

# OMRO TOWN CRIER

Vol 3, Issue 4, April 2022

## ELECTION RESULTS

This editor apologizes for the fact that he could not find a breakdown of tallies that showed the voting within the Town of Omro as well as the tally totals. Here are the summary results:

### WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD

#### DISTRICT 31

Ralph Harrison  
522

Joseph Connelly  
469

#### DISTRICT 33

Tom Egan  
674

#### DISTRICT 34

Jeffrey Beem  
363

Ed Jeziorny  
215

### OMRO SCHOOL BOARD

Brian Loos  
714

Thomas Egan  
850

Shane J. Carter  
727

All three are elected to the board.

### COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE DISTRICT 2

Lori Kornblum  
13,225

Maria S. Lazar  
11,555

### WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 3

Bryan D. Keberlein  
13,745

Lisa Krueger  
11,421

### WINNEBAGO COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE BRANCH 5

John A. Jorgensen  
19,418

## PLAN COMMISSION OPERATIONS

This issue will focus on updates to the Comprehensive Plan and the Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (COR).

The State of Wisconsin requires communities under certain conditions to do comprehensive planning and to adopt a Comprehensive Plan that covers a span of 20 years into the future, is revised and re-adopted every 10 years with a review and collection of potential changes every 2 years. The Town's current plan was adopted in October of 2015. Since then, every two years at meetings where the Plan Commission seems to have a short agenda the Commission reviews the plan and makes note of areas that don't seem to work under current conditions or that seem to fail in the public's reading of the issues or that reflect changes in the community. Those notes are intended to be used to create amendments to be offered to the Board just before 2025. At that time the public should be involved.

This link will take the reader to the existing Comprehensive Plan on the Town's website:  
[OmroTown Comp Plan amended October 19 2015 REPAIR FORMAT 061416 \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us/omro-town-comp-plan-amended-october-19-2015-repair-format-061416)

The Comprehensive plan should lay out policies, objectives and goals that help the Plan Commission and Board make decisions on development requests as they come up.

The following link should take the reader to the COR plan: [Microsoft Word - PDF version Town of Omro Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan 2018 Master.docx](#) Communities are not required by statute to have a recreation plan unless they want to assess certain impact fees to be used in development of recreation facilities. At the time of inception of the Town's COR plan the Board was entertaining establishing an impact fee. A consultant was used to determine citizen viewpoints on recreation in the Town. The Plan was intended to cover 10 to 20 years into the future. A review and re-adoption is to happen every five years. The most recent plan was adopted in September of 2018. The Plan Commission should be on the verge of reviewing how well the plan is working and then involving the public in the next revision.

## **STORM WATER DISCHARGE**

The following item was submitted by Town Chair Brian Noe as part of an information outreach project:

The Town of Omro is required to obtain a permit for the discharge of storm water conveyed by road drainageways into the waters of the State. One of the conditions of that permit is public education and outreach to increase awareness of stormwater pollution impacts on the waterways and encourage changes in public behavior. Everyone should want waterways that are not polluted, and everyone can do their small part to help in not polluting our waterways. As we move into spring there are several simple things that residents can do to help reduce pollutant from getting into the waterways. Clean up pet waste, repair any car leaks, dispose of old car fluids properly, do not burn yard waste in drainageways, use phosphorus-free fertilizers and don't over fertilize, seed any bare spots in lawn to reduce sediment run off. These are all small things that do not take much time and money, and some might think they won't make much difference, but if everyone does their small part it does become a bigger part. There are many other things that individuals can choose to do to help reduce run-off, which will then also reduce the amount of sediment and pollutants being deposited in the waterways. To learn more visit [What you can do to help | Wisconsin DNR](#)

## **HOW YOU CAN HELP REDUCE ROAD DETERIATION**

This topic is also courtesy of Town Chair Brian Noe.

Many town roads were originally constructed long ago when the size of vehicles and equipment was much smaller and not nearly as heavy as today's equipment, some might say they are horse and buggy roads. With over 44 miles of town roads, it is not possible to completely reconstruct every road on a regular basis, rather the town works to extend the life of existing roads until they can no longer be repaired, and reconstruction is the only option.

Everyone enjoys having low property taxes and not being faced with road assessments for road repairs and reconstruction, so some might ask what we can do to help reduce road repair expenses?

One simple thing that can help is being patient in your travels during the spring planting season. If you can slow down and back off and wait until equipment reaches an intersection that allow you to take an alternate route, or when there is more room to pass, the equipment can stay off the edges of the road and avoid breaking the pavement edges

or road shoulder damage. If you allow the equipment to use the road rather than having to travel along the edge the road can better support the equipment than the shoulder that is more easily damaged. Some of our rural roads are some of our most narrow roads so there is not a lot of room. If you're coming toward a large piece of equipment, you might consider pulling into a driveway until the equipment passes, again allowing the equipment to use more of the road. It may not seem like much, but every little bit does really help, and besides helping reduce road deterioration this also helps reduce the potential for accidents when passing equipment.

## **MARCH 28 TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Public comments included culvert issues, flooding, a request for a stop sign with blinking lights and a request for town wide garbage pick-up to be placed on the agenda.

Board actions:

Reapproved a resolution to move monies within the budget to repair last month's resolution.

Discussed garbage being dumped in yards creating public nuisance. The Board also considered creating a public nuisance ordinance. That was referred to the Plan Commission.

