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## 2018 TOWN NEWSLETTER

Our year-end is fast approaching, and as we reflect back over the past 11 ½ months, we are proud of our accomplishments.

- We have worked with the other 6 northern Towns and entered into an Agreement with Oconto County, for the purpose of contracting Deputy Ben Schindel, to become our Community Officer. Ben started with us in April spending many hours getting to know the people and listening to their concerns. He is able to enforce our ordinances as well as the Counties and the laws of the State. We are using the Municipal Court in Gillett to handle our citations. He is doing a great job for all of us!
- We have installed 68 solar energy panels on our building and we are making our own electricity, using what we need and earning credit with WPS on that which is not needed at the time. Projections show we will save \$99K in 25 years.

### Pending projects:

- We are 1 of 3 Towns working with Lakewood to form a joint-library. This will be a win-win for all Towns involved, as our money paid for all county libraries will go directly to our library instead of being shared. The library will benefit with the added funding from the 3 Towns. The 3 Towns will be keeping the money in our area supporting our own library. A savings will be realized as we no longer will be billed by Langlade and Brown County libraries for local users using their services. The down-side of this proposal is that the cost of each Town's contribution to the Lakewood Library will be included in each Town's budget beginning in 2020, instead of the County budget. There will be no increase in taxes, because the cost will just move from the County to the Town..
- The Plan Commission has been researching and working on the implementation of Town Permits for residential rentals.
- Crooked Lake taxpayers have asked the Town to legalize the use of golf carts on town roads since they are illegally using them now. To do this, roads used must have 25 mph speed-limit signs for cars. The speed limit is acceptable for this area due to the short length of most of their roads. However, because this is a costly project, fund-raising by the community is necessary to help purchase and place signs. The Town has budgeted a portion of the money required for this project and a portion of the money required for signs throughout the Town. Speed has to be controlled on all of our roads and our Officer will be directed to enforce these regulations.
- We are asking taxpayers to contact their State Senator and Representative to ask their support for a DNR Warden for our area to fill the 5-year vacant position. A warden is needed now for the safety of our taxpayers and tourists.
- Other items of interest:
- Our Christmas tree lighting for the holidays will be ending within the next several years because the trees are getting so large. We will continue the tradition until the workers say it is not safe to do so. Thank you to Mike Pichotta for trimming the trees helping us to continue the tradition.

- Our Town budget increased for 2019, the first time in 7 years. Due to the rise in costs for emergency services, we need to fund the difference to keep the service operational. The problem stems from the fact that volunteerism has dwindled to low rates. The benefit to our population is a quality service, quality personnel, and paid professionals 24/7. It is a long ride to the hospital. If needed, you will be pleased with your care and thankful for the great service.
- We continue to look for land to purchase for a Crooked Lake Recycle and Brush Site Center. We would like 5 acres but would consider smaller parcels. We presently occupy a site owned by the Forest Service. This contract will soon sunset requiring taxpayers to travel to the Tar Dam Site. If you don't help us find land to purchase, we cannot help you with a convenient service.
- The Recycling Centers on Tar Dam Road and in Crooked Lake have to take additional measures to protect the cost of services from increasing. The reimbursement for recyclables has hit bottom lows because of contamination (State wide). We now have to pay more for pick-up instead of receiving money for the product, Our garbage collection, too, has increased , Why?-- because other Towns are taking additional efforts to control their Town usage at their sites, to their taxpayers only. People then seek other Towns to haul their garbage. This winter, we will begin issuing stickers that must be displayed in vehicles or you will not be allowed in our sites. It will be strictly enforced by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Stickers, within the next several months, may be obtained by personally contacting the Town Clerk and providing proof of residency. We will keep you posted. Remember, dumping in the forest may result in a ticket of over \$300 if caught. People are encouraged to report all violators to our Officer. If possible, provide a picture showing license # or of the individual unloading the garbage/brush. Cameras will also be placed on remote, and seldom used roads.

Clerk's hours: 12:30—3:30 Tuesday; 9:30—3:30 Wednesday; and 9:30—12:30 on Thursday

Treasurer's hour for collection of taxes: every Tuesday and Thursday, 9-noon, through 1/31 at the Riverview Town Hall. The Crooked Lake tax collection will be the last Saturday in January, the 26<sup>th</sup>, 9 —11 a.m., at the Community Center.

From our house to yours, WISHING ALL OF YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Riverview Town Board