

October 8, 2009

TOWN BOARD

Chair

Anthony Varda , 798-9999

Supervisors

Tim Henneman, Sr., 798-4690

Chris Upper, 798-2286

Jim Laubmeier, 798-1235

Sue Studz, 798-4410

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: twnberry@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

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET SET FOR OCTOBER 26, 7:30 PM

YOUR CHANCE TO SET THE TAX LEVY

In Wisconsin, some powers and responsibilities are reserved only for the citizens of the Town. In all other municipalities, counties, states and the federal government, powers of government are reserved to elected representatives.

Only citizens of Towns (rather than their elected representatives) gathering in town meetings, have the power to set the Town tax levy, establish limits on spending for roads, determine the salaries of elected representatives, and a few other things. The Town Board subsequently approves the budget within the constraint of the levy and highway-spending limit set by the electors.

A special town meeting at which **Berry residents will determine the tax levy and set a limit for the highway budget for the Town** will be held Monday, October 26, 7:30pm.

Unfortunately, participation in Town meetings has been traditionally rather light. For example, the 2005 Town levy was determined by a majority of about 20 electors present. Another 800 or so of us stayed home. As a result, some important decisions are made by a small group of citizens who are neither elected to represent the Town nor are a majority of Town citizens.

MOTORCYCLE MOVIES AND POPCORN TO BE OFFERED PRIOR TO PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET

Come to the Town Hall half hour before the Town budget hearing, Monday, October 26, and enjoy free popcorn, soda and “biker movies.”

From 7-7:30, thanks to Berry Communications Committee member and MATC Motorcycle Riders Course instructor Steve Webber, you can learn about motorcycle riding as well as tips for sharing the road with cycles. Steve has selected sections from Motorcycle Safety Foundation films for our viewing pleasure, including interesting public service announcements from Australia. – *Sue Studz*

STATE TAX COLLECTIONS DOWN IN 2008-09

The state Department of Revenue reports that 2008-09 general fund tax collections were \$11.17 billion, 7% below 2007-08. The three major taxes were all down: Corporate income, -21.7%; individual income, -8%, and sales, -3.8%.

STATE REDUCES AID TO TOWN

September 28, the Town Board met to prepare the 2010 budget. Given the revaluation and the state of the economy, the Board crafted a budget with LESS expenses than 2009.

On the revenue side, Town revenues will drop due to a reduction in state aid. In addition to shared revenue, the state provides aid for transportation, recycling, and minimal computer aid. Most of the reduction in state aid is due to reductions in the shared taxes area.

– Sue Studz

WISCONSIN STIMULUS MONEY TRACKER

More than \$7.6 Billion in federal stimulus money has been allocated to Wisconsin. For info on how and where stimulus money is flowing, go to <http://www.jsonline.com/news/wisconsin/44713312.html>. The site includes a map of the state. Click on Dane County to learn where federal stimulus dollars are being spent. Unfortunately, the Town of Berry, like most Towns, did not qualify under any of the grants given.

– Contributed by Tony Varda

PLAN NOW TO RUN FOR TOWN OF BERRY BOARD

Get involved in your local government. Learn about the Town while contributing to helping Berry run efficiently. Two of the 5 board seats (#3 and #4 now held by Jim Laubmeier and Sue Studz) are up for election in April.

The board meets monthly. Term runs 2 years, and board members are compensated. Questions about serving? Ask Town Clerk Brenda Kahl or any board member.

To run, get a registration packet from Brenda. Sign a declaration of candidacy by the end of the year. Collect signatures from at least 20 Town residents to be submitted in early January. The process is neither difficult nor time consuming.

–Sue Studz

TDS REPORTS NO STIMULUS MONEY FOR BERRY DSL

Earlier this summer, TDS urged Berry officials and residents to forward stories about why we need high speed internet service for all Berry. They asked us to help make the case for federal stimulus funds to help their company provide the service. We did.

Recently we learned that Berry's appeal was, in fact, not included in TDS's application for federal stimulus dollars. Apparently, we did not make TDS's first cut. According to Berry resident, Steve Richter, who recently talked with TDS Marketing Manager, Al Ripp, in all probability, TDS will not be able to provide us the service without additional funding. Unfortunately it seems TDS is able to block other carriers from providing the service.

