

Town of Holton

Marathon County, WI

Dennis Venzke, Chairman (715)965.1421
Pat Tischendorf, Supervisor (715)654.5220
Gene Peissig, Supervisor (715)465.0223

Paula Ruesch, Treasurer (715)302.1177
Taylor Ensign, Clerk (715)316.2040
holtontownclerk@gmail.com

December 2021

Dear Residents and Taxpayers,

As 2021 nears the end, here are some of the highlights. This spring two new members were welcomed onto our board; Dennis Venzke as Chairman and Taylor Ensign as Clerk. We would like to thank former Chairman, Richard Gumz for his 20 years of dedication to the board and former Clerk, Jennifer Schreiber for her time. Treasurer, Paula Ruesch and Supervisors, Pat Tischendorf and Gene Peissig were re-elected and continue to be a huge part of our township's success! Our roadways continue to be cared for by Lee Waldhart, although we also wanted to thank Casey Waldhart and Andrew Venzke for stepping in for a few months while Lee was out on medical leave. This township is lucky to have all of you!

As a board, we have implemented a few changes that we'd like you to be aware of. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact any of us at the numbers listed above! Taylor has also started sending agendas, minutes, new information and reminders out to residents via email. ***If you'd like to receive these updates, please send Taylor an email at holtontownclerk@gmail.com!***

Some things that have been updated:

- Culvert & Ditch Cleaning Policy – Any ditch cleaning or culvert replacement done without board approval will be completed at your own expense. Call a board member PRIOR to beginning one of these projects!
- Town Hall Rental Contract – The hall can now be rented by non-residents. *Contact Taylor for more info!*
- Our Town Hall now has a beautiful flagpole – Thanks to Gene & Pat for their time to get it fixed up!

In an effort to reduce unnecessary expenses, the following changes have been made:

- Zoning is now taken care of through Marathon County. We will no longer have a Zoning Committee.
- Board members no longer get paid for mileage to and from board meetings.
- Board members no longer get a monthly stipend for internet and phone usage.
- Chairman, Dennis Venzke has volunteered to clean the town hall free of charge.
- Many failing culverts along our roadways have been reinstalled by our Chairman, Supervisors and Lee. We have been working with Mark's Excavating to replace culverts up to 42" in diameter and 40' in length. Culvert installation costs have been reduced by more than 50%! Six 40' culverts were replaced this summer!
- The bridge on Pickard Avenue (<20' long) was repaired for less than \$500 by doing the work ourselves, similar to the culvert situation.
- Ditches needed to be brush-cut quite badly, as our Case backhoe has been broke down for 2+ years. We sold the backhoe as a mechanic special and hired out our brush-cutting.
- The clerk and treasurer spent many hours re-vamping our accounting procedures. Nearly \$5,000 of fees were returned to the township and the process now allows for the duo to verify each-other's actions.

Some other big things that happened this year:

- A tire collection day was held in October. Expect another collection to be held next fall!
- 1500' of blacktop was laid on Cemetary Road – A project of roughly \$56,000 that was an LRIP project
- Four large culverts on Fence Road were installed by Marathon County – A project of roughly \$120,000
- A bridge was replaced on Holton Road by Radtke Contractors – A project of roughly \$500,000
- A reevaluation of our township was completed – A project of roughly \$39,000 that must be completed every 5 years. Our assessor is Nick Laird of Associated Appraisal Consultants (920)749-1995
- The American Rescue Plan Act was passed and funds were given to our township to help recoup costs such as lost revenue and to create better safety measures. We received roughly \$49,000 this year and will receive the same amount next year. These funds will be used by the end of 2024.

Future Projects:

- Two culverts will be replaced on Drapper Road (just west of the Bruckerville Ave intersection)
- A large culvert will be replaced on Fence Road near the Eau Plaine River
- An LRIP Grant was secured to help update one mile of Fence Road (first mile off of Hwy 13)

Central Fire & EMS

- Holton is one of the 7 members of the district – meetings are held at 7PM on the 3rd Thursday of every month at the Abbotsford Fire Hall and are open to the public. Joe Mueller is our fire chief.
- The Central Fire and EMS District charges \$15 per man hour for fire services. *Please review your property insurance to be familiar with your coverage in the event of a fire.* Please be aware any bills will come from the Central Fire and EMS district office, not from the Town of Holton.
- A new Engine Pumper was ordered and paid for – Roughly \$450,000
- A Stryker Lift was installed in Dorchester's ambulance (now 3 ambulances have a lift) – Roughly \$30,000
- Nearly 900 ambulance calls have been made this year!

****Our safety is only possible with the dedicated group of VOLUNTEERS that answer the calls day and night****
PLEASE THANK THEM!

Other Town Information:

- Recycling collection is held on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at the town garage located on the corner of Fence Road and Rosedale Avenue. Hours are from 8 a.m. to noon. **NO GARBAGE IS ACCEPTED!** Be sure to thank Dan Schreiber for overseeing our collection days! Each resident must contract their own garbage service. We use GFL (formerly Express Disposal), (715)803.2525
- **Town board meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at the town hall located on the corner of Fence Road and Rosedale Avenue at 7:30 p.m.** Notices are posted at Town Hall, Mast Farm Service and County Line Automotive. Any agenda items may be requested through the Chairman or Clerk.
- Building permits are required. Contact Deputy Zoning. UDC rules apply, when applicable.
- Burning permits are not issued by the Town. If you have a legal rubbish pile to burn, please call the Chairman, Marathon County dispatch at 1-800-236-0153 AND your local fire chief so you do not get an unnecessary fire call made to your property. Regular DNR rules apply to all burning!
- **It's against state law to push snow across the roadway and leave ice and snow on the road. It's a hazard and the ice/snow/slush freezes, turning to a hard rock!** Please ensure the area around your mailbox is clear of snow for the postal service, this isn't the township's responsibility.
- ATV Ordinance: ATV's and UTV's are able to ride on marked routes. Reminder, speed limit is 35 MPH and individuals must adhere to DNR rules when it comes to children driving, etc.
- ****MUD ON THE ROADS –** We know it happens, but please have the respect to clean it off the best you can and contact a board member. Mud and manure on roads can be very hazardous and keeping our roadways safe for motorists is a priority! If you don't have the courtesy to work with us and do the best you can, you will receive a bill for clean-up and gravel if needed. When you know you are hauling manure in a certain area, notify Chairman, Dennis Venzke.
- Dust control will be offered again in the spring after roads have been graveled. If you wish to purchase dust control, please call or email Town Clerk, Taylor Ensign. We do not provide dust control in private drives.
- Landlords, please share this information with your renters. If you need extra copies, contact the Clerk.

Enclosed you will find your tax bill(s). Please make all payments by mail. All first payments should be mailed to the following address by **January 31, 2022** and a receipt will be mailed to you.

Paula Ruesch, Town of Holton Treasurer
231198 Pickard Ave.
Abbotsford, WI 54405

***Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year
to you and your family!***

All second payments should be mailed to the Marathon County Treasurer by July 31, 2022.

All individuals, please see complete and return the Dog License form, even if you do not own a dog.