



Winnebago County, WI

### Townhall Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9am to 4pm  
Call for appt outside of those hours  
Email: [office@townofvinlandwi.gov](mailto:office@townofvinlandwi.gov)  
Website: [www.townofvinlandwi.gov](http://www.townofvinlandwi.gov)  
920-235-6953

Spring 2025

# The Vinland Voice

## From Don O'Connell - Chairman

Hello Friends & Neighbors,

I'd like to begin this letter by extending my gratitude to all those who served the town in 2024, Fire Fighters, First Responders, Sheriff Deputies, Clerk / Treasurer, Deputy Clerk / Treasurer, Election Workers, Supervisors and all residents who volunteered their time.

**A special thanks to the committee that planned the Town's 175th anniversary celebration.** The turnout was great and it was enjoyed by all. A great job by all once again in 2024, thank you!

2024 was another year marked by significant change that occurred in the town. We saw the construction of a new school, the approval of a solar farm and other development projects, took receipt of our new fire truck, initiated a study of our storm water drainage system and completed the state mandated real estate re-evaluation with little change to the town's tax levy. As the local governing body, the town does have a voice in whether and how these projects get approved. Some are regulated through the application of town zoning ordinances and, while county and state statutes must be followed, the town can influence policy in several ways. In 2025 we have several opportunities to have our voices heard.

The 2025 election process begins with primary election on **February 18, 2025** and follows with the **April 1, 2025 election** that provides residents with an opportunity to cast their ballot for Town Officials, Winnebago County Executive and the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. The county executive race includes the incumbent, Jon Doemel, Sheriff John Matz and Gordon Hintz who has held various public offices during his career. These candidates all have differing views on the county's role, how it should impact your life and the amount of tax it collects from, and shares with, us. Similarly, the Supreme Court candidates have differing views. Understanding all of the candidates' views and making an informed decision is our civil duty. I encourage all to do so and vote. Town of Vinland voter participation in last November's election exceeded 94%. Let's achieve this level of turnout in the 2025 elections.

Wisconsin statutes require towns that have their own zoning code (The Town of Vinland has its own zoning code) to have an up to date Comprehensive Plan on file. The current Town of Vinland Comprehensive Plan is due to be reviewed and updated in 2025. This document is the town's record of how it sees itself currently and how residents want it to change over a 20 year period. There are nine elements included in the plan and each is reviewed during the plan update process. The town's goals, objectives, policies, programs and recommendations for each element are established in the plan.

(Continued on Page 2)

## Town of Vinland Contacts

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<b>Supervisor 1</b>	<b>Todd Devens</b>	<b>920-379-4828</b> <a href="mailto:super1@townofvinlandwi.gov">super1@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Supervisor 2</b>	<b>Stacy Frakes</b>	<b>920-851-3765</b> <a href="mailto:super2@townofvinlandwi.gov">super2@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Clerk/Treasurer</b>	<b>Karen Brazee</b>	<b>920-235-6953</b> <a href="mailto:office@townofvinlandwi.gov">office@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Deputy Clerk/ Treasurer</b>	<b>Maggie Starr</b>	<b>920-235-6953</b> <a href="mailto:office@townofvinlandwi.gov">office@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Fire Chief</b>	<b>Chris Anderson</b>	<b>920-428-7812</b> <a href="mailto:fire@townofvinlandwi.gov">fire@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Asst Chief</b>	<b>Jason Schmoker</b>	<b>920-379-1094</b>
<b>Zoning Admin</b>	<b>Mike McNamee</b>	<b>920-851-1301</b> <a href="mailto:zoning@townofvinlandwi.gov">zoning@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>
<b>Building Inspections</b>	<b>Elisabeth Racine/ SPS Inspection Service</b>	<b>920-266-9611</b> <a href="mailto:building@townofvinlandwi.gov">building@townofvinlandwi.gov</a>

## Read about CANDIDATES FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR #2

Upcoming  
ELECTION  
Information!!





**Don O'Connell** (Continued from Front Page )

The nine Comprehensive Plan elements are:

- a. Issues and Opportunities facing the Town
- b. Housing
- c. Transportation
- d. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
- e. Economic Development
- f. Intergovernmental Cooperation
- g. Land Use
- h. Plan Implementation

Other than it being required by the state, the most important reason for updating the Town's Comprehensive Plan is surrounding communities and the county also have comprehensive plans that contain goals to develop within the Town of Vinland. While the town's plan must align with these plans, an up to date plan provides the town with a document expressing our residents desires on how and where the development takes place. There have been instances where a town's, well formulated, comprehensive plan has prevailed in legal challenges. Additionally, the other elements of the plan do effect all of us and will be reviewed and updated. Goals and objectives for roads, housing, industry, parks, public safety, town history and culture, and trails of all kinds are some of the topics that are open for discussion. The town will be hiring a consultant to guide us through the process. However, the key to the development of a successful plan is the input from the town's residents. This is your opportunity to have your thoughts and ideas for the town heard and acted on. If there is a plan element that appeals to you, you are invited to participate. There will be public input sessions and groups assembled to investigate the nine elements starting this spring. Exact dates and times will be posted as public meetings. Contact the Town office or myself directly with questions or for more information.

Very Truly Yours,

**Don O'Connell, Chairman**

Town of Vinland – "The Heart of Wisconsin"

**From Stacy Frakes - Supervisor 2**

As I look back on my years serving the Town of Vinland, I reflect on the opportunity that I have had to serve the Town as a member of the community involved group of First Responders, responding to various call at all times of the day and night, providing me the opportunity to help my neighbors and friends in a time of need. Donating to the annual Fire Department fundraiser provided valuable funds for necessary training and equipment. Most recently serving as Supervisor 2, where collectively, we worked diligently to address new developments, zoning, hoarding, new fire truck, budgets and many other matters. I am thankful to be a part of the many committed Town of Vinland members who work collectively to make our Town a great place to live and raise a family.

Currently, I am looking forward to exploring new interests and opportunities to continue to support our

**CANDIDATE FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR #2**

**Bob Marquart**

Hello, my name is Bob Marquart. My wife Gabe and I purchased a lot and built our then new house and moved to the Town of Vinland in 2001. We were looking for more room for our dogs and some piece and quiet, and found both. Since living here I've tried to be aware of what has been happening in our township. I've found a good way to do this is by attending as many of the monthly Town Board meetings as possible.

While living in Oshkosh I was a longtime member of the Traffic Review Advisory Board. After moving I wondered if there were any similar opportunities here. I became a member of the Board of Appeals some years ago. My only activity was one training session a couple of years ago, which seems to be a testament to the job the Town Board has and is doing.

With the opening of a seat on the Board I have decided to run for the Town Supervisor #2 seat. Being retired from the wholesale millwork distribution-warehousing-trucking industry as well as being blessed with good health I hope to be able to devote time and energy to the town we've grown very fond of. The Town of Vinland is very large physically and becoming more diverse. The board has to be aware of and address the agricultural, growing residential and industrial needs of the town.

One person joining a three person board can't make "Big" promises. But joining Don and Todd, who I've worked with and respect I think we can continue representing our town efficiently and effectively. I will promise two things, first that I'll do my best to keep taxes as low as possible and secondly to address each issue analytically not emotionally. My ears will always be open. I would appreciate and ask for your vote on April 1st.

One last thing, regardless of who you vote for, PLEASE be sure to vote April 1st and encourage your friends, neighbors and relatives to vote as well. In addition to our township the county and state have important issues on the ballot. The spring elections historically have very low turnout, let's change that this year.

Thank you,  
Bob Marquart

**CANDIDATE FOR TOWN SUPERVISOR #2**

**Mike McNamee**

Hello town residents,

My name is Mike McNamee. The spring election is on April 1st. As you might know Stacy Frakes has decided not to run again for Town Supervisor #2. I will be running for that position and would like to tell you a little about myself.

My wife and 2 daughters have lived in the town for 28 years. I have served as the town zoning administrator for the past year and a half. I'm on the town's fire department for 26 years and was a first responder for 10 years. For 3 years, I served on the church council at my church. I'm the head JV football coach at Winneconne High School.

I have sat in many town budget meetings, and have attended many town board meetings.

I ask for your vote on April 1st.

Thank you,  
Mike McNamee

neighbors, family and friends. I do not plan on running for the Supervisor 2 position this spring. I look forward to supporting the new Supervisor and the Board as they continue to make decisions in the best interest of the Town of Vinland.

Please feel free to keep in touch, I would be delighted to hear from you. It has been an honor to be a part of the Town of Vinland's journey, and I look forward to your continued success.

Sincerely,

**Stacy Frakes**





*From* **Todd Devens - Supervisor 1**

*From* **Karen Brazee - Clerk / Treasurer**

Welcome 2025!

There is a big election to start the year. Please research the candidates to make the best choice.

As always let me know if you see any garbage in our road ways. I save the town money by picking up and disposing of garbage properly. Keeping our town clean is an everyday responsibility not just an activity done once a year.

Let me or the office know if you have a faded address sign or a damaged post. Most of the signs should have been replaced by now but some may have been missed. I do have few to put up as soon as the weather warms up.

Last year's rain displayed a lot of drainage problems with our roads. We did a lot of cleaning of ditches and will continue with doing more this spring. We do what we can but when the town ditches turn and drain onto private property that is where the problem lies. We cannot go on private property and so the water backs up our town ditches.

The Fire Dept Raffle Committee is made up of active fire dept members. Every year new names are drawn at random to be on the committee. No other non-fire dept people are on the raffle committee. This past year the committee raised over \$21,000 toward fire equipment purchases. The entire fire dept wants to thank everyone who supported them by purchasing a ticket or donating a prize for the raffle.

Our town board meetings are the second Monday of the month at 7 pm in the town hall. Please attend. There is a time set aside for public comment.

The Annual Meeting is Wednesday, April 16 at 7pm.

Thank you,

**Todd Devens** \_\_\_\_\_



*From* **Maggie Starr - Deputy Clerk / Treasurer**

Wow what a year 2024 was in terms of elections! When we have 4 elections in a year we rely heavily on utilizing our trained poll workers. Poll workers stay up-do-date by attending in-person training sessions and most recently we are experimenting with on-line videos that they can do from home. The Town of Vinland is fortunate to have a plethora of workers that are willing to learn the voting process to make sure election integrity is held up to the very highest standards. Our workers also adapt quickly when there is a change in procedure or a new law goes into effect. Besides being adaptive they have great attention to detail but most importantly they are fun to be around.

Karen and I would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance in working the polls in 2024: **Kim Burbey, Diane Fletcher, Joanne Forseth, Barb Gunderson, Judy and Lou Janzen, Mary Kuehnl, Kristie Lang, Jeanne Luebke, Jill Mueller, Tom Oostenbrug, Kate Pfaendtner, Karen and Kim Rudat, Kala Schneider, Julie Schoblasky, Chris Schudy,**

Congrats to the town residents that we received another bench from NexTrex for collecting 1000 #s of plastic film/bags.

I'd like to please ask that everyone be more diligent when donating their plastic bags, as we've come across a variety of plastics that are not accepted. The NexTrex program does not accept any plastic containers or plastic bottles. This is a program for plastic film and bags. They DO NOT accept every type of bag. No animal (dog, cat, rabbit, etc) food bags are accepted. No mulch or potting soil bags are accepted either. No frozen food bags, candy bags or chip bags. Let's please focus on the following accepted bag/film types:



*Bread bags, bubble, wrap, wood pellet bags, softener salt bags, cereal bags, dry cleaning bags, ice bags, pallet wrap, fresh produce bags, plastic shipping bags/envelopes, water bottle "case wrap", plastic grocery bags, ziploc bags and other reclosable storage bags. Let's please focus on recycling ONLY these types of plastic film/bags and put the other types of plastic in your curbside garbage can.*

And back by popular demand, we will be raffling off another bench this year. Winner will be drawn at the Fire Dept Sportsman raffle tentatively set for Oct 25th. Raffle tickets can be purchased in the office. **\$1/chance or \$20/wingspan.** The proceeds will be used for prizes at the Fire Department Sportsman raffle.

Last but not least, I'd like to remind everyone to please utilize the main entrance located on the north side of the building. We would like to encourage everyone to use the north parking lot and use the townhall door/entrance that is closest to it. The east side of the building is for employees, fire department and 1st responders.

Wishing everyone health and happiness in 2025.

**Karen Brazee** \_\_\_\_\_

**Robin Tonagel-Andersen, John Wallschlaeger, Chris Wollerman, and Kathy Zwicky.**

Thank you also to the Town of Vinland residents who participated in voting in the 2024 elections. In the fall of 2024 the state underwent redistricting. The Town of Vinland has been divided into 2 wards. Ward 1 is anyone who resides west of State Road 76 and Ward 2 is anyone east of 76. We also have 3 school districts in our town. Some elections we are dealing with multiple different ballots. Depending upon what is on the ballot contributes to how the room gets set up on voting day.

We try to use signage and a greeter to assist you by directing you where to start. I'm grateful our polling location is in a small space that is easily manageable to get around. Thank you voters for your participation! Let's make 2025 another year with a great turnout.

Best,

**Maggie Starr** \_\_\_\_\_



**Town of Vinland**  
6085 County Road T  
Oshkosh WI 54904



### *From* **Chief Chris Anderson - Fire Chief**

The town's new fire truck arrived in October. The Fire Dept. and First responders are grateful to have the support of the town residents with this much needed purchase. We have been able to outfit the truck by using gear from older trucks and purchasing new gear with funds raised by volunteering at the Winnebago Co. Fair and the annual department raffle. The department also was awarded a grant to purchase rescue tools along with other generous donations to help outfit the new truck.

As spring is around the corner and yard cleanup commences, please be courteous of your neighbors when burning yard debris. Please make sure the wind isn't blowing smoke and ash into your neighbor's property or across the roads. For full burning restrictions please go to the town's website, [www.townofvinlandwi.gov](http://www.townofvinlandwi.gov), click on documents, scroll to code of ordinance and type in the search "open burning" ( § 217-5 Open Burning).

On behalf of the Fire Dept and First Responders, thank you to everyone who purchased raffle tickets and attended the raffle. It was a huge success. Also thank you to the committee members for all of their hard work. All residents and non-residents are welcome to attend the raffle. It typically takes place the last Saturday in October. Check the town website for details in late summer. Stay Safe,

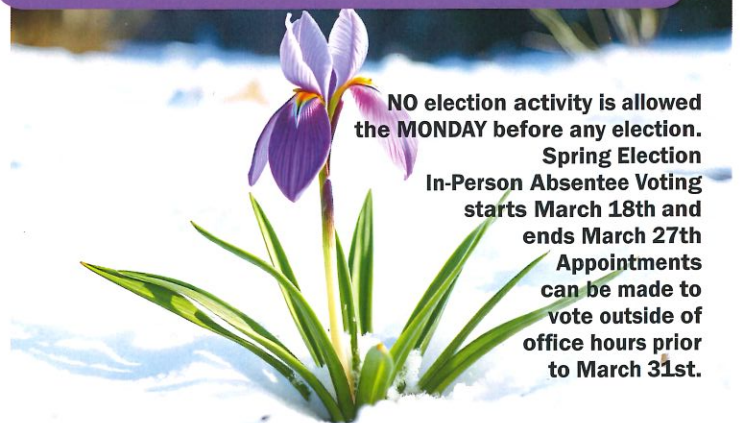
**Chief Chris Anderson**

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on our website:**

[www.townofvinlandwi.gov](http://www.townofvinlandwi.gov)

**2025 curbside pickups are every Tuesday,  
EXCEPT Memorial Day and Labor Day week -  
then the pickup will be on Wednesday.**

**Reminder of IN-PERSON Absentee Voting is always  
held 2 weeks prior to every election during  
normal office hours. (Mon-Thurs betw 9am & 4pm)**



**NO election activity is allowed  
the MONDAY before any election.**

**Spring Election  
In-Person Absentee Voting  
starts March 18th and  
ends March 27th**

**Appointments  
can be made to  
vote outside of  
office hours prior  
to March 31st.**