

RECALL ELECTION

Tuesday, October 20, 2020, has been set as the date of the recall election for the position of Town Chair. The hours will be the normal 7:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Town Hall. Check the Town of Omro website to determine the possibility of mail-in ballots or early voting in person with the clerk.

Hopefully the website will show who is running for the Town Chair position. This editor has seen lawn signs for Sherry Seaman and would believe that Brian Noe will run to maintain his position as chair.

This editor was pleased that a resident suggested that this newsletter should include an article about the reasons for the recall and a word or two about the candidates. Unfortunately, this editor does not have the full facts behind the recall beyond statements made during the Town Board meetings and could not describe all candidates fairly.

If more information is gathered in time a note will be e-mailed to persons on the distribution list but there will not be a special edition of the newsletter.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

For the November 3 election, a voter has several options. Votes may be cast in person on the day of elections at the Town Hall between 7 A.M. and 8 P.M. Ballots may be cast early in person with the clerk. She will be posting hours for this on the Town website. She may be contacted at clerk@townofomro.us or at the Town Hall phone 920-685-2111. Please keep in mind that the office is unattended most of the time so you will need to leave a clear message and call back number. Ballots may also be cast absentee by mail. Regulations and deadlines can be found on the state website <https://myvote.wi.gov> Because of the on-going lawsuits, voters should stay alert for changes in procedures mandated through court orders.

BOARD ACTIONS

At the September 14 meeting, the Town Board again discussed potentials for solving drainage issues related to the Ormand Beach Heights First Addition development. It seems that drainage modeling on the area surrounding the new development shows water coming from the Town of Algoma that had not been accounted for in the original development. The Board was not sure that the new developer should be wholly responsible for the costs of accommodating that water. They also discussed the fact that the modeling may not project a problem that would actually occur. In the end the Board decided to relax the regulation since the fix, if a problem does show up, would be managed the same way as it would at this point and roads would not have to be torn up needlessly. If a problem does occur in the next two years, then the developer would be responsible for the fix.

They also approved a parcel split at 3137 Sand Pit Rd.

Use of the Town Hall for Boy Scout meetings was approved.

Allen Silverthorn, who lives in the northwest part of the town was appointed Commissioner to fill the Planning Commission position vacated by the resignation of Chris Musha.

Bringing the Town's ordinances together into a General Code was discussed. It looks like the Board will pursue a contract to do that. This should allow an easier and more meaningful posting of ordinances on the Town website as requested at the annual meeting.

The annual meeting request for a formal audit was discussed and a motion was passed to revisit the issue in November.

The Board will advertise for bids for the installation of address signs at each residence to ensure identification for fire, police and EMTs.

Because of the federal CARES Act there is money distributed through the states to help with compensation for municipal losses because of coping with the Corona virus. Specifically, the Routes to Recovery program has over \$37,000 allotted to the Town of Omro for specific expenses. The Town is planning to use that money to install visual and auditory equipment in the Town Hall meeting room to make it easier for residents to hear and be heard during meetings while being widely spread out. This may also include the use of telecoil (T-Coil or LOOP) for direct listening through hearing aids. Other costs incurred to make elections safer will also be included in the submission.

Board members passed a motion stating that the Town would no longer take responsibility for mailboxes damaged by snow removal activities.

BOARD OF REVIEW

The Board of Review met on September 16, 2020. The purpose was to allow persons to bring disputes over property assessments forward for resolution. No property owner had made an appointment and no one came forward with an issue. The Board spent their time examining the assessment rolls and making general inquiries about the process to the Assessor. It seems that the Town has experienced over \$4,000,000 in new assessed value. Assessment is just under \$220,000,000 without manufacturing and personal possessions and just over \$263,000,000 with those included. The rise is about 7%.

The assessor is currently doing a whole town re-evaluation (which hasn't been done in a long time) to try to bring the town closer to the state's equalized valuation. You may be visited by his assistant in the near future. It is planned that notices of the new assessments would be mailed out in April of 2021 with an Open Book session to follow in late April or May of 2021.

PAVING IN SANDHILL FARMS SUBDIVISION

Recently the developer paved some of the roads in the newest phase of Sandhill Farms. Hayfield Drive is paved wider than the others and has lines painted to separate vehicular traffic from pedestrian/bike traffic. Unfortunately, the original plan was to have only one side lined with that lane as wide as the two present ones combined. Town Board members might be interested in reactions from residents in the neighborhood.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This is the eighth issue of the on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Reader contributions have been and will be appreciated. Questions or thoughts for additional articles are also welcome.

Submissions can be sent to newsletter@townofomro.us as can requests to be included in the mailing list.

Please share this with friends and encourage them to add their e-mail address to the distribution list. The list continues to grow and it is becoming more important that a large number of people be reachable through this list.