

February 9, 2012

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Anthony Varda, 798-9999

Supervisors

Don Witmer-Kean, 798-0883

Chris Upper, 798-2286

Jim Laubmeier, 798-1235

Bill Carlson, 798-3898

TOWN OFFICE

Brenda Kahl, Clerk/Treasurer

9046 State Road 19

Mazomanie, WI 53560

767-4152

Fax: 767-3015

Hours: 7:30 – 4:30, except

Wednesday 7:00 – 11:00

Email: twberry@chorus.net

Web: www.townofberry.org

TOWN GARAGE

Orlin Danz, Patrolman

767-3308 (Cell) 444-0359

Hours: 7:00 – 3:30

FIRE WARDENS

Brenda Kahl

767-4152, during office hours

Mike Diebold

798-3000

Anthony Varda

798-9999

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Dean Eppler

Independent Inspections, Ltd.

(800) 422-5220

Town Hall Hours: Fridays, 10:30-11:30

DANE COUNTY SHERIFF

255-2345, Non Emergency

LEGAL NOTICE POSTING

LOCATIONS

Festge Park, DH Repair, Town Hall

CHILI FEST CANCELLED!

Sadly, this year we find that we must cancel our annual Chili Day in Berry. A lack of participation is the main cause – one pot of chili is just not enough upon which to base a party. We will try again next year!

Communications Committee



PRIMARY WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

The Town of Berry will be open for the Spring Primary from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm. A photo ID must be shown prior to receiving or casting a ballot. See article on page 2.

On the ballot:

Judicial – Circuit Court Judge Branch 11

Roger A Allen

Francis X Sullivan

Ellen K Berz

Wisconsin Heights School Board Member

Justine Myers

Sandy Orcutt

Jessica Jens

Ronald C Patterson, Sr.

Jim Schroeder

Terry Zander

Aaron Tigert

Sauk Prairie School Board Member

Mary Fabian

Dwight W Pulsfus

Candace Candy Dainty

Carol Baier

James Malmberg

Ashley Nedeau-Owen

BERRY BREAKFAST BUNCH

On February 11th the Berry Breakfast Bunch will gather at 9:00 a.m. at the Luckenbooth Cafe in Black Earth. All Berry residents are invited to get together with friends and neighbors over coffee and breakfast to enjoy this Dutch treat social event on the second Saturday of each month. Friends and guests are always welcome to join in - sharing spontaneous conversation and having a good time. No agenda. No expectations. No work. Just a fun way to get to know each other better. Please join us!

Karen Upper

PHOTO ID ELECTION REMINDER

Starting with the 2012 February Primary and all subsequent elections thereafter, voters must show an acceptable photo ID before receiving and casting a ballot.

The following photo IDs can be unexpired or expired after the date of the most recent general election (currently, the November 2, 2010 election):

- Wisconsin DOT-issued driver license, even if driving privileges are revoked or suspended
- Wisconsin DOT-issued identification card
- U.S. passport
- Military ID card issued by a U.S. uniformed service

The following photo IDs must be unexpired:

- Certificate of naturalization that was issued not earlier than two years before the date of an election at which it is presented
- Driving receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 60 days)
- Identification card receipt issued by Wisconsin DOT (valid for 60 days)
- Identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian tribe in Wisconsin.
- Photo identification card issued by a Wisconsin accredited university or college that contains a date of issuance, signature of student, expiration date no later than two years after date of issuance. The university or college ID must be accompanied by a separate document that proves enrollment for the current school term.

Brenda Kahl

GARBAGE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Monday, Feb 13 - Garbage Only

Monday, Feb 20 - Garbage and Recyclables

Monday, Feb 27 - Garbage Only

Monday, Mar 5 - Garbage and Recyclables

REMINDER: KEEP TURNAROUNDS, TOWN RIGHT-OF-WAY CLEAR

Please remove all objects and materials now in the road right-of-way, especially in plow and emergency turnaround areas. Items left in the right-of-way could be damaged, or could damage town equipment and could mean that when the snow flies, the road will not be plowed.



