



The Town of Dunn

Official Fall 2018 Newsletter

Views From the Chair

By Ed Minihan, Town of Dunn Chair

We have had significant flooding on our lakes and neighborhoods this Spring and Summer. The Sandhill Cranes have come through it O.K., but many residences remain in harms' way as the rains continue. Our staff and elected officials have worked hard to do everything we can to protect life and property which is a responsibility of local government. As a local government, our authority is derived directly by the responsibility for the protection health, safety, and well-being of our constituents. It also imposes on us the charge to do so to the best of our ability.

This was a crisis, and may continue to be a crisis at times in the future, but it is not without its upside. It was astounding to see neighbors helping neighbors. The

Waubesa Beach neighborhood and FOLKS organization did a remarkable job. People from Lake Kegonsa who had been affected by the Spring flooding turned out to help Waubesa residents later in the summer, helping to fill over 1,000 sand bags for another neighborhood to use. Neighbors helping neighbors makes working in local government an enriching experience. The Town would not have been able to do it alone. It is refreshing and invigorating to see neighborhoods in action. Those of you who pitched in to help others deserve the highest praise from our community. You have made all the difference. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.



Sandbagging at Goodland Park.

**Town of Dunn
Special Town Meeting:
November 13th, 2018
7 PM**

Notice is hereby given of a Special Town Meeting called pursuant to Wis Stats. 60.12(1) (c), by the Town Board of the Town of Dunn, on November 13, 2018 immediately following the budget hearing at 7:00 PM at the Dunn Town Hall at 4156 County Road B, McFarland.

Purpose of the meeting is:

- I. Introductions and Announcements
- II. Business
 - A. Approve minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting, April 17, 2018, and Special Town Meeting, September 17, 2018.
 - B. Public Budget Hearing
 - C. Set the wages for elected officials for the next term (April 2019 – April 2021).
 - D. Approve the 2018 tax levies for the General Fund, Debt Service Fund and Rural Preservation Fund for 2019 operating budgets.
 - E. Any new business from the floor allowed under Wis. Stats. Ch. 60.10.
 - F. Presentation of storm water education information.

Early Voting at the Town Hall is Underway

Stop by to vote early by absentee ballot or to register in advance of Election Day. Wait times for early voting are minimal. Voters with limited mobility or other concerns may request curbside voting during the early voting hours and on Election Day. Curbside voters have a ballot brought to their car so they do not have to come into the Town Hall. Please call ahead for curbside options.

| Early Voting Hours | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Dates | Days | Times | What |
| Oct 1st – 31st | Monday - Friday | 8am - 4pm | Early Voting & Registration |
| Nov 1st & 2nd | Thursday & Friday | 8am - 5:30pm | Early Voting & Registration |
| Oct 27th | Saturday | 9am - 12pm | Early Voting & Registration |
| Nov 3rd | Saturday | 9am - 12pm | Early Voting Only |

Early voting also available by appointment. Please call (608) 838-1081 to schedule an appointment. Early voting prohibited on 11/5. Voter registration prohibited 11/3 through 11/5. Registration is available at the polls on Election Day, 11/6. Visit myvote.wi.gov/en-us/ for helpful information about what is on the ballot, where to vote, voter history, and voter registration.

Election Day - Polls are open Tuesday, November 6th from 7AM to 8PM.

**Town of Dunn
4516 County Road B
McFarland, WI 53558**

**PRSR STD
U.S Postage Paid
Madison, WI
Permit # 549**

Vitruvian Farms Cultivates Food, Grows Farmers

By Meg Nielsen

It seems the Town of Dunn cultivates more than food. Now it is growing farmers. And the last eight years have been a “wild ride” for fledgling farmers Shawn Kuhn and Tommy Stauffer, co-founders of Vitruvian Farms – a ride filled with long outdoor workdays, 50-hour work weeks and a steep learning curve. But to date, what started as a vision for sustainable agriculture and fresh, wholesome food has grown into a thriving business. Located on the corner of US Hwy 51 and Tower Road, Vitruvian Farms now supplies fresh organic produce to more than 50 Madison restaurants, several groceries, a couple of corporations and a hospital.

Kuhn, Stauffer and a third business partner, who has since left the business, began mulling over the idea of growing wholesome food in a sustainable manner while still students at UW-Madison.

“It was during the housing crash that we first became aware of the question of stability in regard to climate change and its effect on agriculture and food systems. Tommy was really interested in food production. I was more into sustainable agriculture,” Kuhn said.

“We noticed that fewer and fewer people were going into farming. We saw that as an opportunity. And, we wanted to locate near a large city that would appreciate freshly grown local food. Dunn seemed like the perfect place,” Stauffer said. Neither Kuhn nor Stauffer grew up in or around Madison.

While they saw their future in farming, the two had no practical experience, no agriculture background, no close relatives who were farmers. Kuhn was a philosophy major. Stauffer majored in finance and marketing. Their academic background led them to the name Vitruvian Farms. Vitruvius was a first century Roman architect, engineer and writer, who believed all human endeavors should attempt to encompass the values of balance and beauty. Centuries later artist Leonardo Di Vinci featured that ideal in his famous drawing of the Vitruvian Man. The philosophy of balance and beauty informs Stauffer’s and Kuhn’s dream of crafting Vitruvian Farms “as a place of great beauty, with a landscape in balance with nature, so that we can nurture the amazing culture of people and food in our community.”

“To come up to speed as farmers, we had to read a lot of books. We went on the internet, studied what we wanted to know and just plain used the system of trial and error. We worked ridiculously long hours at the beginning and operated with a low profit margin. It was really hard to get the ball rolling,” Kuhn said. But now, eight years later, fields sporting rows of neon green lettuce, colorful mixed greens and verdant arugula create a pattern in perspective of which Di Vinci would have been proud.

