

Summer
2026



Sevastopol Town Newsletter

News You Can Use

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Chairman's Chatter

Institute or Sevastopol?...That is the Question!

Today's topic for discussion is whether the Town Board should consider renaming the hamlet of **Institute** to **Sevastopol**.

Over the years, this question has surfaced in many conversations, often when visitors ask, "Where is Sevastopol?" Local businesses have also raised concerns



about the lack of recognition for Sevastopol in tourism publications and visitor guides. While

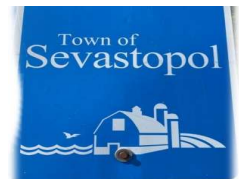
the Town of Sevastopol is well known locally, the name rarely appears on maps or promotional materials that are widely distributed to visitors.

Under Wisconsin law, town boards are responsible for naming or renaming hamlets—small settlements that are generally smaller than villages. Within our town, the recognized hamlets are Institute, Valmy, Whitefish Bay, and Little Harbor. There are no specific state statutes governing these unincorporated hamlets. Traditionally, the

Wisconsin Department of Transportation places signs identifying these areas.

Today, only one business incorporates the name "Institute" in their identity: the Institute Saloon. In contrast, several prominent community institutions use the name "Sevastopol" including the Sevastopol Town Hall, Sevastopol Schools and Sevastopol Town Park.

Institute also has no formal recognition through the postal service. Residents and businesses use Sturgeon Bay addresses and ZIP codes, meaning the name Institute does not appear in mailing addresses.



Several years ago, the Town took steps to improve recognition by installing "Welcome to Sevastopol" signs at key entry points. Many residents and visitors have likely seen these signs along our roadways.

In addition, Sevastopol is an active participant in the Door County Coastal Byway program. The Town's visitor kiosk, located at the junction of Highways 42/57 and Forest Road, highlights Sevastopol's



unique attractions and character. As part of the Coastal Byway network, which includes communities throughout Door County north of Sturgeon Bay, the Town continues to promote a better visitor experience and stronger community identity.

So, should the Town Board consider renaming Institute to Sevastopol?

Supporters of the idea point to several potential benefits:

- Greater recognition of the Town's identity and 150-plus years of history.
- Better alignment with the schools, town hall, park, and other community landmarks already known as Sevastopol.
- Increased visibility for Sevastopol and local businesses in tourism materials, maps, and visitor resources.

The Town's visitor kiosk, located at the junction of Highways 42/57 and Forest Road, highlights Sevastopol's unique attractions and character. As part of the Coastal Byway network, which includes communities throughout Door County north of Sturgeon Bay, the Town continues to promote a better visitor experience and stronger community identity.

Minimal implementation costs, primarily involving the replacement of existing hamlet signs.

Importantly, no businesses would be required to change their names, signage, stationery, or branding.

At this point, no decisions have been made. This is simply a discussion item, and the Town Board is interested in hearing from residents, property owners, and businesses.

What do you think?

We encourage you to share your thoughts and feedback with the Town. Your comments will help guide future discussions on this topic. Questions may also be directed me or to any Town Board supervisor.

