

Town of Port Washington

2020 Winter Newsletter

PROPERTY TAX BILLS &

PAYMENTS

IN FULL & FIRST INSTALLMENT:

2020 Tax Bills were mailed in early December. The full amount or first installment will be due to the Town of Port Washington by Saturday, January 30, 2021.

BY MAIL:

Include the tear off stub for the 1st installment or full payment with your check made payable to **Town of Port Washington** and mail to: (Include a self addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt.)

Town of Port Washington Treasurer
2354 Willow Road
Port Washington, WI 53074

DROP BOX @ Town Hall (New option this year) Located on the south doors of the town hall. Please include your statement and check, along with your phone number.

BANK: Port Washington State Bank, 206 N. Franklin St., Port Washington is the only bank that payments will be received at. Payment accepted during lobby hours.

** If you have a refund coming, payment at the bank is suggested. Refunds can only be made after the entire tax bill has been paid.*

IN PERSON: at the Town Hall:

December: **Mondays: Dec 21 & 28 - 9:00am—Noon**
Wednesdays: Dec 23 & 30 - 1:00 pm—4:00 pm
Thursdays: Dec 24 & 31 - 9:00 am—Noon
Saturdays: Dec. 19 & 26 - 8:00 am—Noon

January: **Monday: Jan 18 & 25— 9:00 am—Noon**
Wednesdays: Jan 20 & 27 - 1:00 pm—4:00 pm
Thursdays: Jan 21 & 28 - 4 pm—6 pm
Saturdays: Jan 23 & 30 - 8:00 am—Noon

SECOND INSTALLMENTS or late First Installments: The Town cannot accept second installment payments or late first installment payments. Payment is only accepted by the Ozaukee County Treasurer. Due by July 31, 2021. Mail or in person to: Treasurer, 121 W. Main Street, Port Washington, WI



Your Town Board:

Chairman:

Mike Didier
414-573-0018

Supervisors:

Greg Welton
262-370-6207
Gary Schlenvogt
262-483-7712

Building Inspector:

Rick Fellenz
414-651-0021

Treasurer:

Mary Sampont
262-284-5394

Clerk:

Heather Krueger
262-284-5235

Town Hall Hours:

Monday & Wednesday
9:00 am—4:00 pm

Or by Appointment

Phone: 262-284-5235

Email: clerk@town.port-washington.wi.us

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

www.town.port-washington.wi.us

TOWN MEETINGS:

All Meetings are held at the Town Hall, 3715 Highland Drive

Town Board Meetings: **The Town Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7:30pm.**

Planning Commission Meetings: **The Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm.**

*Annual Meeting of Electors—3rd Tuesday of April

*Board of Review & Open Book with Assessor—TBD, Spring

*Town of Port Washington Public Hearing, meeting of Electors to pass Levy—November

All meetings are posted at the town hall & on the town website.

**These meetings will be posted and also published in the Ozaukee Press*

Agendas of upcoming meetings and also Minutes of past meetings can be found on the Town Website. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome you to attend. If you would like to have an item placed on the agenda of either the Town Board or Planning Commission meeting, please notify the Town Chairman, Mike Didier or the Town Clerk, Heather Krueger no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting. It remains at the discretion of the Town Chairman whether or not your item will be discussed.

ELECTIONS

The 2020 election season was quite the undertaking with COVID-19 and the Presidential election! The Town of Port Washington residents set a record with voter turnout! 1049 voters cast their ballot for the General Election; 330 voters took advantage of voting absentee by mail, 343 in-person absentee and 375 at the polls.

2021 Election: Town residents voted in April, 2020 to have the Town Treasurer become an appointed position beginning in April 2021, so the treasurer position will not be on the ballot.

Are you interested in having input on decisions made by the Town Board? The Town Board Chairman and Supervisor offices are up for reelection in April 2021. If you are interested in running, please contact the clerks office. The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1st. Papers can be picked up at the town hall. The completed packet needs to be filed with the Clerk no later than 5PM, Thursday, January 2, 2021.

VOTING LOCATION, Wards 1 & 2

Town Hall
3715 Highland Drive



To Register to Vote:

Register online at: myvote.wi.gov

Register to vote in person at the Town Hall any time before an election or on election day. You will need to provide at least one form of ID showing residency in the town for a minimum of 10 days. Any document used as proof of residence MUST include your current address and complete name, your current and complete residential address. Examples of proof of residency: drivers license, utility /phone bill or bank statement.

