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## 2022 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Another year has just slipped by, faster than last year. Now will be a good time to wish you all a happy holiday season and thank you for your 32 years of supporting me through the 16 elections for Town office. I have enjoyed my years working for you. I expect the new officers in April, 2023, to carry on the tradition of doing the very best for the Town of Riverview Taxpayers.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Short-Term Rental Fees, collected by the Town, were distributed to the following businesses: \$1000—Oconto County Economic Development Corp; \$750 Mountain Ambulance Service & Community Ambulance; \$700—CL Sportsman; \$500—Hidden Bear ATV Club, Dusty Trails, Chute Pond, Crooked Lake Trails, Red Arrow, Paul Bunyan Riders, & Lakewood Cross Country Sky Trails; \$250—Lakewood Area Chamber & Oconto Co. Lakes Waterways; \$200—Holt Balcom Logging Museum, Mountain Historical & Fish Hatchery. Total: \$7,800

ARPA Grant—purchased 1/3<sup>rd</sup> cot for Mountain Ambulance Service, a second order of 100 pulse oximeters to measure oxygen levels for those suspected to have COVID, and purchased \$15,000 of advertising for our area in support of our businesses, through the Oconto County Economic Development Corporation.

Applied for grant to purchase 110 HP Tractor, 20' boom, rotary mower and brush cutter to mow and brush cut our right-of-ways. This would be a 75% grant with a 25% match if awarded.

Held two very successful Coffee with a Cop get-togethers. We learned to put their names to faces and each shared with us their duties and responsibilities. An interesting question and answer period followed each session. It was great hosting this event and we appreciate all those that attended.

We have been working on the design of a building to be constructed to include a wing for the Sheriff's Department for 5-day per week satellite office, which includes 2 offices for the County Veteran's Officer and Health & Human Services (Mental Health Services). Three offices will be in the main building for the Town Clerk, Treasurer and Town Supervisors who will hold office hours for the taxpayers. There will also be a shared kitchen and meeting room. The fire department will take over the original building which will also serve as a disaster building if the public needs shelter, a place to cook food, shower, pick up water in their containers or just cool down in the air conditioning. We will be adding two bathrooms with showers to this building.

Why are we talking about another structure? Since the tornado in 2007 we always talked about 2 separate buildings with the thought of the future in mind. Our fire department consists of volunteers, but like most other departments, have few if any, responders during the day. They are at work trying to make a living for their family. The time will soon come when there will be paid responders during the day. They will need the whole building for their crews, not just the

garage housing the trucks and equipment. When that time comes, we have to be ready to make the adjustment. We cannot wait until the last minute and then prepare for the second building.

We also need garage space for what we presently own plus we need to plan for future needs. We have the possibility of obtaining a tractor and mower with the financial assistance of a grant. We need a garage to work on the equipment and to provide storage during the winter months. We are also considering working towards the purchase of a pick-up truck with plow to do our parking-lot plowing and some of our small, narrow, dead-end roads.

And lastly, we would like to see more County services provided in the northern end of the County. This is an opportunity to assure these services will be available to our population, saving travel time and money for all involved.

We will be holding a meeting late January seeking approval from the taxpayers for approval on the construction of this building.

Spring Election for Town Officials will be held this April. Get to know the candidates. Ask about their qualifications, opinions, and their vision for our Town. Demand the best because it is an honor to serve and to do a good job. It takes knowledge, commitment and heart to make a difference. Don't settle for anything less.

The Town continues their need for donated ice skates, hockey sticks and pucks. The ice rink continues to attract more and more skaters of all ages. Your donations can change the life of a child—a satisfaction of accomplishment, strength building with the increased utilization of the rink, energy and exercise exerted, and fun from the sport playing and socializing with their friends. Though we don't have the ice on the rink yet, we do have a Christmas tree lit up in front of the pavilion in memory of Rick Koehler, maintainer of the ice, who died last season. It was Rick's wish to have a tree just for the skaters to enjoy. We didn't forget his last wishes and we know he will be happy his wish was granted. Thank you to Dick & Helen Schaal for donating Rick's tree for all to admire. If you didn't know, the Schaals are the daughter and son-in-law of the Elbe's who owned the tree farm on Tar Dam Road. The Elbe's donated all the trees to the Town that are in front of the Town Hall and are annually decorated from deer season through the Christmas season for all to enjoy. What a gift to all of us, especially after the devastation of the 2007 tornado.

#### **FROM THE PEN OF OUR TREASURER, DEB NIESEN**

Just a reminder that dog licenses expire on 12/31/2022. New licenses are \$3 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$8 for those not spayed nor neutered. Please remember the license protects you and your dog should your dog escape or run off. We do have an Animal Control Officer and a license will make his job easier and possibly avoid a penalty for you.

Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

Riverview Town Board