Those fields are worked by Kuhn, Stauffer and six full-time and two part-time employees. “We started off using interns, but as we have become more stable financially, we can now offer employees a \$9 an hour salary plus a share in our CSA,” Kuhn said.

Learning to be farmers also involved investing in equipment to till fields, harvest crops, wash, preserve and transport produce. In addition, Stauffer and Kuhn have erected five hoop houses and one small green house to ensure a longer growing season – one that typically begins in late February and runs through late October or early November. Local restaurants reap the benefits as they serve up plates of tangy baby arugula, delightfully fresh salad mix and micro greens from early spring to late fall.

“Salad greens are really our bread and butter crop,” Kuhn said. But Vitruvian Farms also grows many different varieties of tomatoes, including heirloom tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers and summer squash. They will supply 300 pounds of cucumbers to Willy Street Coop this year, Kuhn said. And, although it is not the main part of their operation, they also run a small CSA.

Vitruvian Farms consists of 45 acres of prime farm land, out of which five acres are replanted and harvested five times each year. Shawn and Tommy are currently renting, but hope to purchase. “We harvest the greens in the morning with a tractor harvester. From there they go into the washroom for a multiple tank wash. We spin them, then let them air dry. From there they are bagged and placed in a cooler,” Kuhn said. A refrigerated truck brings them to nearby food establishments.

“Tommy always wanted to grow new interesting and fresh foods for the great chefs we have in Madison. I am more interested in soil conservation – growing lots of food while conserving the soil. So we try to mimic how nature works. In nature, the soil is always covered. When it is exposed, carbon can leach out of the soil. In our farming practices, we strive to keep carbon in the ground or put it back into the ground,” Kuhn said. Very little soil is open to the elements in Vitruvian Farms’ fields – there is barely enough space between rows to allow for the tires of harvesting machines.



Hoop house tomato plants boast heavy yields at Vitruvian Farms. Shawn Kuhn, part owner, says the five hoop houses will supply their small CSA and Madison eateries with fresh organic produce grown locally. Photo by Meg Nielsen.



Shawn Kuhn, left, and Tommy Stauffer have grown into successful farmers at Vitruvian Farms. Over the past eight years, the two have invested countless hours into the business of sustainably growing organic produce that is delivered fresh to Madison restaurants and businesses. Photo by Meg Nielsen.

In the fledgling orchard, the covered earth principle is even more evident. Rivers of grass run between rows of young trees where every third tree is what Kuhn calls a “nitrogen fixer.” For instance, locust trees are interspersed among fruit-producing varieties of apple, plum, pear, peach, quince and hazelnut trees.

“Every season when we prune those non-fruit-bearing trees, the corresponding roots die off in the soil. The dying roots release some of the nitrogen captured from the atmosphere and put vitamin A and C back into the soil to feed the bacteria. The orchard is actually fertilizing itself,” Kuhn said.

Do they ever wonder what life would have been like if they had not followed their dream? “Life would have been much easier if we had chosen to get good paying jobs at 40 hours a week right out of college. However, especially now that we are getting past the grueling initial start-up phase and things are becoming more stable, we get a deep sense of satisfaction out of the work we are doing,” Kuhn said.

Dunn's Purchase of Development Rights Program Successfully Enters Its 22nd Year

Ben Kollenbroich, Town of Dunn Planning and Land Conservation Director

As the Town's Purchase of Development Rights (PDR) program enters its 22nd year, the Town is happy to report the program continues to be successful in helping protect farmland and other significant natural areas and open spaces. This year, the Town will be purchasing development rights on an additional three properties, bringing the total number of conserved properties in the PDR program to 37 and totaling over 3,763 acres.

Often compared with mineral rights, development rights are a landowner's rights to develop his or her property. Like mineral rights, development rights can be separated from the land itself. When the Town purchases a property's development rights, it buys the right to develop the land and the land is protected from development in perpetuity. The landowner retains all responsibilities associated with being a landowner aside from a few additional restrictions. Restrictions include predetermined locations for new buildings and maximum impervious surface square footage limits. Additionally, farming must be conducted using conservation practices set through a conservation plan. The restrictions are recorded with a permanent conservation easement. The easement and restrictions remain even if the land is sold or passed on through inheritance. The landowner is compensated for the value of the development rights, which is the difference between what the land would be worth prior to placing restrictions on the property and the value of the land with the new conservation easement.

The Town continues to apply for grants to help offset the cost of purchasing development rights, and during the history of the program, the Town has secured grants to cover 51% of development right purchases. Unfortunately, grant funding may no longer be an option for the program, as less and less federal grant money is available and the state no longer funds their grant program. Despite these obstacles, the Town will continue to search for funding partners to minimize costs of the program and continue to preserve prime farmland and important natural resources within our community.

Invasive Species Control at Hook Lake

Zach Hylinski, WI DNR Forester

Plans are underway to control invasive vegetation at the Hook Lake Wildlife Area north of McManus Road this winter. Steps are already being taken to implement the sustainable management outlined in the Sugar River Master Plan.

The property is in the Town of Dunn and owned by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Work has started by mowing the invasive vegetation, or non-native plants, growing within the target management area. Invasive vegetation rapidly takes over a new location and alters the ecosystem. To help implement the conversion to more native vegetation, a timber sale will also take place to speed up restoring prairies, oak savannas and scattered oak woodlands to this property. All management efforts are in accordance with the approved Master Plan.

The DNR is committed to this lengthy process involving years of repeated treatments. When you are out enjoying the property please be mindful of this management action and the long-term vision for the property intended to benefit future generations.