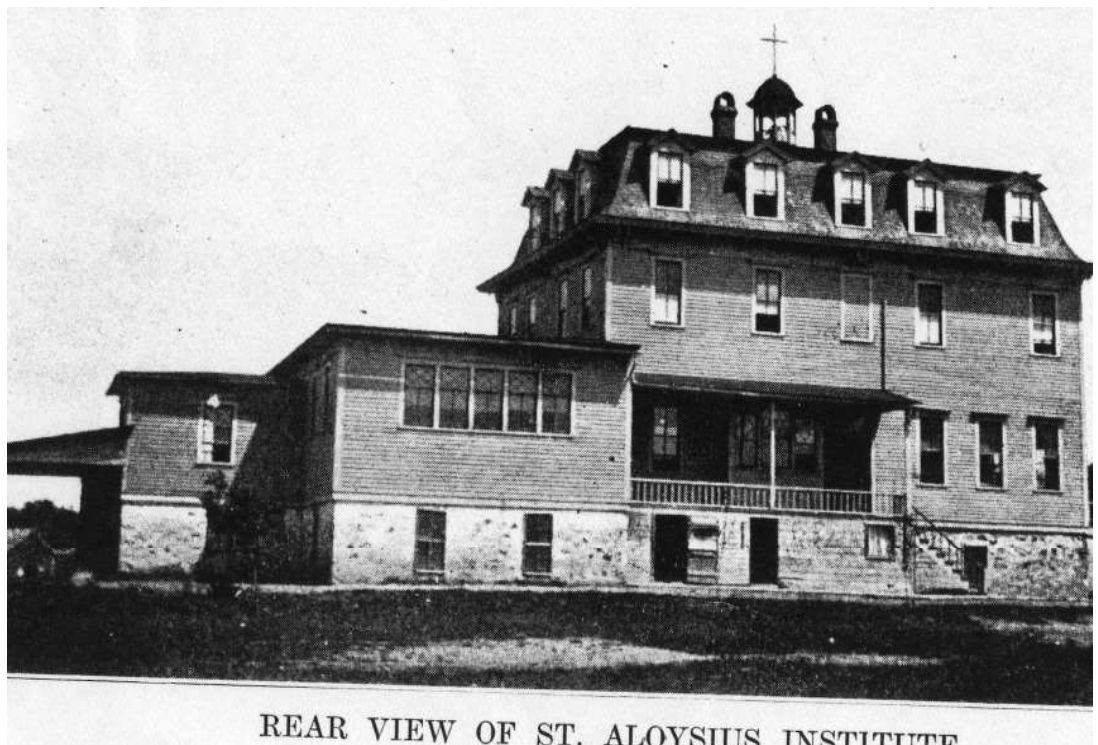
We look forward to hearing from you.

A Little History

According to the Town's 150th Sesquicentennial History Book, the community's name originated from St. Aloysius Institute, which was established in the late 1800s. Over time, residents shortened the name to simply "Institute."

At one point, local resident John Wester proposed renaming the area "Wester," but the community continued to refer to it as Institute, and the name remained.

It's worth noting that the Town of Sevastopol was chartered in 1859, decades before St. Aloysius Institute was established. While the hamlet eventually became known as Institute, the Town itself continues to carry the Sevastopol name for more than 165 years.



REAR VIEW OF ST. ALOYSIUS INSTITUTE



Business Association Initiative Takes Shape For Town of Sevastopol



The Town of Sevastopol is excited to share that a dedicated committee and business representatives are working toward the formation of a new Sevastopol Business Association!

Earlier this year, the Town Board established the Ad Hoc Committee to explore the creation of an organization focused on supporting local businesses, promoting economic growth, enhancing tourism opportunities, and strengthening connections throughout the Sevastopol community. The committee is currently researching organizational structure/operations, meeting with established business associations throughout Door County, researching funding opportunities, and inviting local Sevastopol businesses to participate in the Association through two informational meetings that were held in July.

The vision of the Sevastopol Business Association is to create a collaborative network of local businesses working together to promote the unique character, attractions, services, and experiences that make Sevastopol a special place to live, work, and visit. Through partnerships, community events, marketing initiatives, and business engagement, the Association aims to help drive economic activity while preserving the rural charm and values that define our Town.

One of the committee's primary goals is to ensure that tourism-related funds generated within our community can be utilized in ways that directly support and benefit Sevastopol businesses. One of our key initiatives is to leverage funding opportunities available through the Strategic Community Partnership Fund. In 2025 alone, these tourism-related funds totaled approximately \$90,000 and were allocated to Destination Sturgeon Bay to support marketing and promotional efforts on behalf of the Town of Sevastopol. With the establishment of the Sevastopol Business Association, these funds could instead be directed toward programs, initiatives, and promotional opportunities that directly benefit participating businesses within the Association, helping to strengthen and grow the local business community.

Potential future initiatives may include business networking opportunities, community events, seasonal promotions, tourism marketing efforts, farmers markets, live music events, holiday activities, and other programs designed to attract visitors while supporting local commerce.

As the planning process continues, community input will play a vital role in shaping the future of the association. Business owners, community members, and residents are encouraged to share ideas, ask questions, and become involved in the conversation.

For additional information or to learn more about the Sevastopol Business Association initiative, please contact:

**Stacie Denil, Town of Sevastopol Supervisor
& Ad Hoc Committee Chair**

Email: staciedenil@townofsevastopolwi.gov

The committee looks forward to working with businesses, residents, and community partners to build an organization that supports the future success of Sevastopol for years to come.