The Town remains committed to high speed internet service to all Berry. In fact, one of the updates to the Comprehensive Plan adds high speed internet as an official goal. The issue is expected to be discussed at the Good Neighbor committee (a group of local municipality officials working together on common issues). Steve Richter reports that Sauk County is contracting with a private firm to use 911 lines for high speed service. – Sue Studz

BERRY AND TOWN OF CROSS PLAINS BOARD MEMBERS MEET

In the spirit of intergovernmental cooperation, the Town of Cross Plains Board members met with Berry Board members on September 21, before Berry's scheduled Board meeting to discuss common issues. Both boards expressed interest in meeting again to continue sharing ideas and discuss coordinating plans on adjacent lands.

– Sue Studz

DANE COUNTY TOWNS ASS'N DISTRICT # 6 MEMBERS MEET

Eighteen Town Board members from the Towns of Berry, Cross Plains, Dane, Roxbury and Springfield attended a joint dinner meeting at the DorfHaus in Roxbury September 23 to discuss weight limits on our Town roads, and the need to provide consistency within our collective area. Jim Pulvermacher, Town of Springfield, is District 6's representative on the Board. Jim initiated this first meeting. – Sue Studz

TOWN OF BERRY BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY



We probably captured your attention with that headline—especially if you’ve been negatively affected by today’s dismal business climate. However, we must give fair warning for what would be needed to take advantage of this opportunity.

A job description might read: “Must love working outdoors and performing manual labor. Must have about \$10,000 start-up money. Must be willing to wait 3 years for profitability (then can expect to gross around \$20,000/acre). Best to have at least an acre of land in which hops rhizomes would flourish: they love moisture (but not ‘wet feet’), sun, and protection from wind.”

Yes, you guessed it, we’re talking about growing hops for local breweries. No, really, it’s not a crazy idea. Hops used to be a huge crop in southern Wisconsin. In 1867, Sauk County produced 1/5th of the nation’s hops harvest.

In 2007, our own Town of Berry resident, James Altwies started Gorst Valley Hops (GVH). He’s a horticulturist who has traveled extensively—for example, he saw first hand how farmers in South America were able to profitably grow various vegetables on small plots of land.

He saw that profitability can be accomplished when a business such as GVH processes farmers’ hops (breweries only want hops in the pelletized form); sells the hops to a willing market of regional and craft breweries; and, then, returns 70 percent back to the farmer. GVH could, also, help set up operations and provide technical support.

Altwies did his research—he found no shortage of microbreweries eager to buy locally grown hops (presently, beer makers must import hops from Pacific Northwest or Europe).

James (pictured above on the left) was so convincing that his Gorst Valley neighbors, Thad and Christine Molling, became two of his partners. The Mollings planted hops on an acre of their land this past spring.

Wouldn’t it be fun if the Town of Berry took back the previous southwest Wisconsin honor of producing 1/5th of the nation’s hops?

For more about GVH, go to their Website www.gorstvalleyhops.com. Or contact James at james@gorstvalleyhops.com or 608-334-8012.

–David and Char Ohnstad



LEAF THEM BE

Back in the day, everyone’s favorite way to dispose of autumn leaves was to burn them. While the nostalgic smell of leaf smoke may conjure up nice memories, today’s advice is to “leaf them be”. Burning leaves create sooty smoke that pollutes our air and can cause adverse health reactions in the very young, elderly, and persons with sensitivities, such as those with asthma.

Think of your leaves as a natural resource instead. You can use your leaves in all sorts of eco-friendly ways:

- Use them as a mulch for your perennials
- Use them to insulate your root crops so you can harvest into early winter
- Chop them to tiny bits with your lawn mower and use as a nutritious mulch for your lawn
- Add them to your compost heap
- Make “leaf mould” by composting them alone
- Take them to the county yard waste site on Hwy 19, east of Waunakee, where they will be composted
- Use them for scarecrow stuffing

–Christine Molling

FOUR THUMBS UP FOR THE TABLE BLUFF SECTION OF THE ICE AGE TRAIL

On September 2 Judy Swenson, my cousin, and I walked the recently completed segment of the Ice Age trail from the parking spot at the trailhead approximately 0.3 miles west of KP on the south side of Table Bluff Road to the shelter and education placards overlooking the wetlands and Sheele Road at the southern end of the trail section. The distance is approximately 2.3 miles.

It was a beautiful day and the trail was recently tended and provided a splendid walk through natural prairie, oak savannahs, and wooded hillsides. The trail was well marked and nicely terraced on the hillsides so the walk was pleasant and with occasional educational markers and exhibits. Judy's only complaint was that she didn't bring her flower, bird, and geology handbooks to identify all the things we saw along the way. Enjoy it before deer hunting season in November. It took us about 2 hours because of the things to see and read. On the return trip we took an alternate trail--marked by a white rectangle on the trail posts--that seemed a little shorter.