To view the Master Plan, visit the DNR website and search "Hook Lake Master Plan." Select the first search result and you will be directed to the website. For more specific questions, please contact DNR Forester Zach Hylinski at 608-275-3234.



Hook Lake Bog, Wisconsin State Natural Area.

Photo by J. Mayer.

Volunteer Opportunities

McFarland Youth Center

Seeking donations of gently used items such as:

- Furniture (couches, chairs, tables, etc.)
- Appliances (refrigerator, blenders, etc.)
- Game systems or games (Wii, Xbox, etc.)
- Recreational gear (pool tables, air hockey, outdoor sports equipment, board games, etc.)
- Electronics

Note: MYC will provide a tax-exempt 501c3 letter for all donations over \$50, or by request.

Please contact MYC for more information:

5114 Farwell St, McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-3839

McFarland Senior Center

Now seeking drivers to deliver meals and/or to drive seniors to medical appointments. Mileage and extra insurance is covered by registering with RSVP. Flexible schedule. If interested please contact Senior Outreach Director, Lori Andersen.

5915 Milwaukee St, McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-7117

Stoughton Area Youth Center

Is in need of volunteers to assist with afterschool homework help, cooking, watching children, being active in gym activities with students, and someone to teach Arts and Crafts sometimes. Hours are from 3pm-6pm during school weeks or between 12pm-4pm on non-school days. If you can't provide your time but would like to provide assistance, snack donations or gift cards to local grocery stores for 20 to 30 kids is greatly appreciated. If interested contact:

567 E. Main Street, Stoughton, WI 53589
(608) 877-9980

Oregon Senior Center

Is in need of volunteers to assist with kitchen duties and drivers for meal deliveries or medical appointment transportation. Flexible schedule. If interested in please contact:

219 Park Street, Oregon WI 53575
(608) 835-5801

Oregon Area Food Pantry

Is seeking volunteers to assist with various tasks including restocking tables, help with carry-outs, registration, and other roles. Volunteers are needed for distribution days and for community collections and events. If interested in contact:

oregonfoodpantry@hotmail.com



Town of Dunn
2019 Calendar

2019 Town of Dunn Calendars Available Now at the Town Hall

\$10 each or 3 Calendars for \$25

The Town of Dunn extends our gratitude to all who submitted photos for our 2019 Calendar Project! The calendar highlights images representing our unique and beautiful town. The calendar will be available for pick-up at the Town Hall in November. A donation of \$10 per calendar or \$25 for 3 calendars is suggested. Proceeds will go towards preserving open space within the Town.

2019 Proposed Budget

2019 Budget Highlights

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treas./Business Mgr.

The budget is preliminary and will be updated as more information becomes available. The town's budget hearing and Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, November 13th at 7pm at the Town Hall are an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the budget. Eligible town residents at the meeting will vote to set the tax levy. The levy set at the meeting may be different from the amount proposed in this newsletter. The final budget is considered for adoption at the December 17, 2018 Town Board meeting.

Zero Increase in the Mil-Rate for 2018:

- The local assessed value mil-rate is proposed to be \$2.89 per thousand, which is the same as last year. The proposed equalized value mil-rate is \$2.47 which is a **decrease** of 2.55% as compared to last year. This equates to \$247.00 local tax for a property value of \$100,000.

The Tax Levy for 2018:

- The proposed increase of \$9,000 in the Town's total levy is a fraction of one percent and results in zero increase in the assessed value mil-rate. New construction increased the town's overall assessed value resulting in an increased levy at the same mil-rate.
- Beginning in 2019, debt payments previously included in the PDR levy are included in the Debt Service levy. The PDR tax amount is still calculated at 50 cents per thousand of equalized value as in the past, however, the portion of that levy dedicated to debt payments appears in the debt service levy and the remaining amount appears as PDR levy. In prior years, the PDR debt amount appeared on the budget as a transfer of funds from PDR to Debt Service. The change makes the transfer unnecessary in future years. The Debt Service levy will be inclusive of all debt in 2019 and beyond. Debt Service in 2019 includes an increase for the PDR debt and an offsetting decrease due to a loan satisfied in 2018 and discontinued from the debt schedule.

2019 General Fund Revenue Highlights:

- Potential revenue of \$69,900 from the sale of a parcel of town owned land located on Goodland Park Road is included in Miscellaneous Revenue, resulting in an increase for 2019. The proceeds net of town costs will be designated for parkland dedication.
- Intergovernmental Revenue is expected to decrease by \$36,052 because the town has completed several grants for smaller projects in 2018 that will not continue in 2019. These include the Dane County PARC grant for \$15,225. Also, the Yahara WINS grant of \$20,000 that was awarded for a new pilot leaf pick-up program in 2018 is reduced to a \$10,000 award for 2019. Staff submits various grant applications on a regular basis and these are included in revenue projections.