Broadband Update

It's hard to believe that just over a year ago on June 5, 2025 a kick-off ceremony was held, officially announcing that AT&T would be providing high-speed internet service to the Sevastopol community! Since that initial starting point, so much progress has been made in deployment with full connectivity expected by the third quarter of this year!

Community Members, if you are experiencing any difficulties with AT&T internet deployment, please reach out to Supervisor Vogel for assistance, via phone (920-495-3613) or email jeannevogel@townofsevastopolwi.gov.

Reminder: Put your high-speed internet service to good use and be informed by watching the Sevastopol Town Board meetings every 3rd Monday of the month live or recorded at youtube.com/@townofsevastopol.



Blue Sign Project

The new, highly reflective blue address sign project is nearly complete in the Town of Sebastopol. The County decided to replace existing green signs, many which were faded, rusted, bent and unreadable, out of safety concerns and to conform with its Uniform Addressing system. GIS/Land Information Coordinator Zakry Schwartz led the effort, which began in January in our community, replacing green for blue where the existing post was in the proper location, in good condition and using an adaptive bracket. Once the ground thawed and Digger's Hotline had been contacted, the crew are returning to replace damaged posts, correct post location, deal with bedrock and affix the new signs. There are still a few locations in Sebastopol on the "to do" list.

Although the new address/E911 signs are somewhat smaller than the green and no longer include the municipality name, they are easier to see at night and the perpendicular placement improves visibility for everyone. Owners are reminded to keep your address sign visible from the road, trimming any shrubs and trees that may obstruct visibility.



Reflections on the Town Park

Baseball is widely recognized as "America's favorite pastime" and Supervisor Haen can relate. I'm sure a lot of us are familiar with the popular quote that starts with, "if you buy a boy a baseball, it's more than just a ball." If you aren't, it basically tells the progression of buying the ball, wanting a bat to go with it, then one thing after another, until you're spending every waking moment at a baseball diamond.

When I think of this humorous take on the life of a "baseballer", I think about the original cast of characters that made up the very first Sebastopol Town Park Committee. Every one of them a lifelong player/coach/fan/lover of America's favorite pastime, baseball. Because of these men and countless numbers of volunteers, we still have today a one-of-a-kind Town Park. Their original vision has gone from Clyde Weber's cherry orchard to a few ballgames a week, then to seven nights a week and now hosting two and three-day tournaments that draw teams from every corner of our great State!

I think back to a time when there wasn't a Town Park and games were being played at the St. Peter & Paul Church field, Kohls' backyard ballfield and Petersilka's front yard ballfield (just to name a few). This is the kind of small town feel we'd like to keep going for future generations, so all can enjoy our Park!

Our community has turned our little slice of Americana into a place out-of-towners want to come see for themselves. All of our Town Parks are a thing of beauty and something our community should be proud of!



Roads Projects – Where, Why & How

It seems Supervisors are often asked how decisions are made on various road improvements and how they are financed. Each May, the Town Board takes a road tour to identify potential projects and respond to any traffic concerns that may have been raised by residents. To assist with evaluation, the Town maintains and biennially updates its road inventory via the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Information System for Local Roads (WISLR). This data spreadsheet lists each section of Town road with location, intersections, length, last improvement and a rating between 1 and 10 (10 being brand new construction, 1 is failing), with a total of 87 miles of Town roads. We do have some unpaved gravel roads which are rated on a 1 to 5 scale.

After identifying a half dozen or so potential projects, estimates are obtained for each. Based on the current year's road construction budget, deteriorated condition of the road, and taking traffic count and use into consideration, the Board determines which road sections are best warranted for total reconstruction or perhaps an overlay will be adequate.

The road construction budget for 2026 is \$450,000, up slightly from 2025's budget of \$400,000. Based on

estimates and budget, five road sections were identified for reconstruction this year--all of Rock Ridge and West Jorns, portions of Mathey, Bechtel, Weber and Dennis for a total of \$434,000. There is also a road maintenance budget of \$67,000 to cover such items as pothole repairs, mowing, and sweeping.

Another big ticket item is snowplowing with a 2026 budget of \$110,000; epic Blizzard Elsa has caused that budget to be exceeded already!

And where does the money come from? A large portion comes to the Town coffers from Wisconsin General Transportation Aids (GTA). The amount is based on prior years' spending and for 2026 it was established at \$2,930 per mile. This equates to \$257,000 for the Town of Sevastopol.

