

PLEASANT SPRINGS TIMES

Remarks from the Chair...By David Pfeiffer

2018 was a year that brought many challenges to area residents and the Town. Heavy rains and saturated soils impacted farmers and delayed construction projects. Flooding affected numerous properties, especially on the north side of Lake Kegonsa. Residents came together to respond to the rising waters, both in June and August. Although the late summer storm damage was primarily to the west, a localized heavy downpour undermined a Town road. Public Works quickly performed temporary repairs so property owners could regain access to homes and crops. Permanent repairs are awaiting the FEMA process to determine whether the Town will receive aid. Farmers having lands experiencing frequent flooding may want to investigate the WI DATCP Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program by contacting Brian Loeffelholz at (608) 224-4632 or brian.loeffelholz@wisconsin.gov. Although the heavy rains were also challenging for lake water quality, the leaf pickup program sponsored by FOLKS successfully prevented large amounts of phosphorus from entering the lake this fall.

The recently approved Town budget includes repayment of \$300,000 previously borrowed for roads. Borrowing became necessary because insufficient funding required the Town to either defer reconstruction projects or underfund the annual maintenance needed to maximize the life of our roads. Public input at our roads meeting supported a 5 year plan to combine this amount of annual borrowing with use of ATC funds to address the problem. So far, this plan has allowed the Town to budget an average of over \$400,000 in additional annual spending for roads. Although the issue of funding for local roads received much attention over the past year, State funding for local roads is unlikely see increases significant enough to fund our needs. Your Town Board will continue to monitor progress during the annual budget process. Even with the annual loan repayments now underway, the Town mill rate remains well below the mill rate of neighboring Towns and represents only about 12% of your total property taxes with the remainder going toward Dane County and Schools.

In 2018, Dane County performed a comprehensive rewrite of the zoning code. All zoning classifications would change and each property owner was mailed a postcard with details. The proposed zoning changes do not have any impact on property taxes. Property assessments have always been based on current use, not on zoning.

In September, the Town hired Alex Mesdjian to a newly created position as Superintendent of Public Works. Alex arrived with ideas and energy and has already made a significant impact. The Town would like to give special recognition to Jim Alme for his dedicated service during a staff vacancy. He and seasonal employee Greg Spangler provided crucial assistance to residents during the summer storm events. Clerk/Treasurer Maria Hougan and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Sandra Wilke continued to provide their usual professionalism handling office duties in the midst of the highest turnout non-presidential election in our history. Thanks to all!

It continues to be an honor to serve as your Town Board Chair. As always, I promise to do my best to carry on the Pleasant Springs tradition of sensible and efficient local government. Best wishes to all in 2019!

Chair David Pfeiffer

Comings and Goings...

The Town welcomes new Plan Commission member John McLain.

The Town would like to thank Ted Keehn for 13 years of service in the Public Works Department.

The Town would like to thank Mark Asleson for his services on the Plan Commission.

2019 Waste and Recycling calendars are available on the Town website, and a copy is also available at Town Hall.

A reminder from Pellitteri-

During or after inclement winter weather, please remember to keep your trash and recycling carts accessible by clearing the area of snow and ice to ensure service. If you do not place your carts in your driveway, then you may need to shovel out an area on your property for the carts. They should be within two feet of the street (but not in the street) and approximately four feet away from obstructions such as mailboxes, trees, and cars. Please do not place your carts on top of snow piles or in the street.

If you would like to receive information regarding service delays due to holidays or weather related conditions via e-mail, please [email info@pellitteri.com](mailto:info@pellitteri.com) to sign up (please include your address and/or municipality) or call [608-257-4285](tel:608-257-4285).

Holiday Trash and Recycling Info:

During a week that has a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Dane County offers a place to bring hazardous household materials such as TV's, paints, poisons, oil, and rechargeable batteries.



They are located at 7102 HWY 12

Open Year Round

Monday – Friday: 7:00 AM to 2:45 PM

Saturdays: 8:00 AM to 10:45 AM

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Call (608) 838-3212 or visit danecountycleansweep.com for more information

The Town of Pleasant Springs is looking for an attendant for its Brush Burning Compost Site. Hours are typically certain Saturdays and Wednesday evenings throughout the year. The current wage for this position is \$10.00 per hour.

If you are interested please contact the Public Works Department at (608) 205-9169 and leave a detailed message.



TAX SEASON INFORMATION

Tax bills will be mailed by December 17, 2018. The statutory deadline to mail tax bills is the third Monday in December. Payments for real estate and personal property tax are due to the Town of Pleasant Springs by January 31, 2019. You must pay at least the first installment of real estate taxes by that date to avoid delinquency. All personal property tax payments are due in full and may not be divided into payments. If you choose to pay only the first installment, the second installment is due on July 31, 2019.

