



April 2020

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Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

TOWN ROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY: WHAT IT IS AND WHAT IT ISN'T

Hopefully this newsletter finds you enjoying the hints of spring we have been experiencing recently. The milder winter and lower snowbanks have allowed our road crew to keep busy working on right-of-way clearing instead of constantly working on snow and ice removal.

Recently it has become concerning the increased amount of complaints, rude phone calls and inappropriate emails the Town has received regarding road maintenance. Clearly there is a lack of understanding pertaining to road maintenance and town road right-of-way. I know I am not speaking to everyone in Pleasant Valley because many understand and appreciate the efforts of the town.

For as long as there have been town roads, road maintenance has been a topic of discontent. I'm not saying the Town is above criticism or constructive suggestions, but recently the derogatory remarks have gone too far. Mowing, plowing, sanding, repaving and trimming of right-of way are all subject to differing opinions of acceptance. That being said; road maintenance is the primary function and responsibility of a town and we take pride in that.

Town road right-of-way, as defined in State Statute §82.18, is 66' or 33' each side of the center line of any town road. **The Town has the authority to trim, cut and/or remove any natural or man-made objects within the road right of way.** The property line of private property adjacent to a road starts at that 33' line. In some areas, property owners choose to maintain their yard up to the edge of the blacktop pavement, but that doesn't make the right-of-way their own private property. The Town appreciates residents maintaining the right-of-way adjacent to their property, but said maintenance doesn't prohibit the town from working in this area. Examples of ongoing maintenance include but are not limited to snow plowing, mowing, tree trimming and/or removal of any encroachments.

The Town maintains 67.5 miles of road and as you have read in previous letters we are behind in maintenance with the constraints of our current budget. Tree trimming is one of the maintenance projects that has also fallen behind schedule. Chances are tree trimming has not been done on your road for many years, but again, that doesn't prohibit the town from maintaining the 33' right-of-way.

The Town Board is working on a plan and budgeting to complete more projects in a more timely manner and this includes trimming and/or removing encroachments on roads that we have neglected. The crew may be in your area soon and I sincerely hope you understand.

Again, thanks to those that have extended polite comments, suggestions and understanding for a subject of wide ranging opinions.

It is always a pleasure to serve the town of Pleasant Valley.

Dan Hanson, Town Chairman

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP MAINTAIN THE ROAD RIGHT OF WAY?

Mowing and Trimming The Town has the legal right and annually does mow the road right of way of all town roads. As time permits; trees, low growth and brush within the road right-of-way are trimmed and/or removed. Mowing and trimming is performed for safety and visibility reasons. If you do not wish to have any mowing or trimming done on the right of way along your property, please make sure you keep the area clear of all trees, shrubs and brush and perform the mowing regularly.

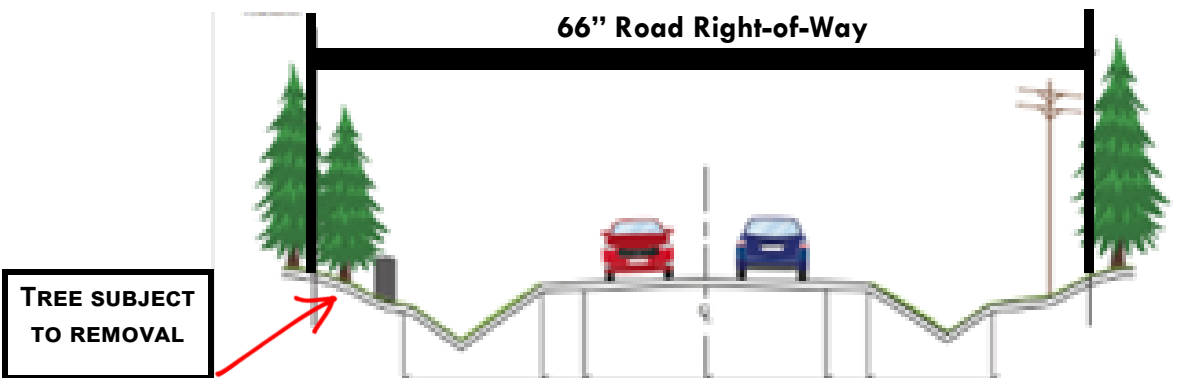
Landscaping Please do not install items (i.e. fencing, landscaping, sprinklers, or lawn markers) within this right-of-way; the Town is not responsible for any damage that may occur to these objects. Large items in the right-of-way can present direct hazard and impede vision at intersections which can pose liability issues. The Town may remove such items at the expense of the property owner.

Tree and Shrub Planting Consider the future when you plant trees and or shrubs along the right-of-way line. As the tree grows and branches protrude into the right-of-way, the branches are then subject to being cut back to the 33' line.

Ditches Do not fill in the ditch in the road right-of-way. Ditches are designed to keep water flowing toward lower lying natural waterways and to collect snow from plowing operations. When you fill the ditch adjacent to your property disrupting the natural flow of water, this could potentially cause damage to the road base and/or direct water toward your or a neighbors home.

