TOWN OF FORESTVILLE, DOOR COUNTY, WISCONSIN
ORDINANCE # 2026-01
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING PRIVATE ROAD ACCESS,
EMERGENCY VEHICLE CLEARANCE, AND TIMELY SNOW REMOVAL

SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

1. **Purpose:** The Town Board of Forestville finds that obstructed, unplowed, or washed-out private roads serving multiple residential structures threaten public health and safety by preventing prompt emergency medical services, fire protection, and law enforcement response.

2. **Authority:** This Ordinance is enacted pursuant to the Town's police powers under Wis. Stat. § 60.22, emergency management authority under Wis. Stat. Ch. 323, and public nuisance abatement powers.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

- **Private Road:** Any privately owned road, drive, or access easement serving three (3) or more residential structures or parcels.

- **Beneficial User:** Any owner, occupant, or deeded easement holder who utilizes a private road for ingress and egress.

- **Owner or Responsible Party:** (a) The record owner of the real property upon which the private road is situated; or (b) any road association, homeowners association, or designated legal entity tasked with maintaining the road via covenant, easement, or written agreement; or (c) in the absence of a formal association, the collective group of beneficial users who maintain a shared legal or equitable maintenance obligation under Wis. Stat. § 710.20.

- **Major Weather Event:** Any weather event resulting in an accumulation of four (4) inches or more of snow, significant drifting, one-quarter (0.25) inch or more of ice accumulation, rain, or wind damage causing obstruction to vehicular travel.

- **Obstruction:** Snow, ice, sleet, slush, fallen trees, washouts, silt, mud, or other debris that prevent the passage of vehicular travel.

SECTION 3. MANDATORY OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL AND MAINTENANCE OBLIGATIONS

1. **Clear Passage Required:** All private roads serving multiple residences shall be maintained to allow unobstructed passage for emergency vehicles (minimum clear width of 20 feet and vertical clearance of 14 feet).

2. **Timely Obstruction Removal:** Within twenty-four (24) hours of the cessation of a major weather event, the Owner or Responsible Party shall clear snow, ice, or other obstructions to a navigable condition.

3. **Prohibition of Abandonment/Obstruction:** No Owner or Responsible Party shall intentionally allow or cause snow accumulation, washouts, or other obstructions to block egress or ingress for residents or emergency responders.

SECTION 4. EMERGENCY MUNICIPAL INTERVENTION AND ABATEMENT

1. **Right of Entry:** If a private road remains obstructed beyond twenty-four (24) hours following the cessation of a major weather event, or if a life-safety emergency exists, the Town, its employees, or contracted agents are hereby granted emergency authority and right of entry to enter the private road for the sole purpose of clearing the obstruction to restore safe access.

2. **Notice:** The Town shall attempt to contact the Owner or Responsible Party (or their designated local representative) prior to entry; however, advance notice is waived if emergency services cannot reach residents.

3. **Cost Recovery / Special Charge:** The actual costs incurred by the Town for emergency obstruction removal or road stabilization services shall be charged directly to the Owner or Responsible Party or apportioned among beneficial users pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 710.20 and charged as a special assessment or special charge under Wis. Stat. § 66.0627. Unpaid charges shall become a lien upon the property tax roll.

SECTION 5. PENALTIES

Any Owner or Responsible Party who violates this Ordinance shall be subject to a municipal forfeiture of not less than $250.00 nor more than $1,000.00 per day for each day the violation continues, plus court costs and the actual cost of obstruction removal.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY AND EFFECTIVE DATE

If any provision of this ordinance is deemed invalid, the remainder shall continue in full force.

This ordinance is effective upon publication or posting.

The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance as required under s. 60.80, Wis. Stats.

Adopted this 16 day of NOVEMBER, 2026.

Attest:

Theresa Tlachac
Town of Forestville Clerk, Theresa Tlachac

Loren Uecker
Town of Forestville Supervisor, Loren Uecker

Kevin Guilette
Town of Forestville Chair, Kevin Guilette

David Samuels
Town of Forestville Supervisor, David Samuels