

# TOWN OF BIG BEND

## 2017 - 2018 NEWSLETTER

### **TOWN EMPLOYMENT.....Want a part time job...like to work outdoors...**

The Town has 1 employment position open. Need a maintenance person to perform work during the summer months and plowing in the winter. Position is available immediately.....

Please contact the Clerk or leave a voice mail.

### **2017 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 23, Saturday December 30, Saturday January 27, Wednesday January 31 - - from 8am until 12 noon each day listed.

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

**Receipts:** Must include 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 by the Town Clerk. 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.

**Escrow Tax Payments:** Please have your bank or lending institution verify your tax payment amount with you before sending a check. Over payments are costly to the Town. Smaller overpayment amounts will no longer be returned to the taxpayer due to the expense of processing to the Town.

### **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 a message on Town Hall voice mail. Emergencies - Town Officials are listed in the web site, [www.townofbigbend.com](http://www.townofbigbend.com) - Use "Town Contacts" tab.

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

Town purchased a used JD Loader/Backhoe. The old one became unstable, thus unsafe with the hydraulic controls. Town also invested in replacing the Town everyday work pickup with a new Ford F250 with a plow, new amber safety lighting, front and rear LED work lights and new tool/storage boxes. Town certainly got its money's worth on the old 1995 Ford truck! New truck plow will be used to plow the Town parking lot, touch up tight locations that the large truck has trouble working in. The front and rear mount lights, which we never had before, will be used when called out at night to provide road and ditch lighting. New truck also is equipped with 2 all-weather flashlights, one for each maintenance person to work with, these recharge in the truck. The Town also just recently repaired the large plow/sand truck for winter, it was necessary to have some dump box work done.

The Town continues to invest in the Dzmeliza bridge project. The replacement bridge has been completed. The ditches and road were also finished up this summer. Black topping will be done the summer of 2018. At the last minute this fall you may have notice the road was adjusted with 8 loads of gravel to level it out.

Town road blacktopping has been reduced and limited due to budget constraints, alternative solutions are being looked at, like double layered chip sealing. Town did invest in gravel roads by grading and adjusting road beds with loads of gravel.

## **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. Important information will be on the main page, either as a "Spot Light" on the left, or "News and Notices" on the right. Calendar for Town of Big Bend or area events is a great place to see Town Meetings scheduled. If you have a "community" event the Town would like to add it to the Web 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 is working on a grant for a emergency trailer. The tornado brought to the LEPC attention the need for preparedness and readiness. Should you like to join the group please give your name to the Town Clerk. LEPC annually conducts training for its members, 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 new prices for garbage bags - \$2.00, \$4.00 and \$6.00. Unsure of what can be recycled, talk to the attendant about what may be recycled! Town Web Site also has a recycling section for additional information.

The aluminum can collection program at the town hall recycling center has benefited the First Responders - it has been very successful! 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. Aluminum cans in bags only, no other items or garbage. We pay to have the garbage taken out of the bags.

Recycling also now includes clean metals - those not attached to objects. A rolloff type dumpster is provided on recycling days for metal disposal.

## **ELECTIONS - 2018**

February 20 - Spring Primary Election

April 3 - Spring Election

August 14 - Partisan Primary

November 6 - General Election

Absentee Ballot Requests: Registered WI Voters may request an Absentee Ballot or obtain one online at <http://elections.wi.gov> - Form EL121 or request an Absentee Ballot for any election, you may make the request in writing to the Clerk. We will no longer be able to send the applications to you when you phone in a request. A copy of a photo ID must be submitted with the application. May submit application and photo ID by mail, fax or email.

## **County Fire Numbers - Changes To Some Addresses**

This past summer the Town and possibly you have had the unforeseen expense of replacing fire numbers. Apparently years ago some numbers inadvertently were given wrong, these had to be replaced to match the County E911 mapping system for numbers and roads. The NXXXX numbers run South to North, the WXXXXX numbers run East to West. The N & W's are the corrections. Most of these changes have now been finalized and finished.

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

Town continues to hire a contractor to mow the ditches and widen the road, trimming trees. The current plan is to provide a budget line item each year to fund the continuous control of brush and tree limbs that impact and encroach the Town roadways.

## **Ordinance Committee Report**

Town Ordinance Committee has worked during 2017 to revise the existing complete Town Ordinances, now located on the Town Web Site, these have been reduced from approximately 500 pages to 250 pages. The Web Ordinances are searchable for information. The Committee is also working on a revised Campground Ordinance and Large Farm Ordinance and concurrently

looking at the associated fees. The Town Board is considering changing the Ordinance Committee name to Plan Commission to more reflect the Committee role in the Town.

**THANK YOU!**

Finally the Town Thanks You for your input and comments whether indirectly or through the meeting process. You may also call or email any Town Board member expressing your thoughts. Take the opportunity to join others at the monthly Town meeting or sit in on Committee meetings. This is your Town, your County.....