| GENERAL FUND | 2017 | Year | 2018 | 2018 | 2019 | Variance |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Revenues | Year End | To Date | Estimated | Adopted | Proposed | 2018 |
| | | 9/30/2018 | Year End | Budget | Budget | 2019 |
| TOTAL Taxes | 1,283,689 | 1,220,664 | 1,224,838 | 1,227,513 | 1,297,880 | 70,367 |
| TOTAL Intergov. Rev | 294,799 | 282,167 | 389,508 | 413,599 | 377,547 | -36,052 |
| TOTAL Lic./Permits | 95,251 | 68,894 | 89,673 | 89,044 | 90,404 | 1,360 |
| TOTAL Fines/Penalties | 29,499 | 25,721 | 29,701 | 30,700 | 29,180 | -1,520 |
| TOTAL Publ Charges | 304,877 | 309,501 | 310,096 | 309,681 | 317,954 | 8,273 |
| TOTAL Misc. Revenues | 75,922 | 41,327 | 49,146 | 23,978 | 89,764 | 65,786 |
| TOTAL Gen Fund Revenues | 2,084,037 | 1,948,274 | 2,092,963 | 2,094,514 | 2,202,729 | 108,214 |
| Expenditures | | | | | | |
| TOTAL General Gov. | 358,916 | 277,439 | 385,168 | 433,947 | 422,307 | -11,641 |
| TOTAL Public Safety | 515,909 | 523,271 | 568,278 | 555,837 | 587,954 | 32,117 |
| TOTAL Public Works | 801,955 | 627,928 | 884,000 | 907,932 | 908,187 | 254 |
| TOTAL Health & Human Svc | 53,504 | 54,800 | 55,800 | 54,800 | 56,800 | 2,000 |
| TOTAL Culture Recreation | 47,755 | 16,601 | 33,279 | 38,864 | 99,185 | 60,321 |
| TOTAL Conservation & Dev. | 75,934 | 53,986 | 70,060 | 68,050 | 66,597 | -1,453 |
| TOTAL Transfers | 230,065 | 0 | 96,378 | 35,084 | 44,200 | 9,116 |
| TOTAL Expenditure/Transfer | 2,084,037 | 1,554,025 | 2,092,962 | 2,094,514 | 2,202,729 | 108,214 |
| Beginning General Fund | 595,101 | 595,101 | 595,101 | 595,101 | 595,101 | 0 |
| Gen Fund Revenues | 2,084,037 | 1,948,274 | 2,092,963 | 2,094,514 | 2,202,729 | 108,214 |
| Gen Fund Expenditures | 1,853,972 | 1,554,025 | 1,996,584 | 2,059,430 | 2,158,529 | 99,098 |
| Gen Fund Transfers | 230,065 | 0 | 96,378 | 35,084 | 44,200 | 9,116 |
| Ending General Fund | 595,101 | 989,350 | 595,101 | 595,101 | 595,101 | 0 |

| RURAL PRESERVATION FUND (PDR) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Beginning PDR Fund | 281,569 | 283,014 | 283,014 | 277,347 | 139,835 | -137,512 |
| PDR Fund Revenues | 509,053 | 477,443 | 875,210 | 950,340 | 1,035,497 | 85,157 |
| PDR Expenditures | 507,608 | 71,481 | 1,018,389 | 1,164,771 | 1,050,297 | -114,474 |
| Ending Balance PDR Fund | 283,014 | 688,976 | 139,835 | 62,916 | 125,036 | 62,119 |

| BURYING GROUND (BG) | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| Beginning BG Fund | 62,373 | 66,026 | 66,026 | 65,452 | 73,013 | 7,561 |
| BG Fund Revenues | 8,093 | 11,813 | 11,651 | 7,200 | 7,200 | 0 |
| BG Fund Expenditures | 4,440 | 3,506 | 4,664 | 6,414 | 6,563 | 149 |
| Ending Balance BG Fund | 66,026 | 74,333 | 73,013 | 66,238 | 73,650 | 7,412 |

| DEBT SERVICE FUND | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|----------|----------|----------------|----------|
| Beginning Debt Service | 101,242 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Debt Revenues | 359,071 | 313,078 | 313,078 | 313,078 | 313,879 | 801 |
| Debt Expenditures | 460,313 | 313,052 | 313,078 | 313,078 | 313,879 | 801 |
| Ending Debt Service | 0 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Capital Revenue | | | | | | |
| Grant Income State | 0 | 0 | 47,000 | 47,000 | 0 | -47,000 |
| Loan Proceeds Roads | 0 | 0 | 114,296 | 275,000 | 510,000 | 235,000 |
| Loan Proceeds Equipment | 0 | 7,029 | 14,058 | 13,718 | 9,000 | -4,718 |
| Loan Proceeds Drainage | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Transfers in from Gen Fund | 6,530 | 0 | 78,794 | 17,584 | 23,700 | 6,116 |
| TOTAL Capital Revenue | 201,609 | 7,029 | 271,732 | 353,302 | 557,700 | 204,398 |
| Capital Expenditures | | | | | | |
| Road Construction | 268,457 | 382,694 | 382,694 | 390,000 | 302,700 | -87,300 |
| Drainage and Bridges | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 20,000 | 20,000 |
| Hwy Related Equipment | 0 | 79,276 | 79,276 | 108,000 | 205,000 | 97,000 |
| Land Purchase Town Hall | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL Capital Expenditure | 461,215 | 461,970 | 461,970 | 498,000 | 557,700 | 59,700 |
| Beginning Capital Fund | 449,844 | 190,238 | 190,238 | 146,351 | 0 | -146,351 |
| Capital Revenues | 201,609 | 7,029 | 271,732 | 353,302 | 557,700 | 204,398 |
| Capital Expenditures | 461,215 | 461,970 | 461,970 | 498,000 | 557,700 | 59,700 |
| Ending Capital Fund | 190,238 | -264,703 | 0 | 1,653 | 0 | -1,653 |

| VALUATION | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | Variance |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Assessed Valuation | 651,499,000 | 654,621,200 | Not available | |
| Equalized Valuation | 740,280,100 | 763,271,300 | Not available | |
| Tax Levy and Mil-Rate | | | | |
| General Fund Tax Levy | 1,233,462 | 1,196,782 | 1,269,824 | 6.10% |
| Debt Service Tax Levy | 206,837 | 313,078 | 313,879 | 0.26% |
| PDR Tax Levy | 345,763 | 370,140 | 305,297 | -17.52% |
| Total Levy | 1,786,062 | 1,880,000 | 1,889,000 | 0.48% |
| Assessed Value Mil-Rate | 2.77 | 2.89 | 2.89 | 0.00% |
| Equalized Value Mil-Rate | 2.58 | 2.54 | 2.47 | -2.55% |
| Undesignated Gen Fund Balance | 232,100 | 220,364 | 317,918 | |
| General Fund Balance | 595,100 | 595,100 | 595,100 | |
| Prior Year Assessment Ratio | 89.09% | 88.21% | | |

