

The Ongoing Challenge of COVID-19

By Cathy Hasslinger, Clerk Treasurer/Business Manager

The people of the Town of Dunn have always risen together to meet challenges and have generously given their time and expertise in times of crisis, need, or weather-related disaster. During tornados, floods, and droughts we have watched people in our community help their neighbors, sometimes even putting themselves at risk to do so. Neighbors have filled sandbags in the rain during floods, assisted residents whose homes were destroyed by a tornado, helped with damage assessments, removed debris and cut trees which were downed in the path of destruction from a tornado. The Town activates its emergency plans and volunteers reach out to learn how they can help. Recovery is a community ethic and a community effort in the Town of Dunn.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented a unique challenge to our town and community response. The tools for managing this challenge are physical distancing and hand sanitizer, among other things. Sharing our physical labor, homemade food, hugs, handshakes, and other ways of supporting each other could exacerbate the situation we are trying to manage. As the Town declared an emergency and activated its plans to follow health department guidelines for meetings and the Spring Primary Election, the people of the Town also got busy finding new ways to support each other. Many were concerned that election workers around the state might be at high-risk during the spread of COVID-19. In response to this concern, Town residents

volunteered to help with the election in record numbers. We didn't have time to train and include all the generous people who offered. Many were concerned that election workers would not have masks or hand sanitizer. A Town resident brought masks to the Town Hall for every election worker. A local distillery changed their production from vodka to hand sanitizer just in time for Election Day. With ingenuity and generosity, people of the Town and broader community have found ways to lend a hand.

I am deeply grateful for the kindness, generosity, and volunteerism, in its many forms in our community. I am also deeply grateful for the incredible efforts made by poll workers and town staff to ensure that over 1700 absentee ballots were issued accurately and timely. Several poll workers were serving for the first time on Election Day, working a 15 hour day, and handling their duties with confidence and grace under pressure. Finally, thank you to our community for being engaged and turning out for elections. Our final voter turnout was 2079, which represents 58% of registered voters. In the Spring of 2016, our last Presidential Primary Election, voter turnout was 71%, well above the state average.

Please read further in this newsletter for information about new ways to interact with the town, keep your projects moving forward, and new ways to participate in Town meetings.

Views From the Chair

Ed Minihan, Town Chair

You will see the Town operational policies elsewhere in this newsletter. We are being as conservative as possible in protecting our staff. Usually in emergencies like tornados and flooding, it is our road crew that is in harms way. This time it is our office staff. They have the greatest amount of exposure and despite that they have all stepped up to carry on the business of the Town. The same goes for our poll workers who volunteered to work at their own personal risk. One of them is my granddaughter. We need our staff healthy so we can carry out the business of the Town, meaning your business. Be aware that the usual surprises Spring brings like flooding, major storms, and tornados are still quite possible. Covid-19 has not given us a break because we already have too much in our plate. We need our staff to protect you. Do your part to protect them.



Photo by Andrea Zacharias

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 4516 County Road B
 McFarland, WI 53558

Attend Town Meetings by Computer or Phone Including the Annual Town Meeting on April 21st at 7pm

There are two ways to join any Town public meeting via Google Hangouts Meet, video with your computer or device or audio with your phone. To attend the Annual Town meeting on April 21 at 7pm:

Video: From your computer or smartphone, go to meet.google.com/qip-jysf-gbh. You may need to allow Google to use your microphone or camera. If you wish to speak or to be seen, please allow access for Google. Your smartphone may ask to download an app.

Audio: If you would rather call into the meeting with your phone, dial 1-628-232-0805 and when prompted, enter PIN 374 307 945#. If you wish to speak, you will need to unmute yourself by pressing *6.

Google Hangouts Meet will be used for future Town meetings. Meeting links and phone numbers will be posted on the the meeting agendas. Agendas can be viewed by visiting dunn.civicweb.net.

Expanded Hours at Transfer Site

The Transfer Site located at 4030 CR-B has expanded hours include Monday and Wednesday from 9am to 3pm until further notice. This should reduce crowding at this popular springtime stop. The Transfer Site will also be open on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays of the month from 8am until 3:45pm. These are the only times that the Transfer Site will be available to the public.

Social distancing of at least 6 feet is required when unloading. Other municipalities have had to close their brush collection sites due to crowding. Please be respectful of distancing so that our site can continue to be available to you. Wait in your vehicle until you see an opening that will allow you to unload and maintain distance. Masks, bandanas, or scarves are recommended to cover your face at the transfer site and when speaking with town staff.

The Transfer Site is open to town residents only. Any changes in operations will be noted on the Town's website. We hope that you find the Town's expanded transfer site hours helpful! For more information about the Town Transfer Site, please visit town.dunn.wi.us/.

Visit Our Town Parks

At the time of this publication, Town parks and trails are still open, however, playground equipment and the Spartan Hills basketball court are closed until further notice. Exercise is important for physical and mental health, so feel free to enjoy our parks, but please be mindful of public safety requirements and maintain at least 6 feet of distance from others. Wear a mask, scarf or bandana over your mouth and nose when passing others on trails, roads, and parks. Please remember that dogs must be leashed and to pick up after your pet. Any changes will be noted on the Town's website.

Need a Copy of Your Tax Bill or a Tax Payment Receipt?

1. Visit AccessDane at accessdane.countyofdane.com
2. Search for your property on AccessDane. Under the photo of your property you will see a blue bar labeled "Tax Information."
3. Print a copy of your tax bill: Click on the "E-Bill" button below the blue bar to open a PDF copy of your tax bill.
4. Print a copy of your tax receipt: Scroll down below the "Tax Information" button and click on click on the "E-Receipt" which is located to the right of the E-Bill button.

How to Obtain a Building Permit

The Town of Dunn will be happy to assist you with obtaining a building permit or with any building permit questions.

