

JULY 19, 2021, TOWN BOARD MEETING

During public comment several different questions were asked: Who denied open records requests? Who authorized naming persons who made open records requests? Can the speed limit on Reighmoor road be decreased? What will happen in the new Swallow Banks/Ormand Beach subdivision with regard to drainage and weeds? What is the stance of this Board on the reductions in representatives (proposed) in County Board? Will the Board place ATV/UTV on the next agenda? Will the Board place a professional audit on the next agenda?

A variance for reduced shore yard setback and reduced floodplain fill at 5404 Reighmoor Road came back to the Board a second time. The board denied the reduced fill but approved a reduced shore yard setback for the retaining wall. Winnebago County will have a public hearing on this request in front of the Board of Adjustment in the first-floor hearing room 120 at 112 Otter Ave, Oshkosh, at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, July 24, 2021. [On the same night, in the same room but at 6:30 P.M the Winnebago County Planning and Zoning Committee will continue its consideration of the zoning change at the corner of Reighmoor and 21 which was approved by the Town Board last month.]

A Certified Survey Map (CSM) for property addressed as 5676 Springbrook Road, bounded by that road, Wilz Road and W Reighmoor Road was not considered because the Planning Commission convinced the developer to redesign the project to fit with Town of Omro Comprehensive Plan requirements.

A site plan for Wisconsin Tubing was discussed but no action was taken.

The Board listened to citizens about speeding on Reighmoor Road and decided that an ordinance should be created and put on a future agenda to reduce the speed on Reighmoor Road along its entire north/south extent.

The Board moved closer to accepting a developer's agreement for phase III of the Sandhill Farms subdivision. They are anticipating a mixture of a bond and a joint account in the neighborhood of \$150,000.

The Board approved a request from the developer of Ormand Beach First Addition to pave a first course of the road yet this year.

The Road Supervisor reported that WisDOT is committed to roundabouts being placed at FF/Reighmoor Road and highway 21 as well as at Sand Pit Road and 21. Unless some of the federal aids can be applied it doesn't appear that construction would come any earlier than 2024. Dana Woods, Town Clerk, announced that the Town has officially received a notice of hearing in court on pending litigation.

She also said that flooring would be put down the week of August 9.

GRASS CLIPPINGS AND SNOW REMOVAL

An observation was made during the meeting that sometimes people allow their mowers to blow grass clippings unto roadways. Normally this is not a problem because light clippings are easily blown away. But, sometimes, heavy, moist clippings stay and become a hazard, especially to cyclists. It was hoped that, since there is not a Town ordinance covering this, that a word to the wise would be sufficient to get people to be mindful of their grass. Although it was not mentioned at the meeting the same is true for people removing snow from the driveways by moving it into or across the road. Those "small" trails of snow left behind on the roadways can be a hazard as well.

PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

While the Town of Omro does not have an adopted written policy on sending letters to property owners within 300 feet of a zoning change, conditional use permit, or variance, the Plan Commission chair has received verbal permission from the Board of Supervisors to do that. Occasionally this leads to some frustration by residents since timelines often get close. Unless the action is required only by Town Ordinance, the action must originate in the County Zoning office. When all the applicant's paperwork has been finalized and submitted to County Zoning, then that office sends a notice to the Town Clerk and the clerk notifies the Plan Commission Chair. The Plan Commission deadline for submissions for most things is ten days prior to the next meeting. Often these items reach the PC Chair at that limit. The chair must research the request, determine which properties in the neighborhood are affected and then create the letter of notification and then have the PC secretary get those in the mail. Very often these are received by the property owner just a couple of days before the meeting. To give the property owners more reaction time would require the hearing to be put off by a month which impacts the timeline for the project.

Statutes require the County Office to send out notices and they can do so in a timely manner since their hearings are later in the month. The Town sends out notices in order to give the residents an idea of the process the request will go through in terms of Town Hearings and actions.

When the action, almost always a variance, is to a Town regulation the Plan Commission can offer more timely notices.