DEER ABUNDANCE AND DENSITIES IN WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin DNR annually estimates the size of the population of deer in each deer management unit. Deer population estimates may be expressed in terms of abundance or density. Abundance estimates are the total number of deer estimated for an entire unit. Density can be calculated by dividing the abundance estimate by the area (square miles) within the unit. Density estimates are useful for comparing population estimates among deer management units because they standardize abundance estimates by taking into account the difference in size of deer management units.

Deer population estimates are made for two time periods, a fall or prehunt estimate and an overwinter or posthunt estimate. Posthunt population estimates are annually compared to the deer population goal for each deer management unit as a basis for annual adjustments of antlerless harvest quotas. Population goals and density estimates are usually expressed as deer per square mile of deer range (i.e., suitable habitat).

It is important to keep in mind that density estimates for deer management units are based largely on the number of antlered bucks harvested in the unit. The resulting density estimates are averages for the entire unit and may not accurately reflect local deer density. There can be considerable local variation in density within deer management units due to differences in deer habitat quality and local hunting pressure.

The above information is from the WI DNR website. More details on deer population and a number of maps can be accessed at the following web link:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/HUNT/DEER/maps.htm>

Bill Carlson

BERRY BACKYARD CLUB

The BBC met on February 4th to plan out their activities for the upcoming year. Details will be available by emailing Jane, and in the March Town newsletter.

Jane Varda
jane.varda@tds.net

JANUARY 17 TOWN BOARD MINUTES SUMMARY

(A summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Anthony Varda, Chris Upper, Jim Laubmeier, Don Witmer-Kean and Bill Carlson

Rezone

Buechner Estate, Doug Schwartz, Whippoorwill Rd, rezone of 5.86 acres from A-1ex to RH-2 was approved. Vote 5-0

Advertisement for bids for town garage improvements

The board accepted Cross Plains Construction LLC's garage improvement bid of \$5,925. Vote 5-0

Frac sand mines

The Plan Commission will be updating the Comprehensive Plan to include wording re frac sand mines

Purchasing vehicle to replace 2000 Chevrolet Truck

The Highway and Capital Equipment Committee has recommended getting another Ford and Dodge bid.

Personnel and Policy Manual and the Handbook Receipt and Acknowledgement document was approved. Vote 5-0

Amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinance, Regarding the Keeping of Poultry on Residential Lots was approved. Vote 5-0

Kurt Meier was hired as a part-time snow plow driver. Vote 5-0

Purchase Stihl pole pruner

The board approved purchasing from Niendorf Enterprises for \$300. Vote 5-0

Authorize Web Committee to spend up to \$300/year on web hosting

The board authorized the Web Committee to renew our hosting contract for no more than \$300 a year. Vote 4-0. Varda abstained.

Committee Reports

*Black Earth Fire District: Purchased \$4,000 worth of tires; Mitch Hodgson is the new Fire Chief; cost to repair building leakage is around \$10,000

*Parks Committee: Looking into a matching grant for the shelter and soccer field

Adjourn: 9:30 pm

Brenda Kahl

INTERESTING VISITORS?

Santa brought me a trailcam for Christmas this year. Cool! It is very interesting to see all the creatures who visit when I am not watching. Here is a picture of the coyote who likes to drink at my spring at night. I've lived in Berry for 10 years, and have heard coyotes many times and seen their tracks, but have only seen three in the flesh. Do you have an interesting picture of wildlife that has visited you in the Town? Send them to me and we'll publish the best ones in the newsletter whenever space permits. Large and/or unusual animals will receive precedence. Please send electronic pictures to christine@gorstvalleyhops.com and put the phrase "wildlife picture" in the subject. Include in the email message any information to help tell the story of the picture. On a related note, we are taking an informal "unusual animal" survey. Have you (with your very own eyes or with a trailcam) seen any of the survey animals in Berry within the last 5 years? Email me at the address above, putting the phrase "survey" in the subject. Tell me what, when, where, and how many and we'll publish results next month.