2019 Budget Highlights (Continued) Town of Dunn Safety

2018 General Fund Expenditure Highlights:

- General Government costs are proposed to decrease by \$11,641 and this category covers Town Assessor, Administration, elections, insurances, legal fees, publishing, and Town Board.
- Public Safety is expected to increase by \$32,117 for Fire and EMS services, and law enforcement.
- Health and Human Services is expected to increase \$2,000. The town contributes to Senior Centers in McFarland, Oregon and Stoughton, the food pantry in Oregon and Youth Centers in Oregon and McFarland.
- Culture and Recreation is expected to increase by \$60,321. The increase for 2019 reflects a transfer of the proceeds from the sale of the town owned property to a designated fund. The property is listed for sale at \$69,900. While the amount appears as an expenditure in our budget, the funds are being designated for a purpose, but not spent in 2019. This category also includes Parks expenditures.
- The budget maintains a target General Fund balance of \$595,100.

2019 Capital Projects:

- The 2019 budget provides \$302,700 for road reconstruction for Orvold Park Drive, Woodland Road, a portion of Hawkinson Road, Edgewood Drive, Tura Road, Hart Circle, and Fish Camp Road. Equipment upgrades are planned for 2019 and include the sale of patrol truck number 6 and purchase of a new patrol truck for \$190,000. New salt brining equipment is estimated at \$15,000 and is partially funded by a \$9,000 grant. New debt will cover the cost of these long-term asset investments.

Debt Service:

- The 2019 budget includes new borrowing of \$510,000 for road work and equipment. This amount could be reduced by any budget surplus amounts for 2019. The town's overall indebtedness is proposed to be 1.95 million at the end of the 2019 budget year.

2017 Mil-Rate Chart

The chart below shows local mil-rates for some nearby municipalities last year as reported by the Department of Revenue. The Town of Dunn's careful planning has likely contributed to the Town's consistently low mil-rate when compared to other municipalities with similar services and similar populations.

| 2017 Neighboring City and Villages Mil-Rates | Pop. (2017) | *Equalized Mil-Rate |
|--|-------------|---------------------|
| City of Fitchburg | 27,936 | 8.50 |
| Village of Brooklyn | 961 | 8.40 |
| City of Stoughton | 12,834 | 8.34 |
| Village of McFarland | 8,200 | 6.96 |
| Village of Oregon | 9,917 | 5.44 |

| 2017 Neighboring Town Mil-Rates | Pop. (2017) | *Equalized Mil-Rate |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Town of Dunkirk | 1,933 | 2.91 |
| Town of Rutland | 2,002 | 2.82 |
| Town of Blooming Grove | 1,756 | 2.58 |
| Town of Dunn | 4,929 | 2.54 |
| Town of Oregon | 3,235 | 2.41 |
| Town of Pleasant Springs | 3,226 | 1.70 |

USDA Mortgage Funding

USDA Rural Development has funding available to purchase and repair homes in rural communities such as the Town of Dunn. Interest rates range between 1-3.75%. Grants for repairs are also available to income eligible households over the age of 62. For more information and for eligibility requirements contact USDA Rural Development at (715)-345-7611 or visit www.rd.usda.gov/wi.

By Deputy Leslie Fox, Dane County Sheriff

Hello Town of Dunn residents, I hope everyone had a relaxing summer. Here is some information on common issues Dane County Sheriff's Office responds to in the Town.

Town of Dunn Deputies spend much of their time dealing with Public Nuisance issues under Chapter 16 of the Town of Dunn ordinances. These include: vehicle storage, maintenance of premises and structures, and burning regulations.

If you are not familiar with the above ordinances, please refer to the Town of Dunn website for specific details. In general, every owner of any premises shall keep premises and structures free of the following: deterioration, appearance of deterioration, any nuisance, vermin, or any health, safety, or fire hazard.

Additionally, it is unlawful for any person to allow or permit storage or parking of any unlicensed or inoperative motor vehicle in or near any residential area in the Town of Dunn.

In regards to burning regulations, it is only permitted on even-numbered days, between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset or 7PM, (whichever is later). Please notify the fire department of any burning outside a container such as a burn barrel or fire pit. Refer to the complete ordinance for more information.

The Sheriff's Office and other local law enforcement agencies have still been responding to numerous reports of stolen vehicles and thefts from autos. These types of crimes are often committed because the opportunity is there and the suspect sees unlocked vehicles as easy targets. Don't make it easy for thieves - make it a habit to lock your vehicle and protect your valuables. There are no signs of this slowing down, but you can help prevent occurrences by:

- Always locking vehicle doors and keeping windows closed.
- Parking by light sources and in highly visible areas.
- Limiting the amount of personal information kept in vehicles to avoid identify theft.
- Removing and/or concealing items in your vehicle which might make you a target (purses, laptops, GPS units, change, etc).

Always be vigilant of suspicious persons or behavior and call 911 right away if observed. If you would like more information on these topics, please contact Deputy Leslie Fox at the Dane County Sheriff's Office at (608)-283-3964 or email fox.leslie@danesheriff.com.

Plan Commission Vacancy

Beginning in 2019, there will be a vacancy on the Town of Dunn Plan Commission. The Plan Commission usually meets on the second Monday of each month at 7PM at the Town Hall. If you are interested in applying to be appointed, go to town.dunn.wi.us/permits-forms/ and click on "Committee/Commission Application". For more information about the Commission, you can also contact Ben Kollenbroich at (608)-838-1081.