All payments made after January 31, 2019 must be made to the Dane County Treasurer. You may mail the payment, or pay in person at the Dane County Treasurer's office. Please refer to the tax bill for the correct mailing address.

Need your tax receipt? Lost your tax bill and want to obtain another copy? Visit AccessDane for a variety of property information:
<https://accessdane.countyofdane.com>

TOWN HALL CLOSINGS

Monday, Dec. 24, 2018 & Tuesday, Dec. 25, 2018
Monday, Dec. 31, 2018 & Tuesday, Jan 1, 2019

If you are planning to pay your taxes in person, please plan accordingly. We recommend mailing tax payments. Please allow ample time when mailing payments.

The Town DOES NOT accept postdated checks. All postdated checks will be returned to the property owner. Please add a contact # (phone #) if we need to contact you for any reason regarding your payment.

We strongly urge you not to wait until the last day to make or mail your payment. If your check is incorrect and must be returned to you for any reason, you risk having a delinquent payment because the check was

not returned to the Treasurer, or postmarked, on or before the due date.

Mill Rate Comparisons

Cost per \$1000 of valuation

\$2.22-Town of Pleasant Springs-\$1.74 in 2018

\$2.89 -Town of Dunn

\$2.97-Town of Rutland

\$3.86-Town of Cottage Grove (2018)

Town Board-Caucus Information-

The Town Board will hold its Caucus in January 2019, in the Town Hall (usually on or prior to the third Tuesday in January) Please check the website or call the clerk's office for the meeting date and time. At the Town Caucus, nominations for offices are taken from the floor from Town residents, each nomination must receive a second. **Those who wish to be placed on the ballot should attend this meeting for nominations.**

The following offices are open this year-

<u>Office</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Town Chairperson	David Pfeiffer
Town Board Supervisor Seat 1	Doug Larsson
Town Board Supervisor Seat 2	Eric Olson

All terms are for two years, beginning Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

If you are a resident of the Town of Pleasant Springs, and interested in running for office, please contact the clerk's office at (608)873-3063, or email:

clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org. Or the Wisconsin Elections Commission at: (608) 266-8005, email: elections@wi.gov

2019 Election Dates:

February 19, 2019 Spring Primary (if required)
April 2, 2019 Spring Election



What Happened to my mailbox?

Occasionally during the winter season, a snowplow blade will damage a mailbox or mailbox post. The Town will compensate the owner of a mailbox damaged by the impact of a town snowplow blade. The Town has no responsibility for damage resulting from the impact of snow pushed against a mailbox. Please leave a message at 608-205-9169, and a staff member will investigate and determine whether repair, replacement, or reimbursement is appropriate. Reimbursement is limited to a reasonably comparable mailbox and will not exceed \$25.00. No special allowance is made for decorative, unusual, or ornamental mailboxes or posts. The Town is not responsible for installation, or reimbursement of installation costs, and reserves the right to repair the box in lieu of paying for a replacement.

Weather Parking Emergencies

Effective July 25, 2008, an ordinance was passed that allows the Town Chairperson, or their designee, to declare a weather emergency whenever three inches of snow has fallen, or as conditions warrant. **During such an emergency, nothing may be parked or placed in the road right-of-way.** This restriction remains in effect for three consecutive 24-hour periods, unless the emergency is cancelled or extended. Notice of these weather emergencies will be given to the same Madison news outlets used by the Stoughton Area School District for school closings, and local cable television.

Gravel Road Snow Plow Policy

When it snows, all paved town roads are cleared prior to the gravel roads. Additionally, gravel roads are only plowed when the snow fall is greater than 3 inches. The Town has approximately 69.46 miles of roads to plow, which takes roughly 7 hours to plow driving lanes on the paved roads. Please be patient.

Safety Reminders!!

*When out and about this winter, please **stay back AT LEAST 300 feet from plows on the road, do not attempt to pass a plow truck, and stay back at intersections to allow plow trucks to turn around and continue plowing.** If you have any questions or concerns about snow plowing or sanding, please contact the Public Works Department at 608-205-9169.

*In an effort to help with snow removal, please remove your trash totes promptly after your trash has been picked up. Totes that sit by the curb for days prevent Public Works from clearing roads in a timely manner, and are also in violation of Town ordinances. Vehicles and other equipment routinely parked in the road right of way also pose a safety hazard and are a violation of Town ordinance.

*Residents are discouraged from pushing snow across the road. In an effort to remove snow from their own property, Public Works has observed residents pushing snow across the road ways in the Town. Often times this causes a buildup of snow on the road way that can create a hazardous situation for cars. Help keep Town roads safe and clear this winter.