1. Retrieve a Building Permit application form by visiting town.dunn.wi.us/permits-forms/.
2. Submit the application form, detailed project description, and copies of any applicable Dane County permits to kshepperd@town.dunn.wi.us.

Arbor Day Celebration Postponed

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the April 25th celebration of Arbor Day has been postponed indefinitely. We will post information on our website and Facebook page if a new date is determined. To help celebrate Arbor Day in a meaningful, albeit limited way, the Town will still plant trees this spring.

Salt Savers Water Softener Program

The Town recently sent a mailer to residents connected to the sanitary sewer system regarding our water softener optimization program. Unfortunately, the mailer arrived in homes at an unfavorable time - just as COVID was beginning here in Dane County. At this time, to prevent the spread of coronavirus, most of our program service providers have suspended in-person service calls for evaluations and optimizations. If you would still like to contact the program providers to see what their individual protocols are in light of the COVID situation, please visit our website for the full list of providers as they have qualified service technicians trained specifically for this pilot program. Visit and search "Salt Savers."

If you are interested in assessing the condition of your water softener in the meantime while in-person service calls are suspended, you can complete a home softener evaluation by visiting www.surveymonkey.com/r/DZPFMK6

We plan to continue this program when public health guidelines indicates it is safe to do so. Once the program is back in full swing, we will publicize the program again.

More information may be viewed by visiting the Salt Savers website at www.madsewer.org/SaltSavers.

Trash, Recycling, & Extra Pick-up

As of now, the Town has been notified that Pellitteri Waste Systems will continue to pick up trash and recyclables as normal. However, please note: **Extra pick-up/ large item pickup has been temporarily suspended until further notice. Spring extra pick-up dates were scheduled for June 4th and 5th. Check the Town's website or Facebook page for further updates regarding Extra Pick-up or large item pickup or contact Pellitteri directly for alternative disposal options. Contact Pellitteri by calling (608) 257-4285.**

Property Assessment Questions?

The Assessor is conducting Open Book meetings by phone, email, or internet video conferencing only. Contact the Assessor to make arrangements for your Open Book session. Open Book inquiries must be made by May 6th, prior to Board of Review on May 12th. Contact the Assessor at 1-800-721-4157 or by emailing info.apraz@gmail.com.

How to Make a Payment

Choose from these payment methods for citations, dog licenses, permits, or other miscellaneous payments:

1. Pay by Check:

Make checks out to the Town of Dunn. Mail checks or place in our drop box located outside of the front of the Town Hall. Our address is 4156 County Highway B, McFarland, WI 53558.

2. Pay Online with a Credit or Debit Card

Visit www.GovPayNow.com. Enter the pay location code of 8430 for citations or 8431 for permits. Then select the Town of Dunn. A small service fee is charged for online payments.

3. Pay by Phone with a Credit or Debit Card

A GovNet agent will be able to assist you with making an online payment. A small service fee is charged for the transaction. Please call 1-888-604-7888 to make a payment over the phone.

4. Pay By Cash

If you can only pay by cash, call the Town Hall to make an appointment.

Note: Online payments provide the quickest turn around time for issuing permits.

How to License Your Dog

There is still time to get your 2020 dog license. Late dog license late fees have been waived until April 30th. Late fees do NOT apply to puppies or new dogs adopted throughout the year. Dog owners applying for a Dane County Dog Park Permit must first obtain a dog license from the Town.

1. Visit town.dunn.wi.us/permits-forms/ to obtain a dog license form.
2. Return the completed form to the Town Hall by mail or by using the secure drop box located in the outside entry way of the Town Hall. Please include payment, a self-addressed envelope with postage, and a current rabies vaccination expiration date. See payment methods above for payment options.

Fees for a puppy or neutered/spayed dog are \$15.00. The fee for un-neutered/un-spayed dog is \$26.00. Your license and dog tag will be mailed in the envelope you provided.

For additional information and future updates, please visit the Town of Dunn website at town.dunn.wi.us.

How to Contact the Town Hall

Town business and services are happening in new ways. Whenever possible, we will assist by email, phone, conference call, or online video meetings. The Town has a drop off/pick-up window for exchange of documents and signatures that is available by appointment.

For Assistance or Questions Regarding:

Contact the Following:

General information, court, citations, dog licenses, and road permits.

Andrea Zacharias
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 201
Cell: (608) 473-5779
AZacharias@town.dunn.wi.us

Accounts receivable, special assessments, accounts payable, tax questions, and voting

Mary Liebig
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 204
mliebig@town.dunn.wi.us

Building, wrecking, and driveway permits, building inspections, salt saver program, and cemetery.

Kelsey Shepperd
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 206
Cell: (608) 481-6234
kshepperd@town.dunn.wi.us

Public works, town road maintenance, and transfer site.

Hardy Krueger
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 207
hkrueger@town.dunn.wi.us

Purchase of Development Rights, rezones, land divisions, planning and conservation, and parks.

Ben Kollenbroich
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 205
bkollenbroich@town.dunn.wi.us

Town Board business, elections, contracts, and emergency response.

Cathy Hasslinger
Office: (608) 838-1081, ext. 208
chasslinger@town.dunn.wi.us

Open Book and property assessments.

Associated Appraisal Consultants
Office: 1-800-721-4157
info.apraz@gmail.com

Curbside trash and recycling.

Pellitteri Waste Systems at:
(608) 257-4285
info@pellitteri.com

Zoning.

Dane County Planning
Office: (608) 266-4266
plandev@countyofdane.com

Land and water resources.

Dane County Land & Water Resources
Office: (608) 224-3730
lwrd@countyofdane.com

Property tax payments.

Dane County Treasurer
Office: (608) 266-4151
treasurer@countyofdane.com