A Greater Madison Vision

Help local leaders shape a plan and create a shared vision for our region's future! Over the next 25 years this region's population is expected to grow by over 150,000 people. Change is happening fast and we need to prepare and plan for the future because these changes will affect our lives. A Greater Madison Vision is a regional effort to create a plan for successful growth and development as change occurs within our region over the next few decades.

To provide input, visit greatermadisonvision.com/ and take a brief, 10 minute survey. The survey period ends November 12th, 2019. The importance of the survey is so the people of Madison and the surrounding communities have a say in what the future region will look like. The survey requests input about your priorities in regards to environmental changes, technology, society, and population. Additionally, it shows four possible futures for the area including different scenarios regarding communities, innovation, self-reliance, and conservation. For more information, please visit agmv.vision/about/.

Waubesa Wetlands: a Wetland of Distinction

By Joy Zedler, Town Resident and Professor

This past June, the Society of Wetland Scientists (SWS) began designating Wetlands of Distinction, to recognize the world's most valuable wetlands. Waubesa Wetlands is among the first 20 wetlands to receive this prestigious, official status, which highlights wetlands with "exemplary function and service."

To learn more about ecosystem services that benefit the people of Town of Dunn and beyond, see "Chapter 3: Looking for what is hard to see", in the Waubesa Wetlands eBook (free downloads at <http://www.town.dunn.wi.us/land-use/historic-documents/>).

SWS is a professional group with over 3,000 members in 60+ countries. SWS aims to raise public awareness of wetlands and their many benefits to the environment and human health (see www.wetlandsandofdistinction.org). SWS also promotes its national Wetlands of Distinction as pre-qualified for U.S. support for future designations as Wetlands of International Importance under the Ramsar Treaty.

SWS recognition complements the efforts of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which named Waubesa Wetlands a Preserve, Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), which named it a State Natural Area in 1974 and Wisconsin Wetlands Association, which named it a Wetland Gem® in 2009. The Waubesa Wetland ecosystem include lands of TNC, DNR, Dane County and private landowners, many of whom hold Conservation Easements.



Southern end of Lake Waubesa.

Photo by C. DeWitt and N. Olker

New Responsibilities for Ben Kollenbroich, Dunn's New Planning and Land Conservation Director

The Town is happy to announce that Ben Kollenbroich is the new Planning and Land Conservation Director. Ben has been with the Town since 2007 and has worked with residents on numerous projects, including broadband internet expansion, parks and open space rehabilitation, PDR, and elections. Along with his eleven years of experience working for the Town, he also has a master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Wisconsin Madison. Ben looks forward to meeting more residents as he works together with the Town's Commissions to continue Dunn's strong legacy of farmland preservation and rural planning.

The Town Welcomes Kelsey Shepperd, Administrative Coordinator

The Town would like to introduce Kelsey Shepperd as the Town's new Administrative Coordinator. She has been working for the Town since August assisting in projects relating to phosphorous and chloride reduction within the Town's water systems, Geographic Information System projects, and creation of Town publications. Kelsey recently graduated from the University of Wisconsin Madison, earning her Masters of Science in Environmental Conservation. Prior, Kelsey received her bachelors degree from the University of Wisconsin Parkside where she studied Geography, Land Use Planning, and Geographic Information Systems.



Pictured: Ben Kollenbroich (left) and Kelsey Shepperd (right).

Dover was Dunn by Clerk's Mistake

The following is an excerpt from an article in the Stoughton Courier Hub written by Lorraine Hawkinson in 1993. To read the full article, please visit us at the Town Hall.

When the first settlers arrived in the Town of Dunn, they found Indian trails crossing the area in every direction. The Indians occupying the region at that time were the Winnebagos. It's possible that the Sac and Fox tribes also had trails leading to and from the lake areas. At one time the Winnebagos had a village on the east shore of Lake Waubesa. An Indian agent in 1829 reported that the village has four lodges and 76 inhabitants. As late as 1875 groups of Winnebago camped on the shores of Lake Kegonsa.

The very first Indians occupying Dunn were groups of woodland Indians of the effigy mound culture. They lived near the lakes and waterways and their burial grounds are still in evident in the town. These Indians buried their dead in low mounds of soil, often built in the shapes of animals and birds. Several of these mounds can be found near Goodland Park, adjacent to Lake Waubesa.

Upon settlement, a deputy surveyor, in 1833, had this to say of Dunn, "This is a good township of land, and is watered with First (Kegonsa) and Second (Waubesa) Lakes and two ponds, with Catfish Creek (Yahara River) and a number of small streams and marshes. Its waters abound with fish such as catfish, pike, black bass, and rock bass. Geese and ducks are found in abundance. The land is rolling and has many artificial mounds (Indians mounds) in different parts of the township."

In addition to the above description, Dunn had extensive areas of prairie. There were also many woodland savannahs. The soil on the level areas was a rich black loam, with limy clay and sandy subsoil found in the hilly areas. The early settlers were drawn by the rich and easy-to-clear farmland. Land in the early days costed a \$1.25 an acre.

The first land claims in the town were from early eastern settlers – New Englanders or Yankees, as they were called. They were of Scottish, Irish, and English descent. In 1845 the first Norwegian settlers arrived in Dunn. After 1850 many Norwegian families arrived, with most of them settling in the southeastern part of the town. Many of the early settlers made money here and then moved on.

Originally Dunn was part of Oregon and Fitchburg and was called Rome. When these three areas were divided into separate townships, Dover was the name chosen for the town. When the Clerk of the state assembly assigned the name, however, he misread the name and in 1848, Dunn was entered instead of Dover. Instead of changing it, over 150 years later, the town of Dunn remains.

