

## **FEBRUARY TOWN BOARD MEETING TO BE A WEEK EARLY**

The February meeting of the Omro Town Board of Supervisors will be one week earlier than the regular schedule. It will be on February 12, the second Monday of February.

## **PRIMARY ELECTION**

There will be one contest in the primary voting to be done on Tuesday, February 20. The ballot will be the same in all four wards of the Town. The race is for Winnebago County Circuit Court Judge Branch 1. The candidates in the order in which they will appear on the ballot are Eric Heywood, LaKeisha D. Haase and Michael Rust. You will be able to vote for one of them. One will be eliminated going into the Spring Elections.

Voting will be at the Omro Town Hall from 7:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M.

You can find your ballot through this link [What's On My Ballot \(wi.gov\)](https://www.wisconsin.gov/elections/whatsonmyballot) or by going through the Town's website [Election Information \(townofomro.us\)](https://www.townofomro.us/election-information). That last link can be used to find Ward Maps and absentee voting information as well. The last page of this issue is a copy of the regulations for Absentee Voting as adapted from the Town's website.

## **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 lets the device know 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. There is a tentative date set for more training of poll workers for January 29.

The Wisconsin Elections Commission's website provides a video of how the machines work: [Badger Books | Wisconsin Elections Commission](https://www.wisconsin.gov/elections/badger-books). The video is at the right of that page.

The public test of the voting equipment is set for Saturday, February 10. In addition to the balloting process being tested, the public can see the Badger Books equipment.

## **JANUARY 15, TOWN BOARD MEETING**

During public comment Candidate Michael Rusch introduced himself. A citizen inquired of the Board how the issue of more ATV/UTV trails could be brought before the Board. He was told that it could be placed on an upcoming agenda but that discussion time might be limited since this issue has been debated by the Board multiple times.

The Board did the following:

Conditionally approved a Certified Survey Map (CSM) for a property at the east end of Valley Heights Road. Two new lots would be created. The condition involved the signing of a Developer's Agreement and a financial guarantee for road work to be completed.

During reports the Clerk announced that the Wisconsin Burial Records Department agreed that the portion of the cemetery at Liberty School Road that did not have known burials should be de-catalogued.

From the Plan Commission came the news that a concept plan was brought forward for a new development on Springbrook Road but that no formal action has been taken.

The Town Chair suggested that the City of Omro may be reconsidering their plan for a property annexation. He also said that the city is looking for renewed cooperation, especially in coordinating Comprehensive Plans. The Chair thought that regular meetings could be helpful between the city and the town.

The Board went into closed session to discuss employee evaluation and compensation.

### ***INSIDE THE FOX DEN***

*Inside the Fox Den* is a School District of Omro newsletter. In the Winter (23-24) issue Superintendent Dr. Jay Jones reports: "In November Omro Middle School (OMS) found out that, based on the 2023 WI State Report Card, *U.S. News and World Report* had identified it as a "Best Middle school" for 2024. OMS received this distinction because it placed in the top 40% of middle schools in the State of Wisconsin."

The issue reports other items for which the system can be proud.

### **SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

This is Issue 1 of Volume 5 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](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.

**VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT  
FOR THE FEBRUARY 20, 2024 SPRING PRIMARY ELECTION**

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may request to vote an absentee ballot. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen, who will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day, who has resided in the ward or municipality where he or she wishes to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election. The elector must also be registered in order to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued.

**YOU MUST MAKE A REQUEST FOR AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN WRITING**

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the February 20, 2024 election. You may also submit a written request in the form of a letter. Your written request must list your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote, the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different, and your signature. You may make application for an absentee ballot by mail, email or in person.

**MAKING APPLICATION TO RECEIVE AN ABSENTEE BALLOT BY MAIL**

**The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:**

**5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 16, 2024.**

**Note:** Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined to home or a care facility, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**VOTING AN ABSENTEE BALLOT IN PERSON**

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

**The first day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is Tuesday, February 6, 2024.**

**The last day to vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office is Friday, February 16, 2024.**

**No in-person absentee voting may occur on the day before the election.**

In-person absentee voting may take place at the Clerk's office on

Mondays, Noon - 4 pm

Wednesdays, 9 am - Noon

Or by Special Appointment (must be scheduled 48 hours in advance)

For questions, or to schedule a special appointment outside of posted hours, contact:

Dana Woods 920-685-2111 ext. \*

clerk@townofomro.gov

4205 Rivermoor Road

Omro, WI 54963

The municipal clerk will deliver voted ballots returned on or before Election Day to the proper polling place or counting location before the polls close on Tuesday, February 20, 2024. Any ballots received after the polls close will not be counted.

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