Amended the Notice of Public Records to include a record location fee.

Approved an operator's license.

Changed the road inspection date to April 8.

In reports it was noted that the audit report should be final about April 12. Because the courts did not settle on a final election map there might not be district boundaries by the time of the fall primary elections.

## **APRIL 18 TOWN BOARD MEETING**

Public comment focused on keeping the dump open and not providing town-wide garbage pick up and on turning lanes on highway 21 not being passing lanes.

Board Actions:

Listened to presentation on the KerberRose audit report without taking any action.

Took no action on installing stop signs with flashing lights although it was noted the cost would be somewhere between \$1,600 and \$2,000 per sign.

Took no action on providing town-wide garbage pick up but did suggest that extending hours/days during summer for the dump would be considered at an upcoming meeting.

Adopted Resolution 2022-4-1 supporting amendments to the Articles of Organization and Bylaws of the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Adopted Resolution 2022-4-2 opposing Winnebago County and the City of Oshkosh adopting maps for stormwater storage affecting property in the Town of Omro.

Adopted Resolution 2022-4-3 which supports the National Association of Counties' objection to the Federal Governments redefinition of Waters of the State which include the requirement of obtaining Federal Permits for work on local bodies of water.

All three of these resolutions can be read at the following link: [Ordinances \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us/ordinances)

Took no action on creating a Property Maintenance Ordinance since that is currently in the hands of the Plan Commission.

Took no action on the use of ARPA funds.

Set Supervisor Krings as the contact person for a particular problem with garbage disposal.

Discussed MS4 Stormwater permitting requirements.

Approved membership in the Local Government Stormwater Group.

Reappointed Phil Ertmer to the Planning Commission and Bruce Roskum as chair of the PC.

Decided to pressure wash the Town Hall and spray for spiders.

Set some road maintenance goals: replace crushed culverts, bridge repair, replace undersized culverts and general paving and patching.

During reports the Clerk announced that Open Book will begin May 23 and the process will be by phone. Open Book is where the assessor makes assessment records available for examination by property owners who may wish to challenge their assessment either with the assessor or later during the Board of Review in front of a four-member board. The Clerk has posted how to access the records on the Town website: [Home \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us)

The Board of review will meet at the Town Hall on June 2 from 6 to 8 P.M. Appointments for an appearance before the Board are expected. The same link will provide information on making appointments and the conduct of the meeting.

The Clerk also announced that there were 402 voters during the Spring elections. Of 80 absentee ballots requested, 48 were actually cast appropriately.

The Chair reminded people that a survey covering development along highway 21 is available on the Town website.

The chair also mentioned that the Town of Omro was well below other towns in the county in the amount of recycled material per person brought to the dump.

## **ANNUAL MEETING April 19, 2022**

The annual meeting was well attended. The Town Chair, Brian Noe, reviewed highlights of the report packet that was provided. The report is posted on the Town's website:

[2022 annual report.pdf \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us) During the review and during new business a heated discussion revolved around the outcome of the financial audit for the years 2020 and 2021 which was reported at the Town Board meeting the previous night and which is capsulized in the Report to the Annual meeting. At least one participant in the discussion believed that the report showed continuing deficiencies in the records keeping, particularly a lack of transparency. The audit cost the Town a total of \$19,000 for the two years.

The discussion of garbage pick up was resumed from the previous night's Board meeting. Again there was no action taken but the Board members repeated their intention to take a serious look at providing extra hours of operation this summer some evening in the middle of each week.

The purpose of the Highway 21 Corridor Survey (which is available through the Town's website: [sheet for election day.pdf \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us)) was questioned. It was explained that the Town is trying to determine what the residents and property owners would like to see in the future for development along highway 21 so that the Board and Plan Commission can deal with the needs of infrastructure and appropriate Future Land Use designations and zoning in anticipation of construction along highway 21 for such things as installing roundabouts or in fact rebuilding the highway. Some of this is paid for through funds allocated by the County's Industrial Development Board (IDB funds). Each year that Board allocates an amount to each municipality which is to be used for industrial development projects. In the past the Town has forwarded those funds to the City of Omro but is now pursuing development projects of its own.

One person repeated the question posed at previous annual meetings of going to a five-member Board of Supervisors. The response is that we are not there yet.

Flooding at Reighmoor and Leonard Point Rd was addressed again.

Another issue from past annual meetings was putting all ordinances on the Town's website. That has been delayed because the Town has been trying to codify (bring all ordinances into one group called a Code). That process is about to be completed and within a few months that code should be available on the website.

Next year's annual meeting was set for Tuesday, April 18, 2023, and then the meeting adjourned.

## **DELIVERY TROUBLES**

This editor had an online “chat” with a Spectrum tech that seemed to promise a fix to delivery problems to charter.net addresses but the fix failed. Distribution problems remain. It is very helpful, if you do not receive an issue, to contact the editor. Occasionally there are mistakes in the data base that are the editor’s fault and are easily corrected. Please remember to check your junk email folder regularly.

## **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is issue 4 of volume 3 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 \(townofomro.gov\)](http://TownNewsletter(townofomro.gov))

If this editor does not know of an event it won’t be included in the enewsletter. Please share your thoughts for additional articles or questions.

Reader contributions (ideas, not money) will be appreciated and can be sent to [NewsLetter@townofomro.gov](mailto: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.