

Dear Taxpayers and Electors,

Once again we take a few moments to update you with the Town activities and achievements in 2024. We are happy to call the Town of Spider Lake home and happy that we are neighbors.

Hard at Work!

Investing in the community has been a focus of Town supervisors and officers. This year, we worked on the budget beginning in September to come up with a strong, conservative budget that will serve us well in 2025.

We are very pleased to report that at the Special Meeting of the Electors in November, our \$341,127 levy passed unanimously by all 43 electors in attendance. The budget approved by the Board will support our efforts to provide top-notch services to residents and visitors, which included a 3.2% cost of living increase for hourly employees. Thank you all, for your support of Town governance and the services we provide.

In the past few years, Town supervisors have accomplished a number of things for which we are proud.

- We have updated and renovated interiors and exteriors of most of our buildings including a new floor in the Fire Hall and the new Town building for protecting all of our Road equipment. All Town buildings are now backed up with right-sized generators.
- We have hired a new Zoning Administrator who, with the Plan and Review Commission, has extroverted the permitting process and done a great job of overseeing development in the Town.
- We have appointed ad hoc (temporary) committees to review the Boating Ordinance and refresh the Comprehensive Plan, both committees will complete their work in early 2025.
- In partnership with the Town of Cable, we have designated Telemark and Spider Lake Fire Roads as Rustic Roads to preserve and protect their natural beauty
- We have purchased Road equipment including a chipper, a tractor, a bucket for the grader, a brand-new dump truck (another one is on order that will be delivered in 2026)
- In addition, we work hard to identify and apply for grant dollars from state and federal agencies to leverage the services the Town provides. In 2024, we secured over \$80,000 from funders.

Every day we are reminded that this Town and this place – the woods, waters, people, and trails – are special and worth preserving.

TOWN FACILITIES. Town facilities are in excellent condition after all the improvements that have been made. In 2024, the “big project” was at Fire Station #1. The entire station was cleaned, the electrical system was upgraded, a new floor was installed and a large French Drain was installed behind the building to improve drainage away from the building.

At the Transfer Station, dusk-to-dawn lighting was installed, 24-hour surveillance signs posted, and cameras mounted to increase security and reduce the prospect of illegal dumping, which costs the Town in contamination charges. Please use this Town service *only* during the official hours (Winter hours: Saturdays 10 AM to 4 PM; Summer hours: Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays 10 AM to 4 PM).

The Town also held four "Brush Drive Days" and collected over 73 truck and trailer loads of brush helping to reduce fire risk in the town.

Special thanks to Supervisor Mark Johns for his oversight and administration of Facilities, Maintenance, and Solid Waste for the Town!

The Heart and Hub of Spider Lake

CLERK AND TREASURER. Town Hall is the heart and hub of the Town of Spider Lake. The Clerk and Treasurer are elected to ensure that all Town documents and policies are filed correctly, that our elections run smoothly, that tax notices are sent out and taxes payments are recorded, that permits and licenses are processed, and so much more. Clerk Bianca Cleary stepped into her role of Clerk and has not stopped working since. Bianca has excelled in her role we hope that she continues to serve the Town for a long time.

Treasurer Kathy Overman has served this Town for many years. Her dedication and commitment to the Town are absolute. Kathy has decided not to run again to serve as Treasurer. We thank Kathy for her years of service. When you see her next, please thank her for all that she has done for the Town.

We are thankful for the dedicated service of Clerk Bianca Cleary and Treasurer Kathy Overman.

Clerk's office hours: Fridays 10:00 AM–3:00 PM
or call Bianca (715) 462-3977 to make an appointment

For anyone interested in paying their taxes in person or purchasing dog licenses, the Treasurer's office hours will be open: Mondays and Saturdays 9:00 AM–1:00 PM
or call Kathy at office (715) 462-3977
or on her cell (715) 558-0591

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TECHNOLOGY. The Town website provides up-to-date information on all Town meetings and Town governance. It is your best source of information. The website should be your first stop for information about to the Town.

Visit: <https://townofspiderlakewi.gov/> If your questions aren't answered there, email clerk@townofspiderlakewi.gov or call the Town office at (715) 462-3977.

The Town's Modem and router was recently been upgraded to improve service by increasing upload and download speeds to 100 Mbps/10Mbps.

Thank you, Chris Klein, technology consultant.

TOSL Road Department

This has been a fantastic year for the Road Department. We are extremely fortunate to have Road Supervisor Don Fogal and Jim Brauer serving the Town. They have done a great job keeping our roads cleared and well-maintained. This year we made improvements to Neumaier Road and Upper A. Plans for next year include work on Green Point Road and Murphy Boulevard.

In addition, the Town received its beautiful, new plow truck in July and another plow is on order and due to arrive in 2026. These two new trucks will be the backbone of roads work and it is our great hope that the trucks will provide the Town with years of trouble-free service.

Preserving and Protecting the Northwoods

The Plan & Review Commission, under the leadership of Chair Sarah Delaney, focuses on ensuring that the Land Use Ordinance is being consistently applied and enforced. 2024 has been a busy year for the Commission.

- Zoning Administrator Mike Gardner completed his first full year as Zoning Administrator. Mike has done impressive work in 2024 overseeing and processing 28 Land Use Permits, totaling roughly \$4.9 million dollars in new construction and about \$16,000 in permit fees. The Commission also reviewed and approved nine CSMs.
- The TOSL Vision Assessment Ad Hoc Committee created and administered a survey and presented survey results in a report to the Town Board in January 2024.
- The Town's Comprehensive Plan update is nearly complete with a public hearing to be scheduled in February 2025. The Comprehensive Plan is the Town's framework for planning. It serves as the guiding document for all future development and conservation efforts in the Town.
- The Commission passed a CAFO Ordinance (#01-2024) that became effective on February 14, 2024. The ordinance serves as a protective, preventive action for the benefit of public health, safety and welfare (specifically protecting groundwater and aquifer).

- The Commission also reviewed and updated Ordinance 05-01 (Plan & Review Commission).

We are grateful to Sarah Delaney for her energy and passion to preserve and protect the Northwoods Character of the Town of Spider Lake. And a special thanks to Zoning Administrator Mike Gardner.

A heartfelt thanks to so many of you!

Thanks to Bob Schroeder who does an excellent job of keeping the recycling center running smoothly. And thanks Judy DeTray who has worked for the Town, and keeping our Town Hall clean for the past 30 years!

Again, we extend our deep gratitude to all volunteers, including donors, deputy clerks, deputy treasurers, election officers and the many individuals who have served on committees; helped with plantings and maintenance; filing and organizing; technical assistance; meeting facilitation; and so much more. Thank you!

Happy Holidays!