News You Can Use: Be Salt Wise This Winter

Feel free to use the information below in your newsletters, website, social media and other communications to spread this timely message to protect our lakes and drinking water.

Salt that has been applied to roads and sidewalks over the course of the winter ultimately ends up in our local lakes, streams, and drinking water. Road salt has been used as a de-icer since the 1950s, and as a result, chloride concentrations from salt in our lakes have steadily increased with harmful effects to aquatic life and our drinking water. It only takes one teaspoon of road salt to permanently pollute 5 gallons of water.

Starting at home, you can reduce the amount of salt that is used in the winter and still keep your sidewalks and driveways safe. The [Wisconsin Salt Wise Partnership](#) offers the following tips and a wealth of other information on ways individuals and our community can work together to reduce salt use.

- Shovel: Clear walkways and other areas before the snow turns to ice. The more snow you remove manually, the less salt you will have to use and the more effective it will be.
- Scatter: If you use salt, scatter it so there is space between the grains. One twelve-ounce container (like a coffee cup) is sufficient to salt sixty to seventy feet of sidewalk, or about 10 sidewalk squares.
- Switch: When pavement temperatures drop below 15 degrees, salt won't work. Switch to sand for traction or a different ice melter that works at lower temperatures.

On a broader level, in an effort to learn the balance between public safety and responsible salt use, a [Winter Salt Certification Program](#) helps private and municipal applicators lower their salt use by learning proper application rates and techniques.

By working together, we can reduce salt and protect our environment.

News from McFarland Senior Center to Town of Pleasant Springs Residents regarding changes:

Please be aware that Dane County has changed some service boundaries for 2019. This means that for a few seniors in Pleasant Springs the services they receive may come from a different senior center or focal point in 2019 than they did previously. Dane County is attempting to consolidate services so that people can deal with a single agency to take care of their case management, transportation and home delivered meal needs.

If you are currently receiving services and you will be affected by this change, you will be receiving further communication about the upcoming changes. In the meantime, please contact your Senior Center If you have any questions.

Town of Pleasant Springs
2354 County Rd N
Stoughton WI 53589-2873

Winter 2018/2019

TOWN OFFICE HOURS:

Monday, Tuesday—10am to 4pm

Wednesday—CLOSED (office is closed, however staff is usually available for immediate needs)

Thursday—10:00 to 6pm

Friday—CLOSED

Town Office: 608-873-3063

Email: clerktreasurer@pleasantsprings.org

Public Works: 608-205-9169

Town Chairman..... David Pfeiffer, (608) 492-4877

Supervisor #1..... Eric Olson, (608) 575-9272

Supervisor #2..... Doug Larsson (608) 873-3063 (town hall office)

Supervisor #3..... Jay Damkoehler, (608) 492-9701

Supervisor #4..... Janiece Bolender, (608) 719-7240

Clerk/Treasurer..... Maria “Pili” Hougan, (608) 873-3063

Deputy Clerk/Treasurer. Sandy Wilke, (608) 873-3063

Building Inspector..... Steve Kittelson (608) 445-9715

HOLIDAY TREE DISPOSAL

Sat. January 5, 2019, 8am to 1pm

Sat. January 12, 2019, 8am to 1pm

REMINDER: All dogs must be licensed by March 31st of each year to avoid the \$10 per dog late penalty.

All property owners will receive the dog license application with their tax bills. **If you mail your dog license in with your tax bill, you must include a separate check for the dog license and a self-addressed stamped envelope for us to return the tag.**

The office can process dog licenses in person beginning after January 31, 2019 during business hours. Please make sure to include a valid copy of your dog’s vaccination certificate.

BASEBALL SEASON IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! Stoughton Area Little League is open to youth who have completed Kindergarten – 6th grade. Online registration begins soon. For more information and to register visit www.stoughtonbaseball.com.

*****2019 Assessment Begins*****

Accurate Appraisal staff will be doing walk throughs on those properties that been recently purchased or acquired a building permit during 2018. The purpose of the walk through is to obtain a proper listing of the rooms and to gather other essential data or to check the completion of the building permit that was issued. Letters of notification will be sent to those property owners.

After property owners receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, they can make appointment by phone at 1-800-770-3927 or by logging on the accurate appraisal’s website at: www.accurateassessor.com Please make sure when you are scheduling an appointment you go all the way through the steps provided by Accurate Appraisal. **If** you do not receive a letter from Accurate Appraisal, you do not need to make an appointment. *If you are having trouble scheduling an appointment with Accurate Appraisal, please contact office staff at 608-873-3063 and they can help you through the process.*