the rest of the grounds keeping crew. This position pays \$15 per hour. To get an idea of the time involved, last season this job totaled about 100 hours; of course the amount of time needed all depends on the weather. If interested please contact one of the Board members or the Clerk.

Election x 4

After a quiet year on the election front, 2016 brings an onslaught of most likely 4 elections, culminating with the big one, a non-incumbent presidential election. Out of Maple Creek's 605 people, there are estimated to be 477 of voting age. As of last summer, we had 366 people registered to vote. A big change next year will be the requirement of photo IDs at the polls. There is no exception to this rule, so if you need more information about it or would like to register to vote in Maple Creek, please contact the Clerk. Also, if you are interested in being an Election Inspector (which pays \$10/hour), let the clerk know. Election days are long but rewarding.

02/16/16 - Spring Primary (if necessary)

04/05/16 - Spring Election & Presidential Preference

08/09/16 - Partisan Primary

11/08/16 - Fall General Election

Town Board

Chairman:	Paul Gitter 920-538-4999
Supervisor:	Larry Morrison 920-878-0973
Supervisor:	Jim Young 920-450-5287

Clerk:	Larry Katerzynske 920-634-9429
Treasurer:	Tory Much 920-982-3915
Constable:	Steve Janke 715-752-4248

Cemetery:	Gary Coroneos 920-982-5617
Build. Ins:	Dennis Handschke 920-982-6042
Harters Refuse Service	888-804-8556

Upcoming Dates

Next town board meeting is December 14th at 6:30 pm. They are the 2nd Monday of every month.

Dogs must be licensed before April 1st of each year. If a dog is at least 5 months old on January 1st, or turns 5 months old during the year they must be licensed annually. Proof of current rabies vaccination is required to license a dog. A good time to do this is tax time. Licenses are \$8, or \$3 for spayed of neutered animals.

Trash pickup: due to Christmas and New Years falling on Fridays, pickup will occur Saturday. Put all that wrapping paper out on Friday night!

Requiem for the Posting Boards?

On November 11, Governor Walker signed several new laws into effect, one of them affecting how Towns communicate their proceedings to the public. Previously the Town was required to post notices in 3 public places within the Township. Maple Creek has done this for years. The new law says a Town can now post on one posting board and their internet website, if they have one. The Town Board is going to consider making this change. It would result in a mileage savings to the Town, since making a "posting run" to all three boards is a 14 mile round trip. What do you think? We'd love to hear your thoughts.

It's That Time of Year...

2015 is coming to a close, and this means a couple things are drawing near- Christmas and property tax bills. The Town portion of our tax levy, by state law, has stayed the same at \$65,785 for the second year in a row. The refuse pickup charge will be \$135.64 this year, up from \$132 last year. The hours the Treasurer will be accepting payment at the Town Hall are 9 AM - 4 PM on December 19 and 26, 6 to 8 PM on December 31st, and 9 AM- 4 PM on January 23rd and 30th. You can also pay your tax bill in the lobby at First State Bank in New London. If you wish to mail in payment, send check and tax stub to Tory Much, Treasurer, W10320 Schwandt Road, New London. As always, make checks payable to "Town of Maple Creek". Credit cards are not accepted.

Tree Planting

A 1923 article in the *Appleton Crescent* newspaper recounts how in 1848, the US government offered the land in Maple Creek for sale at 50 cents an acre. The first European settlers logged off most of the timber in 4 to 5 years and began dairy farming. Today about 15 percent of the Township is wooded. If you have some bare land you would like to plant into trees or shrubs, Outagamie County is now accepting orders for delivery next spring. They offer many varieties of bare root stock at very reasonable pricing. To check into this go to their website at:
<http://www.outagamie.org/index.aspx?page=64>

From the Silo with Larry Morrison

We have had a really great autumn, even though alas, winter is inevitable. I hope what I want to talk about does not come off like a preacher speaking to his congregation; that is not my purpose. The idea is the result of a seminar at a Wisconsin Towns Association meeting regarding public involvement. While I respect their ideas, to me, public involvement comes in little steps. There is one word I like to use and that is commitment. If you have a family you have a commitment. Your town is like family, therefore it is commitment. Commitments have many layers one can take on. One of these commitments is spending. You would not just let anyone use your check to spend on what they want. Why would you want to let someone spend your tax money any way they want? It is your money the town of Maple Creek is taking from you. For good or bad reasons, the state will not let the town take any more than they say we can. If the town wanted more money the majority of town's people would have to agree to allow the town to take more. This is good as it restricts the town but bad because there never seems to be enough money to do what needs to be done.

