

OMRO TOWN CRIER

Vol 4, Issue 11, November 2023

FOOD PANTRIES REPEATED

With Christmas approaching and hard times seeming a little harder this year it might be time to consider contributing to various food distribution sites.

OMRO FOOD PANTRY: [Facebook](#)

OSHKOSH AREA COMMUNITY PANTRY:

[Home — Oshkosh Area Community Pantry \(oacptoday.org\)](#)

FATHER CARR'S PLACE 2B: [Home - Father Carr's Place 2B \(fathercarrs.org\)](#)

FEEDING AMERICA: [U.S. Hunger Relief Organization | Feeding America](#)

This is not intended to be an exhaustive nor exclusive list. Readers are invited to suggest others. The first three serve local needs; the fourth not necessarily.

VOTING CHANGES IN 2024

The voting process in the Town of Omro will be different this year. You will still walk up to a check-in station and state your name and address but the poll worker will not be looking for you in a book. Instead, they will start typing your name into an electronic device called “Badger Books.” As the poll worker enters the first few characters of the voter’s name, the device searches a data base of registered voters and displays probable choices. When the appropriate name is displayed the poll worker selects that and asks the voter to display appropriate ID. Then the poll worker indicates that proper ID has been shown and the device displays the voter’s name in large print. The display is shown to the voter and the voter is asked to sign with a finger on top of that display. When this is submitted the machine prints out a voter number which the voter uses to acquire a ballot in the same fashion they would have in previous voting. The advantage to the voter is that the stations are not separated alphabetically. The voter can step up to the station which has the shortest line.

The Badger Books devices are not connected to the internet. All information is taken from pre-loaded data and none is sent out and hackers cannot access the devices from outside. The devices are in communication with each other in the room so voter numbers are not duplicated. A group of current poll workers attended a training session at the Oshkosh Senior Center to become acquainted with the system. There will be more training before the first election.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission’s website provides a video of how the machines work:

[Badger Books | Wisconsin Elections Commission](#) The video is at the right of the page.

ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR 2024

On February 20 there might be a Spring Primary Election. This will be determined by how many people submit papers indicating that they wish to compete for the offices available in the general election.

The Spring General Election will be on April 12. This election also includes the Presidential Primary.

On August 13 there might be a Fall Primary again based on how many people submit papers of candidacy.

Finally, the Fall General election will be on November 5.

BUDGET HEARING/ELECTORS’ MEETING

Seven residents in addition to the Town Board members participated in a Public Hearing of the proposed 2024 Town of Omro budget. A question was asked about the decrease in the line for Culture/Recreation/Education. The response was that last year money was set aside to seed the

finances for the 175th anniversary celebration and, since the item was low to begin with, the decrease amounts to an apparent large percentage. The Board was asked if the budget was designed to meet the levy limit. The reply was “yes.” Another asked how the Intergovernmental Revenue could be predicted to the nearest penny. The entities that will make payments to the Town make the amounts known prior to the budget process and those amounts should be accurate. The last of the questions concerned the line for Contingencies. The professional auditors had recommended such a budget line. The money does come from General Property Taxes but little of it was spent in the previous year so it does carry over into this budget. After the Budget Hearing the electors passed a motion to have the Board approve the proposed budget with a levy up to the state worksheet amount of \$445,531.00. The budget proposal is included below as the last page of this issue.

NOVEMBER 20, TOWN BOARD MEETING

There was no public comment.

The Board did the following:

Approved the proposed 2024 budget according to the Electors’ motion.

Approved renewing membership in the Town Advocacy Council (TAC).

Concurred in a plan to continue seeking Industrial Development Bond (IDB) from Winnebago County for the purpose of continuing the study of the Highway 21 corridor.

Approved the publishing of the General Code on the Town’s web site when the code is adopted.

Approved contracting with Munibit, a Town Website Hosting service, for maintaining the Town of Omro web site.

Approved a meetings calendar for 2024.

The Board went into closed session to discuss negotiating strategies for ambulance service.

SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

This is Issue 11 of Volume 4 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://townofomro.gov)

If this editor does not know of an event it will not be included in the newsletter. 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 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.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING AND
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE TOWN ELECTORS
FOR THE TOWN OF OMRO, WINNEBAGO COUNTY**

Notice is hereby given that on Monday, November 20, 2023, immediately following the completion of the Public Hearing on the proposed 2024 budget, which begins at 6 p.m. at the Omro Town Hall, (4205 Rivermoor Road, Omro, WI) a special town meeting of the electors, called by the town board pursuant to Section 60.12(1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes, will be held for the following purpose:

To adopt the 2023 Town tax levy to be paid in 2024 pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes.

The proposed budget in detail is available for inspection at the Clerk's office. The following summary of the proposed budget is being published pursuant to Section 65.90(3)(b) of Wisconsin Statutes.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED 2024 BUDGET

	2023 Amended Budget	2024 Proposed Budget	Percent Change
REVENUES			
General Property Taxes	\$398,569.00	\$445,531.00	+ 11
Other Taxes	\$16,849.45	\$15,000.00	- 11
Intergovernmental Revenue	\$341,676.54	\$234,404.62	- 31
Licenses & Permits	\$50,150.36	\$46,695.00	- 7
Fines & Penalties	\$0	\$0	No change
Public Charges for Services	\$1,700.00	\$1,700.00	No change
Intergovtl. Charges for Services	\$0	\$0	No change
Misc. Revenues	\$34,867.50	\$17,000.00	- 51
Cash Applied/Carryover	\$135,156.59	93,800.00	- 31
TOTAL REVENUES	\$978,969.44	\$854,130.62	- 13
EXPENDITURES			
General Government	\$171,227.52	\$177,275.52	+ 3
Public Safety	\$112,268.51	\$113,050.00	+ 1
Public Works	\$514,663.69	\$394,400.38	- 23
Health & Human Services	\$4,900.00	\$4,900.00	No change
Culture/Recreation/Education	\$14,905.00	\$2,500.00	- 83
Conservation & Development	\$25,000.00	\$26,000.00	+ 1
Capital Outlay	\$0.00	\$0.00	No change
Debt Service	\$36,004.72	\$36,004.72	No change
Misc.	\$0.00	\$0.00	No change
Contingency	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	No change
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$978,969.44	\$854,130.62	- 13
	2022	Proposed for 2023	
Town Tax Levy	\$398,569.00	\$445,531.00	+ 12
Mill Rate	.00134512	.00144997	+ 8

(Assessed Value of property multiplied by Mill Rate = Town Taxes)

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By: Dana Woods, Town Clerk of the Town of Omro