- Bear
- Armadillo
- Feral pig
- Wolf
- Cougar
- Badger
- Box turtle
- Lizards of any sort

Christine Molling



DISTRICT ONE EMS BREAKFAST

Sunday, February 12th from 8:00 a.m. – noon at the Mazomanie Community Building. Adults \$7.50, Seniors \$6.50 and kids under 12 \$3.50. Serving: eggs, apple sauce, pancakes, sausage, toast and beverages. All you can eat!

SNOWY OWLS HAVE ENTERED WISCONSIN IN RARE MASS MIGRATION

Bird enthusiasts are reporting large numbers of snowy owls (native to the Arctic tundra) throughout the upper United States (including Wisconsin) this winter. Thousands of these snow white birds which stand 2 feet tall, and have 5 foot wingspans, have been spotted from Idaho to Massachusetts. A certain number of these owls fly south from their breeding grounds every year, but rarely have this many birds made such a large mass migration.

This year's event is believed to be related to a large decline in the population of lemmings, a small rodent that accounts for 90% of the snowy owls diet. Snowy owls fly south, out of their native range in search of food. Unfortunately a food starved owl was found dead in Wisconsin this winter. Snowy owl populations are believed to be in decline, possibly due to factors such as climate change and lemmings competition with waterfowl for vegetation such as native grasses.

Take a look at the tree lines, and look for white!
Don Witmer-Kean

THE WISCONSIN BADGER PROJECT

As most Wisconsinites know, the American badger is our state animal and has long been part of Wisconsin's heritage. Wisconsin is known as the "Badger State" and since 1957 the badger has been our state animal. Despite the badger's long history with Wisconsin, little is known about this species in the state, and therefore, badgers are a protected species. Hunting and trapping of badgers in the state is illegal and can result in substantial fines. The Wisconsin Badger Project is being launched to provide critical information about the elusive and nocturnal badgers which can aid in establishing effective management programs to maintain and help the survival of our most famous animal. Please report any sightings of live animals, potential burrows, or road killed animals, as part of the states study to the following contacts: Phone 414-229-4245, or email badger@uwm.edu
Don Witmer-Kean

CLEAN SWEEP WINTER SEASON HOURS

The Clean Sweep Program for recycling household hazardous waste will be open with new winter hours. This is the first such seasonal expansion of the program. Dane County is trying out a limited winter season during these hours:

January 1st through April 27th
Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm

Due to the fact that the existing facility is located on an outdoor site, they are limited with the services they can provide during these new winter season hours. The Product Exchange will NOT be open. Latex paint will NOT be accepted. (Winter Option - allow the paint to dry completely and then throw in trash). Will NOT be collecting water based cleaners and other non-hazardous materials that can be safely flushed down your drain or thrown in your trash. (Winter Option - flush or throw in trash as appropriate, or save to bring to Clean Sweep in May for us to give away in our Product Exchange).

Location: Dane County Highway Garage property, 2302 Fish Hatchery Road. On the corner of Fish Hatchery & Badger Roads behind the Dane County Highway Garage on the north end of the property.
Phone number: (608) 243-0368
Public Health Madison & Dane County

FEBRUARY IS PRUNING TIME

Late winter is the perfect time to prune your trees and shrubs. Pruning trees and shrubs while they are dormant and before the sap is up is the least stressful time for them. The leafless conditions now are ideal for spotting damaged, diseased or rubbing limbs that need removing. Pruning in late winter also reduces the chance of spreading disease, such as oak wilt, which is caused by an insect borne fungus.



There are a few trees and shrubs that are exceptions to the February pruning rule. Lilacs and other early bloomers should be pruned after they are done flowering to give you an opportunity to enjoy their wonderful color and scent. You may also wish to prune maples, elms, birches, dogwoods and elms mid-summer to avoid excess spring sap leakage. Proper pruning techniques can be found at http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/publications/tree_pruning_brochure.pdf.

Call a professional arborist to remove heavy limbs, limbs near power lines or any pruning tasks that can't be done from the ground.