Snow Removal It shall be unlawful for any person to leave or place any snow removed from private property in piles or rows upon the traveled portion of any highway open to public travel. It is the responsibility of the property owner to make sure no snow is deposited on any town roadway. Snow deposited on the roadway creates an additional hazard for motorists.

Garbage Cans Please do not place your garbage cans anywhere on or near the traveled portion of the road. Garbage cans should be kept in your driveway and away from the roadway.



Before and After pictures of a tree trimmed right-of-way



2020 Elections - Frequently Asked Questions

Am I registered to Vote? Visit myvote.wi.gov to verify your registration or contact your municipal clerk.

How do I register to vote? In Wisconsin, you can register in the clerk's office any time throughout the year excluding the three days prior to an election, register by mail any time except the 20 days prior to an election, register on Election Day as well as on myvote.wi.gov if your drivers license matches your current address. Other than the online option, you will need to provide a valid proof of residence to complete your registration. Examples of proof of residence are, but not limited to: drivers license, utility bill, bank statement, vehicle registration. The document must contain your name and address. Registration forms are available on myvote.wi.gov and on the town webpage.

How do I request an absentee ballot? Absentee voting can be accomplished in two different ways. The first method is to receive an absentee ballot by mail. Requests are accepted by mail, email or thru myvote.wi.gov if you are registered. Forms are available on our webpage. As soon as ballots are available, the clerk will mail a ballot to anyone who has a valid request on file thru 5pm the Thursday prior to an election. In-person absentee voting will be held the two weeks leading up to an election and end at 5pm the Friday before an election. Check the Town website for available hours and options. All regular absentee requests are required to provide a valid form of photo ID.

A note about third party absentee requests: Over the last number of years, an increased number of third party groups have been providing voters with a postage paid postcard to be mailed to their clerk requesting an absentee ballot. In Wisconsin, you are required to provide a valid photo ID with your request. If you choose to use these postcards, you will need to place them in an envelope along with a copy of your photo ID and mail them to the clerk.

Election Equipment Security: Many voters inquire about the security of the current election equipment. Whether you vote on the touch screen or on a paper ballot, neither piece of equipment is connected to the internet, thus eliminating any chance of interference. Both pieces of equipment are tested for accuracy two times prior to each election and randomly audited post-elections. The touch screen creates a paper ballot for you to verify, so with either method there is always a paper trail should we need to verify any results.

Photo ID Make sure to bring your photo ID on Election Day. Drivers Licenses and passports are the most commonly used. More information is at bringit.wi.gov or contact your municipal clerk.

Contact the Clerk: Please reach out to Clerk/Treasurer Jen Meyer with any questions: 715-878-4645 or townofpleasantvalley@gmail.com. Additional information can be found at townofpleasantvalley.com/useful-information, myvote.wi.gov, or the WI Elections Commission at elections.wi.gov

Exceptions to every rule: Indefinitely confined, military and permanently overseas voters have a few other guidelines and exceptions. Please reach out with any questions if you are one of these voters.

* *The above information is a summary, please visit the listed webpages or contact your municipal clerk for complete information.***

Annual Well Water Test Recommended

Well water testing for nitrate and bacteria should be done annually and any time there is a change in taste, smell, or color. Across Wisconsin, **about 1 in 5 wells may be over the safe level of nitrate** in water. Private wells in subdivisions without sewers and wells in heavily farmed areas have the greatest chance of nitrate pollution. Sample bottles are available from the Town Office or the Eau Claire City-County Health Department. **Free water testing is available for families with a pregnant woman or infant in the home.** Nitrate and bacteria testing costs \$21 each when the test is dropped off at the Health Department.

If your well has unsafe levels of nitrate, bacteria, or other pollutants, the Health Department can recommend more tests or treatment options that can improve the safety of your water.

Contact: Eau Claire City-County Health Department at 715-839-4718 or Audrey.boerner@co.eau-claire.wi.us



Town of Pleasant Valley
Jen Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer
W165 Woodridge Dr
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Town Officials

Dan Hanson, Chairman (715)878-4847
Dan Green, Supervisor (715)878-4476
Doug Nelson, Supervisor (715)878-4918

Jen Meyer, Clerk/Treasurer (715)878-4645
or townofpleasantvalley@gmail.com

Town Shop (715)878-9461
Burning Permits and regulations:
(715)834-6868 and townshipfire.org

Town Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of
each month at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.

NOTE: NEW START TIME OF 7:00PM

townofpleasantvalley.com

Visit our website and you will find all valuable information including: calendars, meeting agendas and minutes, facts, notices, forms and permits, frequently asked questions, budget information and more.

Subscribe to our email list

If you are interested, you can also subscribe to our email list through the website. We will plan on using this list in the future for infrequent notifications.

2020 Annual Meeting

**The Annual Town Meeting will be held
on Tuesday, April 21 at 7:30 pm**

Census 2020

Make sure you participate in the Census. It is very important for everyone to be counted. A few examples of what the results assist with are: allocating money for highways, school lunches, firefighters and families in need to name a few.

**Census results affect your
community every day.**