Other funding sources are available via grant awards through the Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), Agricultural Road Improvement Program (ARIP) and several others sponsored by the Wisconsin DOT, along with local resources such as the Community Investment Fund. Local property taxes cover the difference.

It is the Board's obligation to build and maintain safe roads for all. That includes building to last, protecting our investment with proper maintenance and taking a long term view. If you have a traffic concern, please bring it to the attention of a Board member.





Neighborhood Feature: *Bay Shore Property Owners Association, Inc*



PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of the Bay Shore Property Owners Association (BSPOA), Betty Parsons welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the Sevastopol newsletter. Formed in 1997, its members live along Bay Shore Drive from the Sturgeon Bay city limits north to the Village of Egg Harbor and eastward to Highway 42.

As properties along the shore developed, both residential and resort, residents realized they needed a system to easily communicate. Although it took some years to come about, BSPOA's mission is to "provide for discussion and action on issues that impact the residential character of the neighborhood and those that affect the character of Door County and/or property rights of Bay Shore area property owners."

The Association has been involved in a variety of activities, which include:

Water testing for bacteria levels along a 13-mile stretch of the Bay of Green Bay

- Assistance for the Door County Triathlon and Fall 50

Support for a board member to pursue purchase options of the Hutter property, which led to the purchase by the Door County Land Trust (DCLT) of the Bay Shore Blufflands Nature Preserve

- Pledge of 400 hundred work hours to treat invasive species on the Blufflands, which helped DCLT receive a \$18,000 grant followed by another 400 volunteer hours a few years later
- 50/50 grant member program to assist with removal of Invasive Species
- Annual cleanup along 13-mile Bay Shore Drive stretch and off roads
- Attend, as appropriate, various government meetings
- Negotiate an annual rate for member propane prices
- In coordination with the Door County Highway Department, initiated and paid for installation of two flashing speed limit signs on Bay Shore Drive.
- Representation on Neighbors for a Safe Bay Shore Drive, and periodically, other committees and organizations

BSPOA's annual meeting provides communication and social opportunities and the annual membership fee is \$20. For further information or to become a member, you can email BSPOA at BSPOA556@gmail.com.



Olde Quarry/Pinney Park



Welcome to the Team!

Stacie Leist Denil was elected to the Town Board as a result of the 2026 Spring election. Born and raised on the family farm in Sevastopol, having attended Sevastopol School, and residing in Institute, Stacie has a passion for our community.

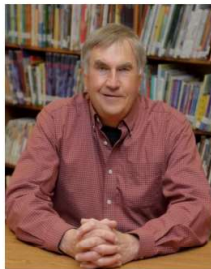


Her grandfather, John Leist, and more recently her husband, Derek Denil, served on the Sevastopol Town Board and Stacie is proud to continue in the family footsteps as Supervisor.

For the past 18 years, Stacie has been employed at the Door County Medical Center as a nurse in the Orthopedic Department. Since 2017, she is head of maintenance for the Town hall, responsible for and taking pride in keeping our premises in pristine condition.

Stacie is married to husband Derek and has three children, two of which attend Sevastopol School. Welcome, Stacie!

Dick Weidman is a returning member to our Plan Commission and has previously served as a Supervisor. He grew up on a small dairy farm, attended Sevastopol School and attended UW-River Falls and earned MS and BS degrees in horticulture at UW-Madison. Dick was the Superintendent at the UW Peninsular Research Station for 30+ years before retiring in 2012. He continues to serve Sevastopol School on the Board of Education and is also a board member of the Friends of Whitefish Dunes.



Dick is married to Mari (celebrating 48 years), lives on his family homestead on Country View Road, and enjoys calling Sevastopol his home. Welcome back, Dick!

Drew Haen & Jack Haen: They say the "apple doesn't fall far from the tree" and that is evident as the Haen family continues to be passionately involved with our Town parks. Grandpa Tony Haen was instrumental in bringing to fruition the professional-looking ball fields in Institute, and Dad Mark Haen eventually heading efforts. Keeping those fields in tiptop condition, along with lawn cutting,

maintenance of the concession stand, new restrooms, pavilion, playground, Clark Lake beach and Whitefish Bay launch area, keep Drew and Jack very busy during the season. Both are students at Sevastopol School.