Here is an easy commitment for you; become knowledgeable. I know not everyone has access to the Internet, but many of you do and probably get on the net every day or so to read your emails or use Facebook or Twitter. Maple Creek has a website: www.townofmaplecreek.com. Open up your browser and put the town's website in your favorites list. When you get online to read your emails open your browser, click on the website to see if anything new is going on at the town hall. The town board meeting is the second Monday of every month. The town agenda is typically posted by the Saturday before the meeting. The clerk, Larry Katerzynske, has the minutes of that meeting done within the week and you will be able to read how the

Continued on next page...

Continued from page 2

board acted on the agenda. All three board members have emails which are listed on the website. If you read the agenda and have a particular opinion on an item and cannot make it to the meeting, drop a note to one of the board members you are comfortable with and state your opinion. That would be helpful. The board does not run on any platform to be elected. We run on our promise to make decisions best for the majority of people. I believe all three board members are doing their best to make decisions that are in the interest of the majority of the town's people. Who knows, this one small step could lead to bigger steps in the layers of commitment. I have always wanted to collect emails of the town's people so we could let them know that something new is going on at the town hall. They then could check the website to see what was happening. There is a state rule that says these lists would be a matter of public record so the board has been reluctant to make this list. I guess I am not sure what the negative effect would be as you give out your emails to many anyway.

There are some decisions that we are thinking of making that may be of some interest to you. They are:

- 1) Passing a more restrictive IOH (Implement s of Husbandry) ordinance.
- 2) Considering using bins that are similar to your trash tubs for recycling.
- 3) Some would like for us to use the Clintonville Ambulance Service for the northern parts of our town.
- 4) What will we do if Gold Cross Ambulance raises their fees?
- 5) We are considering spending \$3,000-\$6,000 for a financial audit.
- 6) Doing some remodeling on the town hall.
- 7) Re-surveying the town's right-of-ways to stop encroachment.
- 8) Should we use private companies or the county to plow our snow and mow our ditches?
- 9) Should we make more of our town roads Class B roads?
- 10) There are town roads that it may be best to get rid of.
- 11) There are town roads that may need to be re-classified from 3 Rod roads to 4 Rod and vice versa.
- 12) The town will need a property revaluation in the near future which could cost around \$20,000.

As you can see, the town board has their work cut out for them and you can be a part of it. Now that you have an easy way to be involved, we hope to hear from you.

Merry Christmas Maple Creek!

Larry M.

2016 Budget Process Completed

Beginning near the end of October, the Town Board began its budget deliberations for 2016.

Through two working meetings (all publically posted meetings, by the way), and culminating with the budget approval meetings held on November 23rd, a budget was constructed which is similar to last years. The main difference from 2015 will be an increase in road construction expense, as the Town will reclaim and resurface portions of two roads next year, Breiting and Schweitzer. The current year had reserves built in for this larger project. Most of the other budget items show little change year over year, in fact our town levy is mandated by state law to be the same this year. A very brief summary follows. For more complete information, contact the town clerk or members of the board.

	2015	2016
Revenues	Actual	Budget
State shared	55,632	55,453
Transportation Aids	48,202	48,201
Power Line payment	34,987	34,987
Public Charges	36,099	35,300
Intergovt & Other	5,925	7,405
Total Revenues	180,845	181,346
Expenditures		
General government	62,156	66,300
Public Safety	18,840	23,200
Road Maintenance	42,394	45,000
Road Construction	-	240,000
Other Public works	33,718	33,275
Capital Outlay	977	17,000
Cemetery & Misc	5,604	6,200
Total Expenditures	163,689	430,975

**Town of Maple Creek
PO Box 224
New London, WI 54961**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Permit #160
New London, WI
54961**