



DECEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE TOWN THANKS YOU for your input and comments whether indirectly or through the Town Meetings, Committee Meetings or other Town business. You may also call or email any Town Board member expressing your thoughts or to answer your questions. Take the opportunity to join others at the monthly Town meeting or sit in on Committee meetings. This is your Town.....

WILSON ROAD BRUSH DISPOSAL SITE....

Great reviews and comments on the disposal site from Town citizens!! Wilson site news is located on the Town web site. Disposal will be done by attendant only, for set dates and hours of operation those can be found on the web site under **Calendar**. The Wilson Road property is otherwise secured by an entrance gate. The site can be used by displaying your Wilson site Access Sticker. This sticker placed in the lower left corner of your vehicle windshield allows you as a Town of Big Bend taxpayer the ability to bring brush for disposal to the Brush Disposal Area. Please cover your loads. The site is available for small brush and leaves. Watch for details, guidance of disposal and restrictions on the web site.

COMMENTS FROM "ZONING ORDINANCE COMMITTEE" CHAIRMAN

BOB DAVIS.... Effective October 1, 2023, the Town of Big Bend became zoned. This was the culmination of hundreds of hours of volunteer work done by the Zoning Ordinance Committee and was a result of citizen request from our Town survey taken in 2019. Shoreland properties, which are defined as those properties within 1000 feet of a lake or 300 feet from a river or stream, and properties in a flood plain, will continue to be monitored and controlled by the State, with Rusk County doing the administrative work. All other lands will be controlled by the Town and we will ensure the ordinances of the Town are followed with land use and construction.

So, when planning a change in land use or construction on your property, you should first visit the Town website or contact the Town Clerk or Zoning Administrator to find out what will be required for you to complete your project. Checklists, FAQ informational sheet and all forms are available on the website and may be downloaded. Or, you can request them to be mailed to you in an informational packet for a charge of \$50.00.

Town Clerk - Sandy Rassbach - bigbend@brucetel.net - 715-225-0764

Zoning Administrator - Daryl Dostal - ddostal9999@charter.net - 715-458-0741

The Zoning Ordinance Committee meets the 3rd Monday of the month at the Town Hall at 9 AM. All meetings are open to the public.

COMMENTS FROM BIG BEND LEPC CHAIRMAN BOB DAVIS.....

Big Bend Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) The snowstorm of December of 2022 resulted in the first formal call-out ever for your LEPC and, as a result of our training and preparedness, we responded very well. Members logged in excess of 170 hours over a 3-day period, primarily clearing roads of downed trees that enabled Town staff to get our roads plowed and open for use. All roads were open within three days which allowed for much quicker power restoration and emergency vehicle passage.

For several years the Committee has had a goal of having an alternate site for use as a Command Center should the Town Hall be rendered not usable. Originally the Committee felt a covered trailer would be the answer. However, the Town purchase of the Wilson Road property provided us with a permanent site, with a building, and located a mile from the Town Hall. At their October 4, 2023 meeting, the Town Board approved a request from the Committee to purchase the necessary radio equipment, antenna network, generator, power cords and emergency lighting to equip the Wilson Road property to serve as our alternate site. Our goal is to have this operational yet this fall.

Your LEPC is always looking for additional people to be a part of this group. If you are interested, please contact the Town Clerk for information.

TOWN ASSESSOR JENNIE SANDERS-MARTIN....

PROPERTY REVALUATION ASSESSMENT

Hello Town of Big Bend Property Owners,

The revalue (Revaluation) for the Town was completed as of the Board of Review Date, 9-11-2023. This revalue was an external, driveway review of the property in the town, followed up with numerous emails and phone calls from property owners. I thank all of you that reached out to provide more accurate information of your property. The goal of the revalue was to achieve compliance with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's Equalized Value. This was accomplished.

On November 1, 2023 the Department of Revenue released the Preliminary Major Class Comparison Report. The result for the Town of Big Bend was as follows:

Residential property 99.41 % of Equalized value Commercial properties are not a major class.

Wetlands, wooded lands, farm buildings 100.33% Equalized Value.

Overall level of assessed value 99.82 % of Equalized Value.

These numbers of the town assessed value vs. the State Equalized Value are excellent.

Again, I thank you for your kindness and help, it was a huge workload and I am grateful that it is completed.

ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021) FUNDS....

The Federal Government and then State of WI included the Town in providing ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) Funds in 2 payments of \$18,212.33 both now received. The Town Board has decided to use the funds for patching of Plummer Road, Island Lake Road gravel and chip seal.

TOWN ROADS....

The Town continues to invest in roads. Infrastructure, roads, has been a major concern, as you can hear at the Town meetings. It is a very large task to keep up our 43 miles of roads with the use of gravel, seal coating, patching, and blacktop. Again, this year with expenses increasing the Town seems to have to reduce the maintenance of roads. The lack of funds this year, due to the winter storm cleanup of December 2022

used road money for that clean up, this added. The December storm after submitting the reimbursement paperwork provided a funded reimbursement of \$32890.56, short of the storm expenditure of approximately \$70000.00.

TOWN GRADER PURCHASE....