–Steve Webber

BE CREEK WORK PARTIES NEED VOLUNTEERS

Join the Natural Heritage Land Trust, the Southern Wisconsin chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the DNR for a morning of volunteering along Black Earth Creek on either October 24th or November 14th (or both!) at Black Earth Creek near Cross Plains, 8:00 am to noon.

Help cut vegetation on DNR-owned lands to improve habitat and public access to the stream. The work party will run from 8 am to noon. Stay for lunch provided by Trout Unlimited. Plan to bring waders (or tall boots) to cross the stream, leather work gloves, hand tools if you have them (loppers, small saws, etc.), water, and work clothes appropriate for the weather. Anyone over age 14 is welcome.

Meeting place and time: Salmo Pond parking lot at 8:00 am. (south of Highway 14 on Scherbel Road).

If you plan to attend, an RSVP is helpful, but not necessary. Contact Kate Wipperman at 258-9797 or kate@nhlt.org.

*–Kate Wipperman, Conservation Specialist,
Natural Heritage Land Trust*

SEPTEMBER TRAILS AND GOOD NEIGHBORS COMMITTEE NEWS

The September meetings were held at the Town of Mazomanie Town Hall. The Trails Subcommittee started about 6:30 with the GNC meeting following at about 7:45.

The Trails Subcommittee presented their 6 step master plan for discussion and approval from the larger Good Neighbor Committee. Included was the subcommittee's preliminary plan showing preferred location of trails. This is step #2 of their master plan to get the GNC acceptance before holding a public hearing.

The GNC requested some sort of cost estimate as part of this step. A discussion revealed this project may not be a 4-million dollar per mile project as originally thought. An estimate is still needed in order for the communities involved to make an informed decision regarding the proposed multi-use trail's benefit to them and whether it warrants their investment.

Step #3 for the Trails Subcommittee is a public presentation and input meeting. This will probably occur in two sessions on the same day to allow more people to attend. A date and location for these public input meetings is to be set at the next GNC meeting.

The GNC committee has finalized their bus tour to study the Highway 14 corridor. The traffic studies from WI. DOT are now being made public and some surprising findings have arisen. A lot of traffic apparently is not increasing from west of the Cross Plains Village suggesting that perhaps a bypass may not be the answer to all the questions.

A 4-hour bus tour of potential trails and bypass routes is planned for October 17th starting in Middleton at 8:45 am from the Walter Bauman Aquatic Center. If you are interested in studying the historic and environmental sites AND planning traffic routes for the future, you can RSVP to tour organizer/Berry Board member Tim Henneman at tjhenneman@wisc.edu.

The next Trails Subcommittee and Good Neighbors Committee meetings will be held October 21, 2009 at the Town of Black Earth Town Hall in the lower level at 1116 Mills St Black Earth. Everyone is welcome.

– Tim Henneman

SUMMARY OF SEPTEMBER 21, 2009 TOWN BOARD MINUTES

(This is a summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Town Board.) Members present: Anthony Varda, Jim Laubmeier, Chris Upper, Sue Studz and Tim Henneman

Driveways

*Randy Schoenemann's, 5026 Brewery Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

*Fran Tourdot's, 5535 Otto Kerl Road, field road permit was approved. Vote 5-0

Intergovernmental agreement with Village of Cross Plains regarding reimburse for all aspects of costs of maintenance of Brewery Road

Discussion only. Chair will speak with Village of Cross Plains President concerning agreement and then board will review status of intergovernmental agreement at the October meeting.

Update Chapter-9 Section A, Chapter 10 and Attachments A-C of the Comprehensive Plan

The board approved adoption of recommendations to the Comprehensive Plan as modified. Vote 5-0

Night Light Ordinance will be drafted.

Ordinance Amendment #16, 2009-2010, amending Chapter 10 of the Dane County Code of Ordinances, regarding preservation of topography near property lines

was approved. Vote 5-0

Public Budget Hearing & Special Town Meeting of the Electors

The meeting will be October 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. Vote 5-0

Committee Reports

***Black Earth Fire District:** Purchase of a new squad was pushed back to 2010, replacing a 1990 model.

***Cross Plains Berry Fire District:** A no increase budget was created by using approximately \$8,400 from sale of old engine and leftover capital from purchase of new engine.

***Cross Plains Berry EMS District:** Another no increase budget. Future capital spending includes a defibrillator in 2010 at \$30,000, ambulance in 2011 at \$175,000 and radio system update in 2012 of \$10,000.