Bayside Cemetery Celebrates 150 Years!

A 150th Anniversary and Memorial Observance celebration was held on Saturday, June 13th at Bayside Cemetery on Bay Shore Drive. Founded in 1876, the Cemetery is the largest in Door County and encompasses nearly 30 acres on Bay Shore Drive.

The event included a "Memory Walk" presented by the Door County Historical Society and the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, which featured live interpreters at the gravesites of 17 prominent and influential Door County residents interred at Bayside. The celebration was well attended and included a welcome by Association President Bob Wolter, along with a bit of history, invocations, prayers, readings, performances by the Community Choir of Door County and concluding with a 21-gun salute and taps.





Sevastopol EMRs Answer the Call During Storm Elsa

Neighbors Helped Neighbors When It Mattered Most



When Storm Elsa swept across Door County earlier this year, it brought conditions many residents will never forget. More than two feet of snow, wind gusts exceeding 50 mph, near-whiteout conditions, road closures, and widespread power outages combined to create what many have called the “Storm of the Century” for our region.

While most residents were urged to stay off the roads and shelter safely at home, local emergency responders were preparing to do the exact opposite.

Throughout the storm, members of the Sevastopol Emergency Medical Responders (EMRs), along with fire departments, EMS agencies, law enforcement, and public works personnel across Door County, worked together under extraordinary circumstances to ensure that residents experiencing medical emergencies received the care they needed.

In Sevastopol alone, EMRs responded to seven emergency calls during the storm. What made these responses remarkable was not only the number of emergencies, but the challenging conditions responders faced while reaching patients. With many roads impassable due to deep snow drifts and blowing snow, traditional emergency vehicles could not always access residences. First responders adapted by utilizing tractors with plows, four-wheel-drive trucks, personal vehicles, and even snow-mobiles. Our EMRs worked closely with the Door County Sheriff deputies and Highway Department and other agencies, all working together to transport first responders, paramedics, and patients through conditions that often made travel nearly impossible.

Special thanks are extended to Tom Sawyer of Sawyer Trucking, Choice Mobility, CVF Dairy and Red Line Farms for generously providing vehicles and equipment, making those emergency responses possible. Their support, combined with the dedication of our volunteer EMRs

and our public safety partners, ensured that help was available when our community needed it most.”

These efforts demonstrate the strength of Door County’s emergency response network and the commitment of the volunteers who serve our communities. Storm Elsa tested the resilience of our community, but it also showcased the dedication, teamwork, and compassion of those who serve on the front lines. The Sevastopol EMRs are proud to have been part of a countywide response effort that ensured residents received lifesaving care during one of the most significant winter storms in recent memory.

Join the Sevastopol EMR Family

The Sevastopol EMR Agency is committed to keeping our community safe. We want residents to know that we are here for them and they can count on us when emergencies occur.

Have you wanted to make a difference in your community? Our EMR Agency is always looking for individuals who want to serve others. No previous medical experience is required. Training opportunities are available through our local Tech College, and experienced members will help guide you through the process. There is no age limit to serve, whether you are a young adult looking to gain valuable skills, a working professional wanting to give back, or a retiree seeking a meaningful way to stay involved in the community.

Together, we can continue to provide exceptional emergency care and ensure that the residents and visitors of Sevastopol remain safe, supported, and cared for when they need it most.

For more information about joining the Sevastopol EMR Agency or further questions, please contact Town Clerk Amy Flok at (920) 746-1230.



Clerk's Corner

Elections, Elections, Elections!

The Town has two more elections in 2026—the Partisan Primary on August 11th and the General Election on November 3rd. Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. In person (at the office) absentee voting always takes place during the two weeks before the election date. For the August election, in person voting will begin on July 28th and for the November election, in person voting will begin on October 20th.

Town Office Hours

The Town office is typically open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Please note that the Clerk may be out of the office during these hours attending to Town business. Our recommendation is that you call ahead of time (920-746-1230), so the Clerk can be available for you.

Grants

The Town of Sevastopol has been lucky enough to have been awarded multiple grants in the past couple of years. We have received two grants for election security amounting to roughly \$7,000. The new restrooms at the Town Park were partially funded by a \$70,000 grant from the Door County Community Investment Fund. Our most recent grant was awarded to us also by the Community Investment Fund for the “New Schauer Road” project at Cave Point County Park in the amount of \$150,000, which is the largest single grant awarded thus far. We are hoping the next grant we apply for will be to upgrade our playground area at the Town park in Institute. Your Town Board is working for you!