The Town invested in a used grader. The grading was done by a company from the area. They are phasing out of grading and offered one of the graders to the Town for purchase. This, as it has turned out was a great investment for the Town. Grading of our gravel roads is being done often. Our maintenance personnel have taken on the grading of roads. The grader can also be used during winter months as example the December 2022 winter storm to push through roads that were difficult for our plow trucks to move snow.

ELECTIONS - 2024....if needed

Spring Primary Election - Tuesday, February 20, 2024
Partisan Primary - Tuesday, August 13, 2024

Spring Election - Tuesday, April 2, 2024
General Election - Tuesday, November 5, 2024

ABSENTEE BALLOT REQUEST.....

Registered WI Voters may request an Absentee Ballot or obtain one online at <http://elections.wi.gov> - Form EL121 or request an Absentee Ballot for any election, you may make the request in writing to the Clerk. We will no longer be able to send the applications to you when you phone in a request. A copy of a photo ID must be submitted with the application. You may submit an application and photo ID by mail, fax or email.

2023 TAXES - PAYMENT INFORMATION....How to pay my taxes

Payments by mail: You may pay by mail at any time. Your receipt is not valid until your check clears the bank. We do not accept credit card payments.

2023/2024 Payment Dates in person at Town Hall: Saturday December 30, Saturday January 27 - - from 8am until 12 noon each day listed.

Address Changes: Please put the correct address on your payment stub.

Receipts: Must include self-addressed postage paid envelope if you want a return receipt for your payment. If you have multiple receipts, please send a large enough envelope with additional postage.

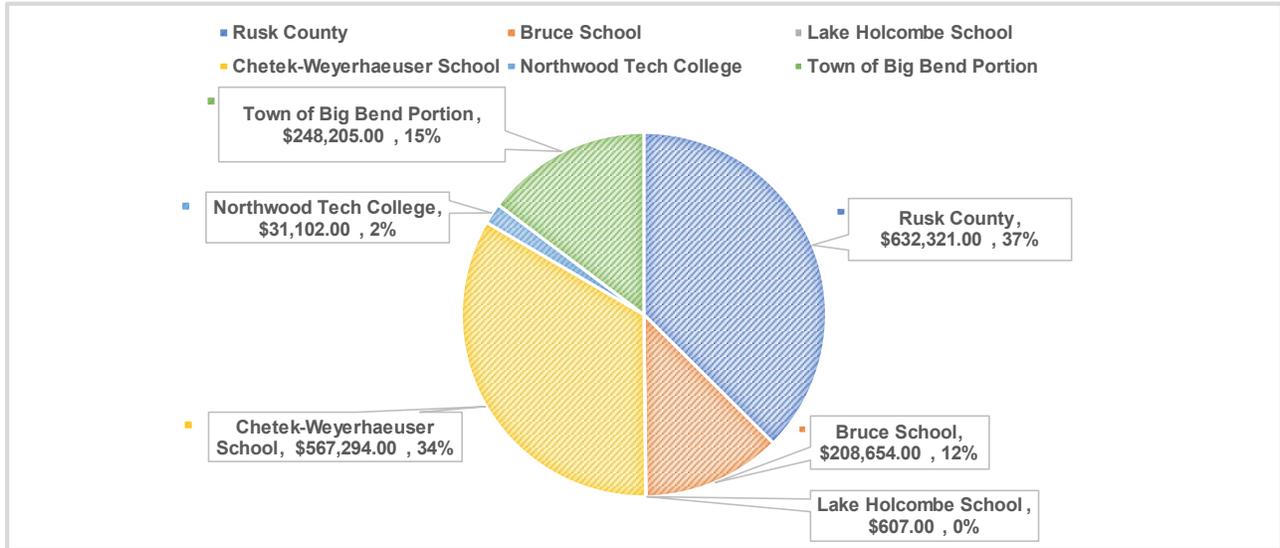
Name Changes: These cannot be changed by the Town Clerk. You must contact the Rusk County Register of Deeds. Have your actual deed changed for changes to take effect. The only exception is Personal Property.

Escrow Tax Payments: Please have your bank or lending institution verify your tax payment amount with you before sending a check. Overpayments are costly to the Town. Smaller overpayment amounts will no longer be returned to the taxpayer due to the expense of processing to the Town.