***Highway Commissioner:** Issued a digging in the right-of-way permit for David Kerl on Far View Road. Scheele Road culvert replacements will be delayed to 2010.

***Dane County Towns Association:** The 2010 budget levy cap was raised \$300 per entity. Discussed how the cost is proposed to be shared for the interoperable radio network due to operating costs increasing.

***Good Neighbors Committee:** Printing of trail maps was discussed. There will be a bus tour on October 17 of Hwy KP and 14; side trips to park and ride lots, business parks, and trail locations; sensitive environmental areas; and railroad corridor.

***Communications Committee:** First movie night will be prior to Public Budget Hearing on motorcycle and car confrontations, etc. Discussed changing website provider.

***Email** from Diane Meinholz was reviewed.

Future Agenda Items

*Review status of Intergovernmental Agreements with Village of Cross Plains

*Driveway Ordinance wording dealing with water being directed from its natural direction

*Discussion/comments/action on Village of Cross Plains maps

*Discussion of future meetings with the Town of Cross Plains

*Revising the Applications Guide to include Attachment A of the Comprehensive Plan

*Funds for printing trail maps

Adjourn: 9:39 pm

- *Brenda Kahl*

OCTOBER 5, 2009 PLAN COMMISSION MINUTES SUMMARY

(Summary of the minutes not yet approved by the Commission) Members present: Anthony Varda, Jim Laubmeier, Steve Richter, Alex Gemrich and Carl Evert

Driveways

Thomas & Sharon Linley's, 8131 W Hill Point Road, final driveway was approved. Vote 5-0

Comprehensive Plan updates were set over to next meeting

Adjourn: 7:41 pm

- *Brenda Kahl*

THINK FRUGALLY, GET YOUR BERRY NEWS ONLINE

Are you currently receiving the newsletter "snail mail?" Would you like to receive it electronically? Contact Brenda Kahl twnberry@chorus.net. Save paper, ink, and postage, while getting your newsletter earlier and in color! A reminder that the last 6 months newsletters are archived as pdf's on the Town's website www.townofberry.org.

Notice of Town of Berry Public Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that on October 26, 2009 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall, 9046 State Road 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560 a Public Hearing on the proposed budget for the Town of Berry will be held. A detailed account of the proposed budget is available at the town hall. The budget summary is posted pursuant to 65.90 (3)(a)1 of Wisconsin Statutes.

Notice of a Special Town Meeting of the Electors of the Town of Berry on October 26, 2009 immediately following completion of the Public Hearing on the proposed budget. A Special Town Meeting of the Electors called pursuant to Section 60.12 (1)(c) of Wisconsin Statutes by the Town board will be held for the following purposes:

1. To approve the total highway expenditures for 2010 pursuant to Section 82.03 of Wisconsin Statutes
2. To consider the adoption of a resolution by the town meeting endorsing the town board resolution which proposes that the town levy will exceed the state levy limit under 66.0602 of Wis. Statutes by 6.97% which would be a dollar increase of \$33,641 over the town tax levy limit for 2008 of \$448,376

Levy including EMS & Fire districts actual 2008 = \$480,765

Levy including EMS & Fire districts proposed 2009 = \$482,017

3. To adopt the 2009 town tax levy to be paid in 2010 pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(a) of Wisconsin Statutes.

	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	%	Change	
Balance January 1					
Designated:					
Highway Contingency	\$21,258	\$0			
Cemetery	\$1,930	\$1,930			
Parks – Shelter Fund	\$530	\$270			
Professional Fees	\$1,000	\$2,000			
Undesignated – General Fund	\$231,266	\$265,914			
Revenues – General Fund					
Local Levy	\$384,266	\$386,909	+0.69%		Local Levy \$386,909
Other Taxes	\$6,369	\$6,000			plus
Intergovernmental	\$147,434	\$131,120			Fire & EMS Budgets
Licenses & Permits	\$11,545	\$12,693			C.P. EMS \$8,470
Charges for Services	\$33,026	\$34,734			C.P. Fire \$17,647
Investments/Interest	\$4,438	\$5,000			Dist. 1 EMS \$2,352
Miscellaneous	\$3,099	\$400			B.E. Fire \$17,197
Town Park Shelter Fund	\$270	\$0			C.P. Debt Service \$37,395
Total Revenues	\$590,447	\$576,856	-2.30%		B.E. Debt Service \$12,047
					Total Fire & EMS \$95,108
Expenditures – General Fund					
General Government	\$121,599	\$116,226			Total Levy \$482,017
General Operating	\$19,238	\$21,104			
Health & Human Services	\$2,500	\$2,739			
Parks	\$836	\$600			
Highways	\$378,155	\$376,951			
Miscellaneous/In Lieu of Tax	\$4,203	\$6,130			
Sanitation	\$49,786	\$53,106			
Total Expenditures	\$576,317	\$576,856	+0.09%		
					2009 TOTAL LEVY to be paid in 2010 \$482,017

