

TEMPORARY CHANGE TO REFUSE AND RECYCLE CENTER DATES

Because Christmas day and New Year's Day both fall on Saturdays the dump will be open on the Friday before each of those days. So, the dump will be open on Friday, December 24, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. and the same hours on Friday, December 31.

DECEMBER 20, 2021, TOWN BOARD MEETING

Public comment was light: support for ATV/UTV routes in the Town and questions about who was paying expenses listed in the treasurer's report.

The Board took the following actions:

Approved a zoning change from A-2 (Ag) to R-2 (residential) for a new parcel at the west end of Notre Dame Drive.

Approved transfer of funds from Public Works fund to Public Safety fund to cover the cost of the address signs erected earlier.

Amended the Fee Schedule to add a \$75 fee for installing address signs on new properties.

Defeated a motion to approve new ATV/UTV routes in the town.

Decided to retain the Industrial Development funds in order to conduct a highway 21 corridor study.

Approved the expenditure of up to \$2,000 to purchase chairs in the meeting room. As a side note, the Town Chair indicated that desks for the Town officers in the meeting room cost a total of \$3.11.

Approved the hiring of Sarah Binder for Town Hall cleaning.

Approved a contract with Pop-A-Lock of NE Wisconsin for Town Hall security supply and installation.

Announced that the Fire District is purchasing a fire truck at a cost of \$484,776 to be spread out through the three communities in the district.

Approved the appointment of a slate of election inspectors.

Took no action on changing the hours of operation of the refuse and recycling facility.

Authorized the Clerk to become a notary.

Denied the application for an operator's license.

Approved the minutes of November 15 and 23, 2021.

Nothing of consequence came out of the reports.

PLAN COMMISSION OPERATIONS

The Town of Omro Plan Commission has many tasks. This issue will focus on the job they do most frequently—reviewing land division. There are two types of review: Major Land Division and Minor Land Division.

Minor Land Division is typically accomplished by Certified Survey Map (CSM). This is used when a person wants to create four or fewer parcels or to combine parcels. The following link will take you to the Town of Omro Land Division Ordinance which contains all the rules: [TOWN OF OMRO LAND DIVISION ORDINANCE adopted June 20 2016](#) Here is just a short summary of how it goes. A person who wants to divide property, always known as the developer even if their profession is not in creating and selling properties, will contact a surveyor who will lay out the proposed division in a CSM. Either the developer or the surveyor, usually the later, will then contact the Planning Commission chair for a preliminary consultation. In this consultation, which might be carried out in a series of emails or by phone contact, the Plan Commission chair will make a quick examination of the proposal and lay out what might need to be changed or discuss why particular suggestions need to be accepted as

exceptions to the rule. Then the surveyor or developer makes a formal submission to the Town Clerk. The Plan Commission Chair will place the CSM on the PC agenda. The Commission will review the CSM and make a recommendation to the Town Board for approval or rejection. The PC can only make recommendations. Their decision is never the final one. The Town Board then examines the CSM and either approves or rejects the CSM. The town has 60 days from the date of submission to make their decision. As an added twist, if the property is within one and a half miles from the City of Omro or three miles from the City of Oshkosh, those municipalities also review the CSM. Winnebago County also has approval at the staff level. In some cases, the developer may also be required to provide a drainage plan along with the CSM.

A Major Land Division is done through a Subdivision Plat. Again, the developer goes through a preliminary consultation with the Plan Commission Chair and, perhaps, the full Plan Commission. This time the developer's engineers create full plans for lot formation, road design, drainage, utilities, etc. After the preliminary consultation a Preliminary Plat is formally submitted through the Town Clerk. In theory the Plan Commission examines the Plat and makes a recommendation to the Board who accepts or rejects the Plat. The Town has 90 days to render its decision from date of submittal. In reality, there are so many details found by the Town's engineers that need to be modified and re-submitted, that it takes longer than 90 days. This means either that the town must reject the Plat or the developer negotiates an extension of the timeline. Once the Preliminary Plat is approved the developer works out what is practical in practice and then submits a Final Plat. If the final plat is substantially the same as the Preliminary Plat the Town must approve. After that approval the developer can begin to actually work on the land to create the roads and lots.

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SCHOOL ZONES

Although not an item related to things in the Town of Omro, the issues of school zones has been on the mind of this editor for years and what has been learned might be of use to others. School zone signs specify the speed "when children are present" but this editor has always wondered, and could never find, the correct answer as to how "children present" is defined. With the kind help of the Oshkosh Public library's research desk, statute 346.57 4 (a) was found: [Wisconsin Legislature: 346.57](#)

- (a) Fifteen miles per hour when passing a schoolhouse at those times when children are going to or from school or are playing within the sidewalk area at or about the school.

Now the remaining question is: where does a school zone end and how does a driver know where that is? So far, this editor has seen only one sign showing a school zone ending. That one is the west end of the Oakwood School Zone on Omro Road.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This is issue 12 of volume 2 of the free on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website: [Town Newsletter \(townofomro.gov\)](#) If this editor does not know of an event it won't be included in the enewsletter. Please share your questions or thoughts for additional articles. Reader contributions (ideas, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to NewsLetter@townofomro.gov 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 editor is Tom Tuschl.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR