

Town of Neenah

Today



Vol.19, Issue 4 Winter 2016, 1600 Breezewood Lane, Neenah-920-725-0916

Website: www.townofneenah.com, email:tnneenah@tds.net

CHAIRMAN'S CHATTER:



**Town Chairman
Bob Schmeichel**

To paraphrase the late, great, Harry Caray..."Holy Cow!"

This last quarter, important events have taken place one after another. From the County Ok's the roundabout at CTH CB/Oakridge Road intersection, to the World Series, to the election results up and down the ballot, to annexation of private properties to the City of Neenah from the Town, to the Town of Neenah's 2017 approved annual budget. And at this writing, we have a full month to go in 2016. Ahhh, the Christmas season. And then,

2017 here we come. And what might be forthcoming is anyone's guess but here are a few of the issues that the Town of Neenah citizens need to know.

A good seven months after the latest unfortunate fatality at County Hwy CB/Oakridge Road intersection, the Winnebago County Board finally voted to build a roundabout at that location. Completion may take as long as three years. Like any other major highway improvement, we all need to exercise patience during these upcoming construction phases. We will keep you up to date of the phases as they occur, on our website.

The two new important private land annexations into the City of Neenah are both in the Town of Neenah's Comprehensive Plan's area of city growth as per the boundary agreement with the City of Neenah. The new luxury apartment/condominium complex on the city's southwest side will not really affect the town's future revenue because of the city growth designation. However the acquisition of the Cumings business property by We Energies, albeit also in the city growth designated area, will mean the immediate loss of a town zoned commercial property (which may or may not have occurred sometime in the future) and the loss of potential future annual revenue sharing from the We Energies. I did try to encourage We Energies to locate their new substation on Town owned properties but their engineers stated that our Town owned properties were not in their targeted grid zone where as other properties were a better grid location choice. The Cumings property being one of them. It no doubt proved out to be beneficial for both of these two parties and that is the name of business.

Which brings us to the issue of our 2017 annual budget. (Please see the enclosed pie chart on expenditures of your town tax dollars.) The budget was approved by those in attendance at a notified public meeting this past 14th of November. Every year your town board deliberates over the actuals of what we can afford to do in the next budgeted year. This year was an especially challenging task and next year will no doubt be even more challenging. We are one of the lowest tax districts in the valley and your town board is diligently trying to keep that distinction. However, the lion's share of our annual budget is our town road budget and as per your many requests of "when are you going to fix our road" we are going to have to take a very hard look at the town's overall tax revenues. We have road improvement plans for this coming year but not to the level of what is needed or what we would like to complete. The next budget year will be even more of a challenge. We, your elected officials, need your help and understanding. This coming April 18, 2017 is your chance to express your opinions and suggestions to us at YOUR Annual Town Meeting. Unfortunately those that come to this meeting may be just a dozen or two. I know WE can do better than that! This important meeting is your chance to have informative discussions about future land use planning, zoning issues, taxes or any other general town business issues.

Moving on...This winter is purported to be a cold and wet one for us in the Upper Mid-West so here are some "Cold Hard Winter Fun Facts."

The Southern Hemisphere typically has milder winters than the Northern Hemisphere. This is because the Southern Hemisphere has less land and a more maritime climate.

While it seems counterintuitive, earth is actually closest to the sun in December, even though winter solstice is the shortest day of the year.

Chairman's Chatter continued on page 5

Town of Neenah Fire Department to participate in Wisconsin Smoke Alarm Fire Education Program to make smoke alarms available to Town of Neenah residents

The Town of Neenah Fire Department enrolled in the **WisSAFE** program in which the department has received sixty (60) battery powered smoke alarms and will install them at no cost in Town residences. The smoke alarms being provided are a sealed unit containing a lithium battery with a 10 year life, so no annual battery changes are required.

The **WisSAFE** program is supported by a number of Wisconsin fire service organizations as well as the American Red Cross. The goal of the program is to reduce fire related deaths by ensuring that every Wisconsin home is properly protected with adequate smoke alarms. This effort coincides with National Fire Prevention Month which is held each October.

If your home was constructed before April of 1992, you more than likely have battery powered smoke alarms. Homes constructed after April of 1992 were required by state law to have hard wired smoke alarms installed during construction.

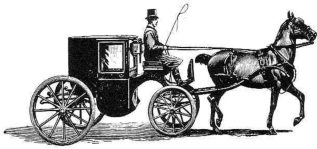
If you feel that the smoke alarms that you currently have installed in your home may not be in the best of shape or may be older, (the normal life of a smoke alarm is 10 years), or you do not have any smoke alarms, the Town of Neenah Fire Department can help to provide and install new smoke alarms in your residence.

To sign-up for this program, please contact the Town of Neenah town office at 920-725-0916 and provide your name, address and contact number. You will be contacted by a member of the Fire Department to arrange a time for the installation. The Department is scheduling appointments at this time.

The Town of Neenah Fire Department looks forward to working with our residents to ensure their homes are as safe as possible. Thank you,
Fire Chief Ed King



Town of Neenah Fire Department



The Good Ol' Days

By Supervisor Glenn Armstrong

April 5, 1927 Annual Meeting

Ordinance # 1 - The notes of the Town of Neenah, do ordain as follows, no person shall permit his cattle, horses, sheep, swine, dogs or other animals to go at large on the highways of the Town.

Ordinance #2 - No person shall permit his cattle, horses, hogs, sheep, swine, dogs, poultry or other animals to go at large upon the grounds and premises of any public school in the Town.

April 3, 1928

Motion made and seconded that the incoming board confer with the City authorities about the rat menace at the City dumping ground. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded that a \$25 reward be given for the arrest and conviction of any person caught dumping garbage along the highway. Also a fine of \$25 for person convicted of the same. Motion carried.

April 2, 1929

Motion made and seconded that the Town Board use their best judgment about getting the county grader to do the Town grading. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded to grade the Lake Shore Road and gravel it with the money from the gasoline tax. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded that the Town get the County snowplow to plow the roads of the Town as necessary. Motion carried.

April 1, 1930

Motion made and seconded to accept the City of Neenah's proposal for a fee of \$100 for each run the City Fire Department makes in to the Town of Neenah. Motion carried.

April 4, 1933 Annual Meeting

Motion made and seconded to cut the wages of the Town unemployed from .20 to .15 per hour. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded to cut the Town office pay 20%. Motion carried.



**Supervisor
Glenn Armstrong**

Town of Neenah

1600 Breezewood Ln
Neenah, WI 54956
www.townofneenah.com Email:tnneenah@tds.net
Town Population: 3,435

Chairman

Robert Schmeichel - 729-5995

Supervisors

Glenn Armstrong - 722-3355

Brooke Cardoza – 727-1750

Jan DeKeyser - 725-3284

Jim Weiss - 727-1952

Clerk/Treasurer

Ellen Skerke - 725-0916

Building Inspector

Gary Klinka - 727-9200

Fire Chief

Ed King - 725-8261

Animal Control

Glenn Armstrong - 722-3355

Plan Commission Chairman

Tom Wilde - 725-0014

Parks and Trails Committee Chairman

Dave Bluma – 428-4595

Weed Commissioner

Dave Bluma - 428-4595

Newsletter

Pam Winek - 428-0768

Sanitary District Commissions

#2-President - Dan Osero - 740-5757

#3-President-Bryan Von Deylen-751-8791

County Board Supervisors

District 7- Bill Roh – 725-5999

District 9 - Alvin Long – 722-7795

District 30 - Chuck Farrey – 582-7733

Town of Neenah Today Volume 19, Issue 4 Winter 2016. Town of Neenah Today is published quarterly by the Town of Neenah, Wisconsin for the residents and businesses of the Town. If you see your address is incorrect or has been changed, please contact the Town Clerk. Address changes or updates send to Town of Neenah, 1600 Breezewood Ln., Neenah, WI 54956

Advertising rates for the Town of Neenah newsletter are: full page-\$240, ½ page-\$120, ¼ page-\$60, and 1/8 page-\$30.

Call the Town Hall at (920)725-0916 for information.

Building Permits

(Projects valued at \$1,000 or more)

August 2016



Traas-Dedering Elec.	142 Villa Dr.	Electrical Service Change	\$1,100
Gettendorf-N.E.W. MECH	156 Rickers Bay Rd.	Furnace	\$6,000
Olson	560 Huntrs Point Rd.	Garage	\$12,000
Mirabelli	1307 Birch Bark Ln.	Deck & Shed	\$13,470
Lucian-Palisades Sheet Metal	220 Adella Beach Rd.	HVAC	\$9,000
Becklund-Cummings Elec.	619 Hunters Point Rd.	Electrical Service Change	\$1,100
Berth-CT Electric LLC	469 Maple Ln.	Electrical Service Change	\$1,000
Traas-Skyline Roofing & Const. LLC	142 Villa Ln.	Garage	\$43,660
Bachman-Bell Electric	1470 S. Park Ave.	Electrical Service Change	\$1,250
Goggin Jr.-Schafer Elec.	137 Poplar Ct.	Electrical Service Change	\$1,700
McGraw-Trademark Const.	1353 Eagle Feather Trl.	Covered Porch Add	\$20,000

September 2016

Bergstrom-Griffin Bldrs.	215 Limekiln Dr.	Boathouse	\$20,000
Schierl-Affordable Contracting	1869 Breezewood Ln.	New House	\$75,000
Treep-Houlihan	1855 Hedgeview Dr.	New House	\$900,000
Mills-Griffin Bldrs.	540 Sunrise Bay Rd.	Boathouse	\$20,000
Kimberly Clark-Faith Technologies	1414 W. Larsen Rd.	Electrical	\$19,500
Stubing-Steffens	131 Old Orchard	Electrical	\$1,500
Sauer-Kuehl Electric	205 Villa Dr.	Electrical	\$1,829
Everson-Kuehl Electric	422 Maple Ln.	Electrical	\$2,465
Schilling-Kuehl Electric	426 Maple Ln.	Electrical	\$1,316
Reiter	1610 S. Park Ave.	Shed	\$2,000
Coulthard	1344 Eagle Feather Tr.	HVAC	\$3,000
Ricketts-Longworth Const.	114 Kappell Rd.	Remodel	\$18,000

Conservancy Park

Although Conservancy Park is the smallest of the Town of Neenah parks, it offers big opportunities for a chance to visit, relax and enjoy the beauty of nature. Located at the corner of S. Park Ave. and Hwy. A across from Lakeview Elementary School, the park includes a prairie, pond, picnic tables and several benches along a winding trail though the park's 9 acres.

In 2013, this area was planted to be an Oak Savanna landscape. An Oak Savanna landscape refers to a natural area with a wide diversity of species. The essential character of an Oak Savanna is the presence of open grown Oaks that can spread their limbs out without restrictions from other trees around them.

In addition to Oaks, there are several varieties of wild flowers and grasses planted throughout Conservancy Park, as well as wetland plants around the pond. Flowers include Ohio Spiderwort, Yellow Water Lillies, Smooth Penstemon and so many more! With this wide diversity, there is always something new to see throughout the months of the growing season. Butterflies and several types of birds are plentiful and enjoy the blooms and seeds of this natural area.

Each Spring, the Town of Neenah Fire Department conducts a controlled burn at the park. A controlled burn, or prescribed burn, safely reduces the excessive amount of brush to encourage new growth and maintain plant species in the park's beautiful prairie.

Plan on visiting often to relax and view the changes through the growing season!



Thank You!

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to everyone that helped to make the November 2016 Election run smoothly and efficiently.

The Town of Neenah is lucky to have so many individuals that are willing to step forward and serve as election officials for the weeks leading up to and on Election Day. These dedicated people took time off from work and took time away from their families, with over 300 hours spent helping with the election. Their hard work, dedication, professionalism and willingness to put in long hours is greatly appreciated.

The Town Hall was certainly a busy place for several weeks leading up to the Election with 715 absentee ballots completed. 169 people registered to vote and 1495 individuals cast their ballot in person on Election Day. The Town of Neenah had voter turnout of 90% for this General Election.

The next election will be held on April 4, 2017 when you will be voting on local positions of Town Chairman, two Town Supervisors and two Sanitary District Commissioners as well as other State and County positions. I look forward to having the opportunity to report that once again, the Town of Neenah residents came out to vote and support their local officials with a 90% voter turnout!

Thank you again to everyone that helped with this Election. I could never do this without you.



Ellen Skerke
Clerk/Treasurer

Chairman's Chatter continued:

Chionophobia is the persistent fear of snow, especially becoming trapped by snow. The term is derived from the Greek words *chion* and *phobos*, meaning "snow" and "fear," respectively.

And to that thought; According to the *Guinness World Records*, on January 28, 1887, a snowflake 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick fell in Fort Keogh, Montana, making it the largest

September 2016 building permits continued:

Gallagher	1429 Silverwood Ln.	Electrical	\$1,000
Ewing	907 Terra Cotta Dr.	Remodel	\$15,000
Time Warner Cable-Trico Excavating	530 Cty. Hwy. G	Razing	\$5,000
Ogden-Team Services	1515 Cty. Rd. O	Electrical	\$2,262.15
Ogden-Faith Technologies	1515 Cty. Rd. O	Electrical	\$2,285.00

October 2016

Nagle-Portside Bldrs.	104 Rickers Bay Rd.	New House	\$295,000
Short-LS Construction	432 Rickers Bay Rd.	Addition	\$6,000
Short-LS Construction	432 Rickers Bay Rd.	Addition/Remodel	\$160,000
Short-LS Construction	432 Rickers Bay Rd.	Garage	\$80,000
Thompson-Locy Electric	341 Plummers Harbor Rd.	Electrical Service	\$1,100
Fish-Locy Electric	511 Plummers Harbor Rd.	Electrical Service	\$1,200
Gamerdinger-Bombanski Electrical Specialists	1823 Cty. Rd. A	Electrical Service	\$1,500
Raymond-Integrity Construction	652 Yale Ln.	New House	\$290,761
Piljic-Cummings Electric	998 Bayview Rd.	Electrical Service	\$1,475
Kalmanson-Black-Haak Heating	100 Limekiln Dr.	HVAC	\$5,000
Bierke-Cummings Electric	100 Bayview Rd.	Electrical Service	\$1,055

snowflake ever observed...Yikes imagine thousands of them! So that's it for this edition. I and your town officials, employees, and volunteers all wish you a wonderful and joyous Holiday season. **Be safe.** And enjoy "Your" Town. It's a great place to live.

Bob Schmeichel
Town Chairman

Clerk's Corner:



Town Clerk
Ellen Skerke

NEW Trash and Recycling Haulers in 2017

The Town of Neenah is changing our trash and recycling contractor in 2017 to Harter's Fox Valley Disposal. Harter's is a local, family owned and operated Wisconsin company in business for over 50 years.

Customer service is their #1 priority.

During the last week of 2016, Advanced Disposal will pick up your trash and recycling if it is your regularly scheduled week. At which time you should leave your old empty containers at the end of your driveway so that Advanced Disposal can pick them up. That same week, Harter's Fox Valley Disposal will deliver new trash and recycling containers to your home. There will be a Welcome Packet filled with information about Harter's and the schedule for trash and recycling pick-up. Please read the materials, it will likely answer many of your questions.

Watch your property tax bill mailing and the Town of Neenah website for an insert with additional information about the changes.

Dog Licenses

Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Sec 174.05(1), the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 of any year, or 5 months of age within the license year, shall annually pay the dog license tax and obtain a license. Pursuant to Sec. 95.21(2) Wisconsin Statutes, a current rabies vaccination is required for all dogs 5 months of age and older.

The cost of a license for neutered or spayed dogs is \$5.00; non-spayed and non-neutered dogs are \$10.00. A kennel license (4 to 12 dogs) may be obtained with proper permission from Winnebago County Zoning for \$60.00.

NEW in 2017: ALL dog owners are required to present a current vaccination certificate for each dog in your household when obtaining licenses for your dog(s).

Tidbits from the Treasurer

Property Tax bills are scheduled to be mailed on or around December 12, 2016. Payments are due no later than January 31, 2017.

Payment may be made in person during office hours, via U.S. mail, or for your convenience, an **"After-Hours Lock Box"** is available at the front door of the Town Hall. If you pay by mail and would like a receipt, you must enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your tax payment.

Holiday hours are listed on the Town of Neenah website and included in your tax bill.

NEW in 2017:

The Town of Neenah is using a new tax receipting system, the status of your tax payments will be reflected on-line immediately upon processing. Visit <http://wcws10.co.winnebago.wi.us/LandRecords> to check the status of your tax payment.

ASSESSED VALUE LAND	ASSESSED VALUE IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL ASSESSED VALUE	AVERAGE ASSESS. RATIO	NET ASSESSED VALUE RATE (Does NOT reflect credits)	NET PROPERTY TAX
26,000	175,700	201,700	0.965917815	0.0386660	2054.97
ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET VALUE LAND	ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET VALUE IMPROVEMENTS	TOTAL ESTIMATED FAIR MARKET VALUE	<input type="checkbox"/> A copy of this tax receipt is placed prior year taxes.	Subsidy items also included by school levy tax credit	Garbage & Refuse Delq Sewer Chg Delq Sewer Chg-Int Recycling Stormwater Mngmnt Utility
26,900	181,900	208,800		310.11	264.00 372.00 118.31 24.00 80.00
TAXING JURISDICTION	2014 EST. STATE ADRS ALLOCATED TAX DISTR.	2015 EST. STATE ADRS ALLOCATED TAX DISTR.	2014 NET TAX	2015 NET TAX	% TAX CHANGE
STATE OF WISCONSIN	0	0	34.54	34.44	2.6%
WINNEBAGO COUNTY	166,138	169,178	1,214.20	1,222.59	0.7%
TOWN OF NEENAH	336,872	333,935	226.89	229.28	1.1%
NEENAH SCHOOL	3,616,804	3,640,198	1,460.92	1,479.97	0.7%
FOX VALLEY TECH	123,699	478,191	228.75	233.42	2.0%
TOTAL	4,243,113	4,621,502	3,174.30	3,200.70	0.8%
FIRST DOLLAR CREDIT			-55.56	-55.72	0.3%
LOTTERY AND GAMING CREDIT			-94.03	-90.01	-4.3%
NET PROPERTY TAX			3,024.71	3,054.97	1.0%
PAY 1ST INSTALLMENT OF:	\$2,341.28	PAY 2ND INSTALLMENT OF:	\$1,312.00	PAY FULL AMOUNT OF:	\$3,973.28

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Handyman Services* Door Installation* Free Estimates

On Facebook and Neenahhandyman.com

"Give me a buzzzz.....but please don't call me honey".

Town of Neenah is a Great Value!

The end of the year brings the joyous holiday season and the dreaded property tax season. The Town of Neenah remains a great value in the Fox Valley area. A home assessed at \$200,000 pays **\$227.24** in property taxes to the Town of Neenah. In 2017, the Town of Neenah will collect a total of \$ 454,874 in property taxes.

As property owners, you know your tax bill is much higher than that. Your tax bill includes amounts owed to State of Wisconsin, Winnebago County, Neenah Joint School District and Fox Valley Technical College as well as other charges such as stormwater, trash, recycling and special assessments. You can see each of these items broken out on the property tax bill that will be arriving in your mailboxes soon.

How does the Town of Neenah compare with our surrounding communities? In 2015, Town of Neenah property owners paid \$1.14 per \$1,000 in assessed value. That is a pretty good value.

Municipality	2015 tax rate per \$1000 assessed value
Town of Neenah	\$ 1.14
Town of Clayton	\$ 2.85
Town of Oshkosh	\$ 6.38
Town of Vinland	\$ 1.04
Town of Winneconne	\$ 1.46
Village of Fox Crossing	\$ 5.55
Village of Winneconne	\$ 9.05
City of Menasha	\$ 10.34
City of Neenah	\$ 9.21
City of Oshkosh	\$ 9.79

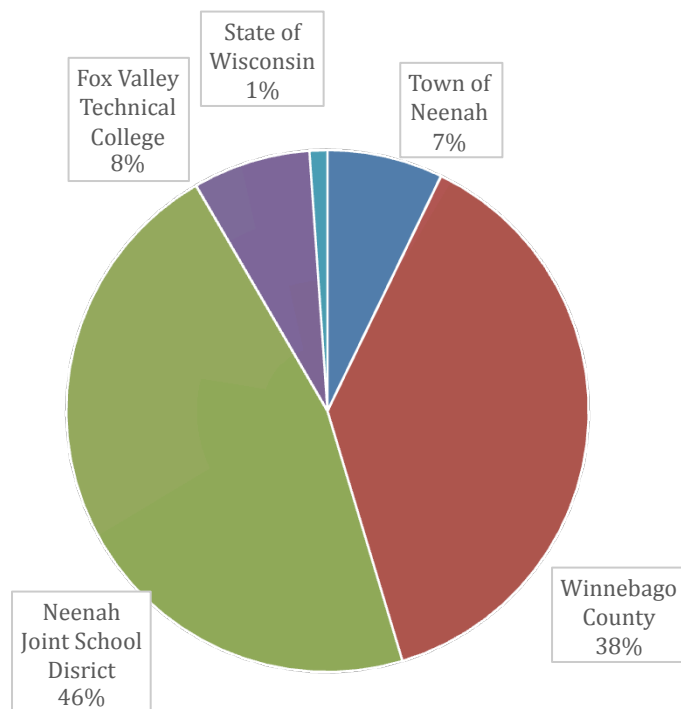
The Town remains a great value but it is becoming more challenging each year for the Town Board of Supervisors to manage the budget within the State mandated levy limits and with the ever rising costs of running the Town of Neenah.

2017 Budget , adopted 11-14-2016

Total Operating Revenues	\$ 1,148,229
Total Operating Expense	\$ 1,309,572
Reserves used to balance the budget	\$ 161,343

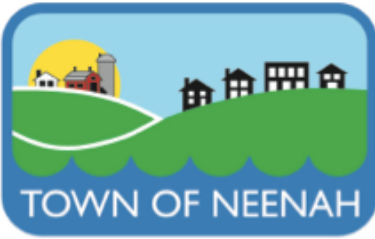
At the end of 2017 the reserve balance will be \$255,667 which means in about 1.5 years the Town of Neenah may run short of funds. This can affect town residents through such things as reduced services, no road improvements, a tax increase, and increased debt.

Town of Neenah Property Tax Allocation based on 2015 Property Tax



Help Wanted

Volunteer needed to work with Town Clerk on improvements and updates to the Town of Neenah website, plus helping to develop a Town of Neenah Handbook. Great opportunity to connect with community and stay in touch with what's going on in the Town. Great for high school/college students, stay at home parents or retirees. Contact Clerk Ellen Skerke at 725-0916 for more information.



1600 Breezewood Lane
Neenah, Wisconsin 54956

REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings are held at the Town Hall beginning at 7PM. Special meetings may be held on other days and times.

Town Board of Supervisors

2nd & 4th Mondays

Town Plan Commission

3rd Monday

Town Parks & Trails Committee

1st Monday April through October

- **BURNING:** Burning is permitted in the Town of Neenah, but the Fire Department requests that you use common sense (dryness and wind are always factors to consider) and that you call the Winnebago County Sheriff's office non-emergency number (236-7300#0) before and after burning to avoid false alarms. Please be considerate of your neighbors when burning, making sure that smoke isn't blowing in their direction. Burning garbage is prohibited as well as any petroleum-based products.
- **MINUTES AND AGENDAS:** Town minutes and agendas are posted on the Town website, three posting locations and are also available at the Town Hall during regular business hours.
- **ADDRESS SIGNS:** Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the emergency address signs placed in front of their homes by the Town. Assure that the sign remains visible by keeping brush and snow away from the sign. Also, do not remove or relocate the sign.
- **BUILDING PERMITS:** All building permits are issued by Building Inspector Gary Klinka (727-9200). Permits are needed to construct a fence or to build a deck. If you aren't sure you need a permit, check with Gary.
- **DEER/WILDLIFE:** The Town has no authority to handle wildlife problems. If you have wildlife problems, call a pest/wildlife service.
- **OBSTRUCTING RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND DRAINAGE DITCHES:** You cannot place a fence or greenery in the Town's road right-of way. No part of a mailbox should extend over the paved portion of the road. In addition, culverts and drainage ditches must not be filled in. If you have a question about water drainage issues or the right-of-way, contact Town Chairman Robert Schmeichel.
- **Dog Licenses:** Pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes Sec 174.05(1), the owner of a dog more than 5 months of age on January 1 of any year, or 5 months of age within the license year, shall annually pay the dog license tax and obtain a license. Pursuant to Sec. 95.21(2) Wisconsin Statutes, a current rabies vaccination is required for all dogs 5 months of age and older.
- The cost of a license for neutered or spayed dogs is \$5.00; non-spayed and non-neutered dogs are \$10.00. A kennel license (4 to 12 dogs) may be obtained with proper permission from Winnebago County Zoning for \$60.00.
- **NEW in 2017: ALL dog owners are required to present a current vaccination certificate for each dog in your household when obtaining licenses for your dog(s).**