Balance December 31

Reserved:

Cemetery	\$1,930	\$1,930
Parks – Shelter Fund	\$270	\$270
Professional Fees	\$2,000	\$2,000
Unreserved	\$265,914	\$265,914

Debts:

C.P. Fire Building/EMS addition loan	\$289,976
B.E. Fire Truck loan	\$42,770
Dist 1 EMS building loan	\$42,440
C.P. Fire Truck loan	\$59,812

Town of Berry Board Meeting

October 19, 2009, 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 9046 Hwy. 19, Mazomanie, WI 53560

Draft Agenda

1. Call to order
2. Approve minutes of September 21 & 28, 2009
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 marked with an asterisk (*) or at the discretion of the Town Chair.
4. Approve/disapprove/action
 - A. *(2008-4) Thomas & Sharon Linley, 8131 W Hill Point Road, final driveway approval
PC vote 5-0
5. Discuss/action on Accurate Appraisals 2010 Agreement for Maintenance
6. Discussion/action on an assessment revaluation question and answer policy
7. Discussion/comments/action on Village of Cross Plains maps
8. Discussion of future meetings with the Town of Cross Plains
9. Budgetary Matters
 - A. Payment of bills
 - B. Funds for printing trail maps/GNC
10. Committee reports/Correspondence/Communications
 - A. Fire Districts
 - B. EMS Districts
 - C. Other
11. Discussion of future agenda items
12. 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 twnberry@chorus.net

As of October 15, 2009 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

GARBAGE PICK-UP SCHEDULE

Monday, Oct 12 - Garbage Only
Monday, Oct 19 - Garbage and Recyclables
Monday, Oct 26 - Garbage Only
Monday, Nov 2- Garbage and Recyclables
Monday, Nov 9- Garbage Only
Monday, Nov 16- Garbage and Recyclables
Monday, Nov 23- Garbage Only
Monday, Nov 30- Garbage and Recyclables

BERRY BREAKFAST GROUP MEETS SATURDAY, Oct. 10

Berry residents are invited to a monthly Dutch treat breakfast this Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m., at Luckenbooth Café, Black Earth. Nicknamed the Berry CHICKS, men and kids are invited too. No agenda, no expectations, no politics, no work. Just a chance for new residents and long timers to meet and connect with each other. Look for a table of people on the left side of the café

CALENDAR

October 2009	
Monday, Oct 5, 7:30 pm	Plan Commission Meeting
Monday, Oct 12, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Administrative Center
Monday, Oct 12, 7:00 pm	District 1 EMS, Membership Meeting, Mazomanie Public Safety Building
Monday, Oct 12, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, Oct 15, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Saturday, Oct 17, 8:45am	Good Neighbors Bus Tour (leaving from Middleton High School)
Monday, Oct 19, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct 21, 7:30 pm	Good Neighbors Committee Meeting
Saturday, Oct 24, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, Oct 26, 7:00 pm - Public Budget Hearing & Meeting of the Electors	
Monday, Oct 26, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Administrative Center
Monday, Oct 26, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
November 2009	
Monday, Nov 2, 6:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Administrative Center
Monday, Nov 2, 7:30 pm	Plan Commission Meeting
Thursday, Nov 5, 7:30 pm	District 1 EMS, Council Meeting, Mazomanie Public Safety Building
Monday, Nov 9, 7:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Administrative Center
Monday, Nov 9, 7:00 pm	District 1 EMS, Membership Meeting, Black Earth Fire Station
Monday, Nov 9, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium
Thursday, Nov 12, 7:00 pm	Communications Committee Meeting
Monday, Nov 16, 7:30 pm	Town Board Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 18, 7:30 pm	Good Neighbors Committee Meeting
Saturday, Nov 21, 7:30 am	Plan Commission Site Visits, on location
Monday, Nov 23, 6:00 pm	Middleton - Cross Plains Area Board of Education Meeting, District Administrative Center
Monday, Nov 23, 7:30 pm	Wisconsin Heights School District Board of Education, Middle School Auditorium

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

This calendar is advisory only. Consult the *News Sickle Arrow* or the 3 legal posting locations for legal notices.



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**HELP SET THE TAX LEVY
AT BERRY BUDGET
HEARING OCTOBER 26**