Ordinance Committee

Last year, an Ad Hoc Ordinance Committee was established to clean up and organize our ordinances, as some of them were outdated, suspended or have been superseded. All of the active ordinances are available on our newly updated website, under the Government tab, www.townofsevastopolwi.gov.

Town of Sevastopol on YouTube

Board meeting night and can't make it to the Town hall? Just log on to “Sevastopol TV” and watch it live! You can also find recorded meetings the day after on our website under the Government tab, Agenda & Minutes; just click on “Video.” We welcome everyone to log on and watch your local government at work. You will also find videos of current and archived community events on our YouTube, including past FFA Dairy Breakfasts, Valmy Thresherees, Sevastopol Historical Society programs and more. www.youtube.com/@townofsevastopol

Christmas Party Fun





Traveling Back with the Sevastopol Historical Society

In keeping with its motto, "There's no time like the present to preserve the past", the Sevastopol Historical Society continues to present programs dedicated to preserving our heritage and history. We have a couple of events planned for this fall and more in the works. All programs are held at the Sevastopol Town Hall, 4528 Hwy 57/Institute, free, open to the public with refreshments served. Donations are always welcome!

• **Sunday, October 18** – 2:00 p.m. Helga Bobb, with her nephew David Walker, will tell the story of the Hundt family during the Nazi invasion of Poland. With her father drafted into the German Luftwaffe and her mother with four children left behind, Helga's family endured unhappy times and separation. Helga was just a toddler so somewhat protected by her older siblings from the atrocities of war. Unbelievably, the entire family was eventually reunited as told in her nephew's book, "Hunting for Home".



Helga Hundt Family

• **Sunday, September 13** – 12:30 p.m. Recall fond memories of the Door County Fair with Matt Adelman as he presents fair history and memories. Attention Sevastopol people: if you have photos from the Door County Fair (perhaps you exhibited livestock, homegrown vegetables or crafts), please bring them to the program and we will scan them in, or contact us ahead of time via email: sevastopolhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.



Door County Fair ferris wheel

• **Saturday, November 14** – 12:30 p.m. Our Veterans Salute will include a collage of past Veterans Days programs, along with patriotic music and some reflection on the dedicated service of our Sevastopol veterans.



Don Rudolph and Beth Van Oss at a SHS Vet's Day show

• There are other programs in the works, including Sevastopol barn stories, family farm histories, and the story of one of our long-established resorts. Stay tuned!

• As times change, so does technology. We will be looking at investing in some equipment and technology that will assure preservation and storage of all the historic information and photos we have collected over the years. We also hope to refine YouTube access of past programs and develop a website. While we will be applying for a grant and will need matching funds to accomplish this goal. Please help us reach our goal by sending a donation to the Sevastopol Historical Society, PO Box 501, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235. If you are interested in helping us share and preserve Sevastopol's history, or have an idea for program, feel free to attend one of our meetings—usually on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. Email a program idea, or a note to sevastopolhistoricalsociety@gmail.com to get on our list.



Planned roundabout for Gordon Rd/Hiway 57 -- Tentitively scheduled for 2028



Cherries! Cherries! Cherries!

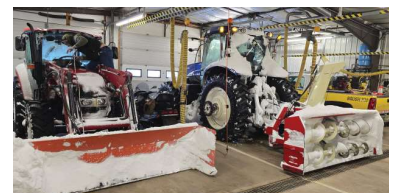
Photo by Laddie Chapman



Photo by Ferny Keller



Our plows are busy in the winter





Town Meeting Schedule

All board and town meetings are held at 7PM at the
Town Hall in Institute unless otherwise specified

August 17
September 21
October 19
November 17
December 21

2027 Budget Work Session
Tuesday, October 13, 5:30PM

Special Town & 2027 Budget Meeting
Monday, November 16, 6PM

Christmas Party
Friday, December 4, 5PM

Town Officers

Dan Woelfel, Chairman

Amy Flok, Clerk/Treasurer
Stacie Denil, Supervisor
Mark Haen, Supervisor
Jeanne Vogel, Supervisor
Linda Wait, Supervisor

Town Office

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