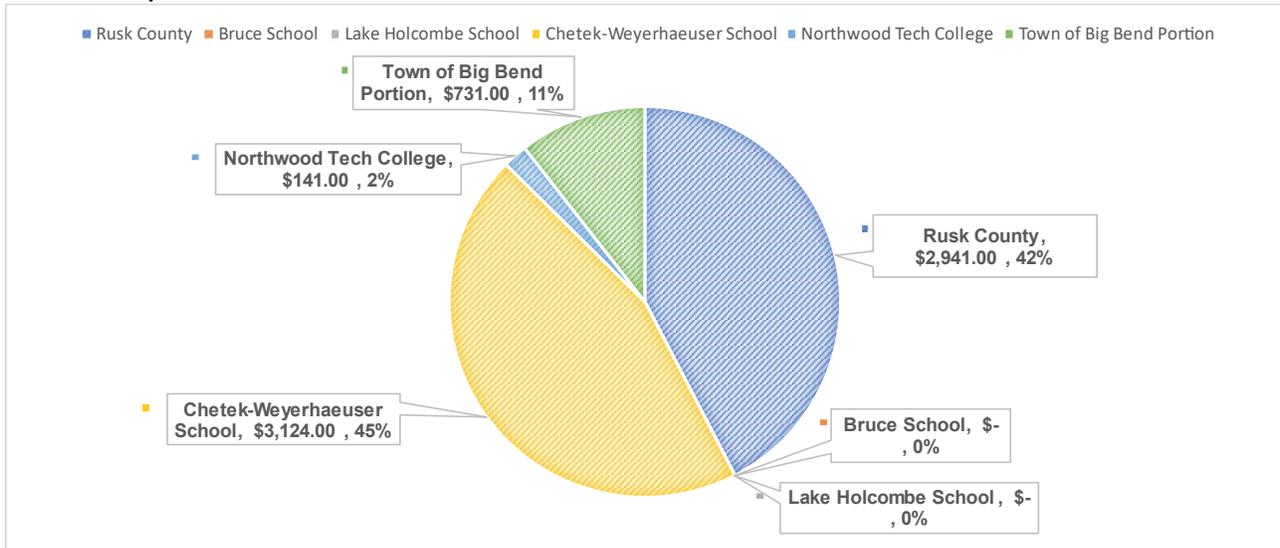
PORTION OF TAXES - TOWN AND INDIVIDUAL....

The pie charts below provide a representation of the Town overall taxes and a possible parcel taxation. It's often questioned as to the collection of taxes and the Town Portion of taxes. Why do we need more taxes for the Town? It's said that "we pay in quite a bit, look at my tax bill". Well, we all pay for services. Those services are divided between other government agencies. The County, Schools, Town. The Town being a rather small recipient of the overall collection at tax season. Note the percentages in the pie charts to see what really remains at the Town level. Thus, our rather tight annual budget.

2022 Towns Overall Taxes Collected for Disbursement



2022 Example of Individuals Parcel Taxation



TOWN HALL OFFICE HOURS....How to reach the Town personnel

All Town personnel are part time - Town Board, Clerk/Treasurer, Maintenance, others are volunteers on committees. Our response to you will be as soon as possible. If we can't answer phone calls or return emails immediately Town Official's will get back to you as soon as possible. Office hours are during meetings, elections or by appointment. When the Town office is not staffed, leave a message on the Town Hall voice mail. Emergencies - Town Officials are listed in the web site, www.townofbigbend.com - Use "Town Contacts" tab.

TOWN WEB SITE....Your source of Town Information....

Check out the Town Web Site, www.townofbigbend.com, for the up-to-date town news and meeting information. Important information will be on the home page, note the ticker scrolling bar for meetings or events coming up, please take a minute to review the home page and scroll down to see a new format. The Calendar for the Town of Big Bend or area events is a great place to see Town Meetings scheduled. The

Web site has Town Contacts, Agendas & Minutes, Ordinances, Snow Plowing, Tax Information, Forms & Permits, Links, and more.

CLEARING OF RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....

The Town continues to hire a contractor to mow the ditches and widen the road, trimming trees. The current budget continues to provide a budget line item each year to fund the continuous control of brush and tree limbs that impact and encroach the Town roadways.

DUMPING LEAVES OR BRUSH IN TOWN RIGHT-OF-WAYS.....

The Town Board receives complaints of leaves and brush being dumped in ditches and on other owners' property. The Board is asking that leaves and brush be disposed of properly. At this time of year when wing plowing it moves the leaves out of the ditch along the road and creates a road mess or hazard. Also dumping into the Town road right of way or other owner's property is illegal.

SNOW PLOWING....Gravel roads, citizen snow removal, fire numbers

The Town Board asks for your patience for plowing snow. The Town has 43 miles of blacktop and gravel roads to plow; we clear roads as quickly as possible. Main access to Hwy 40 and County F is a priority. Gravel roads present a problem in the late fall and spring. Soft gravel roads, not frozen up, tend to peel off layers of gravel - easily, thus some gravel roads are not plowed entirely clear, to the surface. We have normally have two drivers, 2 trucks on the road.

Plowing or blowing snow into or across public roads into ditches/right-of-way is illegal. WI Statute 346.94(5). Also, section 86.022 makes it a misdemeanor punishable by fine to place any obstruction into a road ditch which will impede drainage.

Our plows can be disabled if they hit a compacted snow bank or it can cause them to veer into the other lane. It is also a driving hazard. Violations can result in fines. This is a safety issue and if our plow is disabled, our roads cannot be serviced, impacting everyone.

GARBAGE COLLECTION....Must be bagged....No Building Materials Accepted

All garbage collected at Town Hall must be bagged properly for acceptance. A budget increase is necessary due to the increase in disposal company dumping fees. Fees are established for each size bag. New fees effective January 1 2023 are: Up to 13 gallon size bag \$3.00, 14-32 gallon size bag \$5.00, 32 gallon size or larger \$7.00. Building Materials must be taken to the dump located in the Town of Stubbs.