

# **TOWN OF BIG BEND NEWSLETTER**

## **2015 TAXES - PAYMENT INFORMATION....How to pay my taxes**

**Payments by mail:** You may pay by mail at any time. Your receipt is not valid until your check clears the bank. We do not accept credit card payments.

**Payments in person at Town Hall:** Saturday December 26, Thursday December 31, Saturday January 23, Saturday January 30 - - from 8am until 12 noon each day listed.

**Address Changes:** Please mark the corrected address on your payment stub.

**Receipts:** Please send self-addressed stamped envelope if you want a return receipt for your payment. If you have multiple receipts, please send a large enough envelope with additional postage.

**Name Changes:** These cannot be changed in our office. You must contact the Rusk County Register of Deeds. Have your actual deed changed for changes to take effect. The only exception is Personal Property.

**General:** The Town Board did not raise the town levy even though the State of WI allowed it. The Board felt it was more important to you for us to control our spending.

## **SNOW PLOWING....Gravel roads, citizen snow removal, fire numbers**

The Town Board asks for your patience for plowing snow. The Town has 43 miles of blacktop and gravel roads to plow; we clear roads as quickly as possible. Main access to Hwy 40 and County F is a priority. We have a lot of residents who have to get out each day, so in the spirit of fairness, the drivers will plow from the North to South and then the next snow fall, from the South to the North. Gravel roads present a problem in the late fall and spring. Soft gravel roads, not frozen up, tend to peel off layers of gravel - easily, thus some gravel roads are not plowed entirely clear, to the surface. We have two drivers, trading off, to ensure that one driver is not on the road to many hours. Remember when you are clearing your driveways that it is illegal to put the snow onto the town road, as it then becomes a road hazard. It is also your responsibility to be sure the area around your mailbox is clear of snow. For your safety, make sure your fire sign is visible to emergency response personnel - Fire, Sheriff, and Ambulance.

## **TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS....How to reach the Town personnel**

Office hours are during meetings, elections or by appointment. When office is not staffed, leave message on Town Hall voice mail. Emergencies - Town Officials are listed in the web site, "Town Contacts" tab.

## **YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK....What happened in the Town this past year**

The Town has finished the salt shed and cold storage building to the town hall property. Town equipment and supplies have been transferred to the cold storage. The salt/sand shed is providing quicker loading of the plow truck for spreading sand/salt. Maintenance personnel really appreciate this, no more clumping of sand/salt. This past summer numerous loads of

gravel were used to reshape roads, culverts replaced, semi loads of dust control chemicals to reduce road dust past your home (rains made this more difficult this year), extra road grading, limb control, brushing, repairs to equipment done by Town personnel saving many tax dollars, and more. Best of all - it's within continued tight budget constraints!

### **TOWN WEB SITE....How to access, what's in the Town pages**

Check out the Town Web Site, [www.townofbigbend.com](http://www.townofbigbend.com), for the up to date town news. The site is updated often. Important information will be on the main page. Note the calendar for Big Bend or area events. If you have a "community" event the Town would like to add it to the calendar. Web site has Town Contacts, Agendas & Minutes, Ordinances, Snow Plowing, Tax Information, Forms & Permits, Links, and more.

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE...What happens in an emergency**

The Town of Big Bend's Local Emergency Planning Committee annually conducts training for its members. We also spend time going over assigned equipment to verify we are ready should an emergency occur, this committee is well-prepared to be called out and perform the necessary operations to keep the town safe. Donation of emergency equipment or funds to the LEPC would be appreciated; we have a very limited budget.

### **RECYCLING, GARBAGE BAGS, ALUMINUM & OTHER METALS....**

There are three prices for garbage bags - \$1.75, \$3.25 and \$5.00. Becky has a great display at recycling to show which size is what price. Also talk to Becky about what can be recycled!

The aluminum can collection program at the town hall recycling center has benefited the Animal Shelter fundraising project - it was a success! With that success, the Town continues to fund the Rusk County First Responders. When you bring in your cans, please be sure that is all that is in the bags. We have been receiving bags with mixed recyclables. Then we have to pay someone to sort the mixed contents.

Recycling also now includes clean metals - those not attached to objects.

### **ELECTIONS - 2016**

February 16 - Spring Primary  
August 9 - Partisan Primary

April 5 - Spring Election  
November 8 - Fall General Election

Absentee Ballot Requests: If you need an Absentee Ballot for any election, you must make the request in writing. We will no longer be able to send the applications to you when you phone in a request.

### **Clearing Of Right-Of-Ways**

Notice of line clearing was received from Chippewa Valley Electric and Barron Electric. Each has subcontractors performing the work. Contact your electric provider for questions.