Christine Molling, WI DNR, Organic Gardening Magazine

TOWN OF BERRY BOARD MEETING

February 20, 2012, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy. 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes of January 17, 2012
3. Public Comments: You may address the Board on any item not on the agenda. A discussion item may be placed on a future agenda. Public comment may be heard on any agenda item either now, or at the time the agenda item is to be discussed, or at the discretion of the Town Chair at any other time the agenda item is discussed.
4. Discussion/approve/disapprove
 - A. (2012-1) Garen Pletzer & Melissa Schweke, 5007 Enchanted Valley Rd, rezone 10.794 acres from RH-3 to A-2(8) and a conditional use permit for a limited family business. PC Vote 5-0
 - B. (2012-2) Douglas & Laurel Schwartz, Whippoorwill Road, driveway permit application. PC Vote 5-0
5. Discussion/action re 2011 audit
6. Discussion/action re memo from MSA, Erik Sorenson, on options to replace the Spring Valley bridge
7. Discussion/action of purchasing vehicle to replace 2000 Chevrolet truck
8. Discussion/action re confirming representation agreement with Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
9. Discussion/action re status of re-inspection of property at 6127 and 6137 Old Settlers Road
10. Discussion/action re Resolution 2012-2, Establishing Public Participation Procedure for Comprehensive Plan Amendment
11. Set date and time for Open Book and Board of Review
12. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Payment of bills
13. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
14. Discussion of future agenda items
15. Adjourn

Persons requiring additional services to participate in a public meeting should contact the Town Clerk at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560. 767-4152 townberry@chorus.net

As of February 16, 2012 the final agenda will be posted on the website and the town's three posting locations. The board attempts to finalize the agenda prior to the distribution of the newsletter.

EBOOKS AT THE GARFOOT LIBRARY

Did you know that you can check out electronic books at the Rosemary Garfoot Library in Cross Plains? The library system's Overdrive eBook collection is now compatible with the Kindle, Nook, and Reader as well as other mobile devices. To get started right away go to the Digital Download Center at the Garfoot Library website <http://www.scls.lib.wi.us/csp/>.

Rosemary Garfoot Library

HISTORIC AIR PHOTOS ON LINE

The Wisconsin State Cartographer's Office hosts a website from which you can obtain digital copies of historical aerial photography of Wisconsin, including the Town of Berry. The air

photos over Berry are from a 1937 survey. It is very interesting to compare what has changed and what has stayed the same! See for yourself by visiting the Wisconsin Historic Aerial Image Finder web page at <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/whaifinder/whaifinder.html> and *carefully* read the directions. It is a little confusing at first how to get images, so read the directions and don't be afraid to start over if you get stuck. A word of warning: this web site requires quite a bit of bandwidth, so if you do not have a high speed internet connection, you may wish to look at the site from the library or during break time at work. Christine Molling, WI SCO

CALENDAR

All meetings are at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy 19, Mazomanie, unless otherwise noted.

February 2012	
Monday, Feb 13, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Feb 13, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, Feb 16, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Monday, Feb 20, 6:30 pm	Roads & Capital Equipment Committee Meeting
Monday, Feb 20, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 21, 7am-8pm	Spring Primary
Saturday, Feb 25, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, Feb 27, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Feb 27, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Tuesday, Feb 28, 7 pm	Web Committee Meeting
Tuesday, Feb 28, 7 pm	Cross Plains EMS District Meeting, Cross Plains Fire Building
Tuesday, Feb 28, 8 pm	Cross Plains Fire District Meeting, Cross Plains Fire Building
March 2012	
Thursday, Mar 1, 7:00 pm	Black Earth Fire District Meeting, Black Earth Fire Station
Monday, Mar 5, 7:30 pm	Plan Commission Meeting
Thursday, Mar 8, 6:30 pm	District 1 EMS Meeting, District 1 EMS Building
Monday, Mar 12, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Mar 12, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, Mar 15, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Monday, Mar 19, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Saturday, Mar 24, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, Mar 26, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Admin. Center
Monday, Mar 26, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium

This calendar is advisory only. Consult the 3 legal posting locations for legal notices.



9046 State Road 19
Mazomanie, WI 53560

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