Handling Leaves and Yard Waste

Whether it is Spring clean-up or Fall leaf raking, smart handling of yard waste can enrich your yard and protect nearby waterways.

Mulching: Mulching leaves and grass clippings by chopping and spreading them on lawns and gardens provides benefits of adding nutrients to the soil. Consider frequent mulching when leaf litter is abundant. Specialized mulching blades that double cut the debris as you are mowing are available for both riding and push mowers.

Composting: According to the Wisconsin DNR website, "Compost is an environmentally friendly way to create healthy soil for Wisconsin's landscape. Compost made from yard materials and other organics, like food scraps, can replenish soil with microorganisms and nutrients. Compost production also keeps yard materials and other organics out of Wisconsin's landfills, putting them instead to productive use."

Transfer Site: Drop off brush and yard waste at the Town Transfer Site. If you cannot make it to the drop off site when it is open, you may pick up a key at the Town Hall between the hours of 8AM to 3PM, Monday-Friday, during the months of October and November. See page 8 for more information.

Roadside Pick-Up: Designated areas adjacent to Lake Kegonsa and a portion of Lake Waubesa will have roadside leaf pick-up sponsored by Friends of Lake Kegonsa and Yahara WINS and provided by the town. Raking leaves to the shoulder of the road for pick-up is convenient and environmentally friendly. If you received a mailer and your tax bill shows a fee for leaf pick-up, your address is in the designated pick-up area.



Free Trees For Town Residents

The Town of Dunn is a Tree City USA recognized town which is a national recognition program since 1976. Planting trees provides a greener, healthier community. To further our mission of a greener community, the Town of Dunn has free bare-root oak trees available for town residents for this fall's planting. If interested, please call Hardy for more information at (608)-838-1081, ext. 207. Visit www.town.dunn.wi.us/bmos-resources/newtree.pdf for a tree planting guide.



Snowplowing In Your Neighborhood

By Hardy Krueger, Parks, Buildings, and Grounds Department

The winter season is shortly upon us and snow and ice will be making its regular appearance in the area. It is important for Town staff and residents to work together during winter storm events.

The Town has approximately 64 road miles to maintain, which are split into three plow routes. Our Highway Superintendent, Todd Klahn, carefully considers a number of factors when calling out the snow plows for each event including logical routing, traffic volume, conditions affecting traction for each particular area, the current and future expected temperatures, the amount and rate of snow fall, and wind velocity. Our goal is for all roads to be safely passable as soon as possible after the snowfall, but that does not mean that roads will be clear and dry after plowing. Drivers should plan to slow down on snowy rural roads. For major snow events on major roads the removal operations involve two rounds of plowing, followed by widening. It can take more than 48 hours to plow all roads after a winter storm event.

The Town uses sensible salting practices and calibrates plow trucks to administer proper amounts of salt. The Town also pre-activates salt by wetting it, resulting in faster melting of ice and snow. This technique also helps salt stick to pavement, making it less likely to bounce off the road.

Do Not Pass a Snow Plow or Follow Too Closely!

Plow trucks may make sudden stops, backup and turn unexpectedly, and weave around obstacles such as parked cars or mailboxes. If you can't see their mirrors, they can't see you! Please be aware plow truck driver's field of vision is restricted. Snowplows typically travel at 10 – 25 mph, which may be slower than posted speeds. Drivers should not follow an operating plow closer than 200 feet. Passing a snow plow should be avoided because it is difficult to see past the snowplow due to the snow cloud created from plowing.

How can I help?

- Please do not park on the road or shoulders if snow is forecast.
- Do not push or blow snow into the road - it is illegal.
- Windrows at the end of driveways and are the property owner's responsibility to clear.
- Please place garbage carts in the driveway apron the morning of garbage pickup and remove garbage carts as soon as possible after garbage pick-up.

Prevent Damage to Mailboxes

- The Town of Dunn Mailbox Policy provides guidelines for mailbox installations that are designed to make snow plowing easier and to help the mailbox stand up to the weight of the snow. It is the mailbox owners' responsibility to repair mailboxes damaged by the weight of snow heaved on them by the snow plow. View the mail box policy on our website at town.dunn.wi.us/bmos-resources/townofdunnmailboxpolicy.pdf

Don't Burn Leaves

According to the Wisconsin DNR, open burning is NOT an environmentally sound way to dispose of leaves and plant clippings. Leaf smoke can be an irritant to healthy adults, but it can be much more harmful to children, elderly, and people with health concerns. This is because the visible smoke from leaf fires is made up almost entirely of tiny particles that can reach deep into lung tissue and cause symptoms such as coughing, wheezing, chest pain and shortness of breath. Besides being an irritant, leaf smoke contains hazardous chemicals, including carbon monoxide and benzo(a)pyrene.

The town's new Leaf Pick-up Ordinance 14.7 includes a ban on burning leaves in the designated roadside pick-up areas. Burning is a source of air pollution and ashes are a source of highly concentrated phosphorus. Even if the smoke and burnt leaves do not fall directly into the lake, storm water runoff can carry ashes and its associated phosphorus to waterways.

Ordinance 14.7

- Prohibits raking or moving leaves into any drainage ditch, waterway or shoreline.
- Prohibits keeping brush, rocks, animal waste, and other non-leaf material with the leaves placed for roadside pick-up.
- Allows for a special charge to be placed on tax bills of residents in pick-up areas to help offset up to one half of the Town's cost for the program.

The Town discourages burning leaves everywhere as they can smolder and create a nuisance for neighbors. The Town's local Ordinance 16.3 prohibits smoldering and nuisance fires.

On the Road Again...

