



TOWN OF BIG BEND

Rusk County, Wisconsin

2018 - 2019 NEWSLETTER

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

All Town personnel are part time - Town Board, Clerk/Treasurer, Maintenance, others are volunteer's on committees. Our response to you will be as soon as possible. If we can't answer calls or return emails immediately Town Official's will get back to you as soon as possible. Office hours are during meetings, elections or by appointment. When the Town office is not staffed, leave a message on the Town Hall voice mail. Emergencies - Town Officials are listed in the web site, www.townofbigbend.com - Use "Town Contacts" tab.

Thank You to all those that put in so many hours of time day and night.....

2018 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 22, Saturday December 29, Saturday January 26, Thursday 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.

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

Budget constraints continue with the Town, County and State. Adjustments to the budget were quite challenging and in depth review of line items this past budget planning.

Maintenance appreciates the Town investment in the new pickup truck, finding it excellent to assist in the Town plowing along with the large truck. Seems like 2018 went so fast, the Town did not get all of the road work done due to weather changes - summer to winter, no fall.

Town road blacktopping has been for all intents - no longer being done. With budget constraints, alternative solutions are being looked at, like double layered chip sealing. The Town did invest in gravel roads by grading and adjusting road beds with loads of gravel. The tanker loads of calcium chloride solution have really improved holding the gravel road beds in place, thus reducing gravel, grading and general road maintenance.

ORDINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT.....

The Town Ordinance Committee is also now called the Planning Commission. The Town Board directed the Committee to investigate New Campgrounds. A New Campground Ordinance was developed by the Committee and approved by the Board. This Ordinance is still being language and definition revised.

TOWN WEB SITE.....Your source of Town Information.....

Check out the Town Web Site, 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 the 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 continues to prepare for emergencies within the Town. 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.....

Being recycling attendant can be challenging at times with the number of citizens approaching the recycle bin area, at times 3 - 4 vehicles present at once. The Town decided to try a one vehicle at a time, barriers indicating where to wait while the person ahead empties their recyclables. This will continue as it is working out very well, the Town has received a positive response to this change. Due to vehicles lined up it is being reviewed to move the vehicle flow to the North side of the Town shed, then to the recycling bins, allowing move vehicles to safely be in line, instead of parking on Hwy 40. Thanks for making this program work! !

Town of Big Bend / N1195 Hwy 40, New Auburn, WI 54757 / 715-868-5775

There are three prices for garbage bags - \$2.00, \$4.00 and \$6.00. Unsure of what can be recycled; talk to the attendant about what may or may not be recycled! Town Web Site and County Web Site also have a recycling section for additional information.

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 includes clean metals - those not attached to objects. A roll-off type dumpster is provided on recycling days for metal disposal.

TOWN SUPPORT PROVIDES HELICOPTER LANDING ZONE.....

The Town of Big Bend recognized the need and supported the idea of having a localized helicopter landing zone (LZ). With an aging population, an annual growing of summer citizens and visitors, the need for getting emergency care in minutes - ambulances to the area taking 20-35 minutes - it was felt that a critical care helicopter service was necessary. The LZ provides a fixed location, safe and known to the helicopter services, making landing much safer for all, those in the air, emergency personal on the ground. The LZ is located at the Southeast intersection of Hwy 40 and County D. A large Thank You goes out the corporations, business, citizens that donated land, grading, blacktopping, painting, mowing, snow removal..... So, Thanks Chippewa Valley Energy, Chippewa Valley Electric, Senn Blacktop, Haas Excavating, And You the Community!

TOWN CITIZENS VOTE TO SUPPORT AREA EMT's and EMR's.....

The aluminum can collection program at the town hall recycling center has benefited the Emergency Medical Responders (Formerly called the First Responders). At the Annual Meeting it was suggested and voted upon to change the aluminum can fund to assist with obtaining and training EMT's and EMR's. Should you or someone you know in the Big Bend area like to become an EMT or EMR we earmarked the funds for the training class. Great use of the cans! Pitch In!

ELECTIONS - 2019.....

February 19 - Spring Primary Election

April 4 - Spring 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. You may submit application and photo ID by mail, fax or email.

CLEARING OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....

The Town continues to hire a contractor to mow the ditches and widen the road, trimming trees. The current budget continues 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.

Town of Big Bend / N1195 Hwy 40, New Auburn, WI 54757 / 715-868-5775

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.

THANK YOU!

Finally the Town Thanks You for your input and comments whether indirectly or through the Town Meetings, Committee Meetings or other Town business. 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 or attend your County Board or Committee meetings.

This is your Town, your County.....