FORMING REGULATIONS/PUBLIC INPUT

The Town of Omro has several types of regulations. Among the most important are the Comprehensive Plan, the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, the Land Division Ordinance, Stormwater Control and Erosion Control Ordinances and Road Ordinance. Technically the **Comprehensive Plan** is not, in itself, a regulation but text within it as well as court cases and practice have given it the power of an ordinance. State statutes require municipalities to create a development plan and update it every ten years. The plan itself looks ahead twenty years. Plan Commissioners examine a variety of factors that drive development. From this they make recommendations to the Town Board for the updated adoption. The plan was last updated in 2015. Every two years the Plan Commission reviews the existing plan and records suggestions for changes to be incorporated when the new adoption is imminent. State statute requires public input so watch for invitations to partake in the process sometime in 2024. The current plan can be reached by the following link:

https://www.townofomro.us/uploads/1/3/4/2/13425404/town_of_omro_comprehensive_plan_as_adopted_october_2015.pdf

One of the most important features of the Comprehensive Plan is the Future Land Use Plan Map which lays out the Town's plan for how land will be used. Unfortunately, this map has come to be accepted by the state and County as an absolute regulator and calls for an expensive amendment process if a use is desired that is different from the plan.

The **Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation (COR)** Plan looks ahead five years. It was last updated in 2018 so it will be updated again in 2023. Its purpose is to try to identify the future needs for recreational purposes within the Town. The current plan lists existing parks, trails, and other recreation facilities within the Town and shows plans for future developments in recreation. ATV/UTV facilities are not currently included. Again, public participation would be welcomed when the Plan Commission looks for input prior to the 2023 re-adoption of the COR

Plan. This plan is not posted on the Town website at this point but this editor would be happy to email a copy upon request.

The **Land Division Ordinance** lays out the rules for doing small land division, 4 parcels or less by Certified Survey Map (CSM) or large subdivisions through the plat approval process. This ordinance can be accessed by the following link:

https://www.townofomro.us/uploads/1/3/4/2/13425404/town_of_omro_land_division_ordinance_adopted_june_2016.pdf

This ordinance is changed only when some part of it no longer fits the needs of the Town.

Other ordinances can be reached by this link: [Town of Omro - Home](#) and going to the “more” tab.

The Town Board has expressed some displeasure at parts of the Site Plan Ordinance which requires a property owner to submit plans for an expansion of buildings beyond a small square footage or the creation of new buildings/facilities that are not residential nor ag related. Watch agendas for amendments to this ordinance in the near future. This is not posted but can be sent by this editor upon request.

Overall, the Town Board is in the process of having its ordinances codified. This means that all existing ordinances will be brought together into one “book”. In the process existing ordinances may get amended or even dropped entirely. Watch Board agendas for public hearings prior to the adoption of the overall code.

It is always interesting to this editor when the public reads and interprets any of these documents when some action comes up that excites a number of people. Your comments at those times give the creators of the documents a better perspective on what people see instead of what the creators thought they wrote. In the best of circumstances these lead to amendments which improve the quality of the document.

CLERK’S HOURS POSTED

The Town Clerk is available in the office: Mondays: Noon to 4 pm

Wednesdays: 9 am to Noon & other days/times by appointment.

The Clerk's Office will not be open during week of August 2, 2021, as the clerk has been summoned to report for jury duty. Sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION

Some persons attending Board meetings have mentioned difficulties in understanding where properties are when they appear on the agenda. Winnebago County has a website that is very useful in determining many attributes of a property. If you are adventurous, you might go to the website home page [Welcome to Winnebago County | Winnebago County](#) go to the “property, Environment, Maps” tab and then click on GIS/Maps. Once that opens up you can enter the address with the numbers and the first letter of the street or you can enter the parcel identifier (which in the Town of Omro always starts with 016). Don’t use any hyphens or other separators. In a moment the site will zero in on the property cited. Clicking on that property will give some information but a wealth of information will come up if you click on the underlined Parcel Profile Report. If you are less adventurous, you can email this editor and we can work out a mutually agreeable time for a phone conversation to talk you through the process.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This is issue 7 of volume 2 of the on-line newsletter devoted to things in the Town of Omro. Previous issues can be found on the Town of Omro website: <https://www.townofomro.us/town-newsletter.html>

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 will be appreciated and 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 editor is Tom Tuschl.