By Todd Klahn, Public Works Highway Superintendent

Fall mowing of the road right of way will begin to control vegetation and to prepare for winter plowing. **All signs, parked trailers, burn barrels, or any other private property needs to be beyond 33 feet from the center of town roads which is the standard road right of way.**

The Town has completed road work projects for the 2018 year including Lake Kegonsa Road, Halverson Road, and Colladay Point Drive. These roads have been pulverized and repaved and will be seal-coated next year to preserve the blacktop.

Over the last ten years reconstruction costs for one mile of new blacktop has increased from \$80k-90k to \$170k-\$180k. The average lifespan of new blacktop is 15 years if no maintenance is completed, it can be extended up to 30 years if seal coated every five to seven years. The cost of this maintenance is \$18k per mile and it also saves money in future years.

While this maintenance can create a temporary mess, it is needed to extend the life of the roads and reduce budget costs. As always, we appreciate your patience.

Recycling Guide

Town of Dunn Transfer Site

4030 County Road B, McFarland WI

(about 1/4 mile east of the Dunn Town Hall)

Open the 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month

8 AM to 4 PM

Wednesdays, April through the end of November

2 PM to 4:45pm

Recycling Information

All recyclables should be placed in your recycling cart

Recyclable Metal & Glass:

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans & aluminum pie plates
- Glass bottles & jars (clear, blue, brown or green translucent glass)
- Metal pots & pans
- Small metal appliances (toasters, blenders, etc.) - nothing larger than a basketball
- Small metal plumbing fixtures & pipes (faucets, valves, pipes 2"-12" long)
- Tin & steel cans

Non-Recyclable Items

- Brake rotors / drums
- Deli Containers - expect # 1 plastic
- Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
- Glassware & ceramics
- Metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Mirrors & windows
- Motor oil and gasoline containers
- Plastic film, wrap, & Styrofoam
- Misc.: carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, hoses, ropes, & shoes

Paper Recycling

- Cardboard (empty)
- Catalogs, magazines, & phone books
- Cereal & cracker boxes (empty)
- Computer & office paper
- Envelopes & junk mail
- Holiday gift wrapping paper (no foils)
- Newspapers
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper grocery bags
- Paper milk and juice cartons or boxes
- Pizza boxes (no food or grease)
- Shredded paper (place in a clear or transparent plastic bag and tie shut; a full bag should be smaller than a basketball)

Plastic Recycling

- All plastic bottles (no motor oils or gasoline)
- Plastic containers / cups #1-7, including #1 deli
- Plastic bags (please place clean, dry bags into a clear or transparent bag and tie shut, a full bag should be smaller than a basketball, no black or brown bags)

Recycling Tips

- Should you choose to bag recyclables, use clear or transparent bags and leave open, do not tie or seal. Clear bags can be purchased at most grocery and hardware stores.
- Do not flatten plastic/metal items or place smaller items inside larger containers. Remove all food waste, plastic, and Styrofoam.
- Flatten cardboard boxes to make room in the recycling cart. Recyclables which do not fit in the cart may be put in clear plastic bags and placed next to your recycling cart. Do not tie or bundle.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste, or prohibited items.
- Visit www.pellitteri.com or call (608) 257-4285 for more information.

The Transfer Site accepts:

- **Leaves and Grass Clippings** - put any compostable material in the compost pile at the Transfer Site, or compost them yourself at home.
- **Brush and Wood** - We take brush and limbs that are free of soil. We cannot take stumps, lumber, or furniture. Dane County's landfill will take tree stumps, construction materials, and many other large items. Please call 838-9555 for information.
- **Holiday Trees** - Pellitteri will not pick up trees left at the curbside. Trees without tinsel, decorations, or stands can be taken to the Town Transfer Site.
- **Antifreeze** - Used antifreeze that is free of oil is accepted.
- **Motor Oil** - Used motor oil that is free of other liquids is accepted.
- **Automotive Type & Rechargeable Batteries** - Household batteries are not accepted.
- **Tires** - We charge a fee based on our costs for disposal. At the time of this publication, auto tires were \$4 without rims and \$5 for tires with rims. Semi-truck tires cost \$7 for disposal and tractor tires cost \$25. Tires with rims removed can be taken to the Dane County Landfill for a small fee.
- **Appliances** - We accept all appliances **EXPECT FOR** TVs, electronics, water softeners, and dishwashers.
- **Scrap Metal** - Scrap iron, steel, copper, and other metals are accepted. We only accept motors after gas and oil has been drained.
- **Questions? Please call the Town Hall at 838-1081, extension 201.**

Holiday Trash & Recycling Info

In a week that contains a Holiday, garbage and recycling pick up is delayed by one day. Please plan accordingly.

Clean Sweep Wisconsin

Dane County offers a place to bring hazardous household materials such as TVs, paints, poisons, oil, and rechargeable batteries.

Located at 7102 US HWY 12

Open Year Round

Monday-Friday: 7AM to 2:45PM

Saturdays: 8AM to 10:45AM

Closed Sundays and Holidays

Call 838-3212 or visit danecountycleansweep.com for more information

Medicine Drop-Off

Unwanted and unused prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines can be dropped off at local police departments. For more information contact:



McFarland Police Department at 838-3151

Oregon Police Department at 835-3111

Stoughton Police Department at 873-3374

Sand Drop Off Locations

Proper disposal of sand used for sand bagging is important due to the possibility of contaminates from floodwaters. **DO NOT** dump sand or bags in lakes or other locations around the Town. If sandbags are no longer needed, please empty bags of sand at the below listed locations and then throw the bags in the trash. The Town will remove and properly dispose of sand from: Goodland Park, the Town Hall, the turnaround at the end of Crescent Road, and the turnaround at Jordan Drive.