PHOTO ID: It is now a law that photo id: driver's license, military ID or Passport, is provided before voting

To Vote Absentee:

Register online at: myvote.wi.gov

Keep in mind that if you plan to vote Absentee, you need to fill out the WI Application for Absentee Ballot every year, unless you have checked the box on the form that says you're Indefinitely confined, which will add you to the Absentee list until you take yourself off. You can also find the forms and link on the towns website: <https://www.town.port-washington.wi.us/>

2021 ELECTIONS

February 16, 2021

Spring Primary

April 6, 2021

Spring Election

Interested in working the election polls? Call the Clerk at 262-284-5235 and ask for information on how to become an election inspector

Can I Burn in the Town of Port Washington?

By: Mike Didier Town Chairman

A common question received by the Town from residents is "Am I allowed to burn?". The short answer is yes, you can burn in the Town of Port Washington. But does that mean you can light a car on fire that you don't want anymore? Obviously, the answer is no. This article will attempt to give a general, non-legal opinion on the matter.

Based upon what I have heard through the years as a Town Board member, and as a lifelong resident of the Town of Port, it seems most residents and property owners like the fact that they can burn in the town. Also, it seems to me, most people prefer that the town does NOT enact an ordinance outrightly banning open burning, as most cities, villages, and even some towns do.

If you read the town meeting minutes from the 1960s, you'd probably find both the amount of discussion and invoice charges forwarded from the city fire department due to grass fires almost comical (ironically, many of these minutes were destroyed 20 years ago in the town hall fire). These many grass fires that were the result of people burning stuff led to the creation of the town's first Burn Ordinance in the 1960s. This ordinance has been modified several times over the years, most recently in 2013 when the word "rubbish" was removed from the list as an allowable burnable item. The DNR asked the town to remove "rubbish" because many people interpreted the word as "garbage", which cannot be burned per state law including tires, asphalt roof shingles treated lumber etc. The current Burn Ordinance can be found on the town's website and below for your reference, the highlights include:

- Permits are NOT required to burn in the town
- Burning is NOT permitted at night (other than recreational fires)
- Burning garbage is NOT permitted
- Burning when it is windy is NOT permitted (other than recreational fires)
- If the fire department is called to a property, the property owner will be charged the actual cost related to the call

And yes, I know "recreational fires" is not defined and I myself have attended some large "recreational fires" in the town over the years.

It's also worth mentioning that burning is never allowed by a business or municipality without a license from the DNR. In short, without a DNR woodburning facility license, open burning of any waste whatsoever at a business or municipality is illegal per WI NR 502.11 (as always there is an Agricultural Exemption to NR 502.11).

BURNING ORDINANCE 2013-02

The Town of Port Washington has an ordinance in place regulating burning of grass, brush and related Materials and fire hazards

§60.55 and §60.555 of the WI Statutes empowers the Town Board, by ordinance to prevent, detect, and suppress fire and related fire hazards within the Township, and to charge fees and levy taxes for the cost of fire protection services. This ordinance states:

1. Burning of clean wood, dry grass, leaves or brush within the Town, including but not limited to beach fires, bonfires or open pit or other recreational fires, shall notify the Oz. Co. Sheriff Dept. prior to burning.
2. Burning shall be limited to dry grass, dry brush, dry leaves and dry weeds which can reasonably be disposed of without undue risk or hazard to human life, property and the environment. The person burning shall observe reasonable fire safety precautions and take all necessary action to contain the fire throughout the duration.
3. No person shall burn, or allow to be burned, any liquid or other materials which are prohibited from being burned by state or federal law or environmental regulations. Without limitations, those include: tires, shingles, furniture, plastic or rubber products, oily substances, rubbish, garbage, asphalt, and hazardous, toxic, noxious and/or flammable liquids or materials.
4. Except in the case of beach fires, bonfires, open pit fires or other recreational fires, **no person shall commence or continue burning after sunset or before sunrise.** No burning of any kind shall occur when the wind exceeds 15 miles per hour. All fires shall be a safe distance from buildings, and in full view of the size and intensity of such fire, wind and other weather conditions.
5. Failure to provide prior notice to the Sheriff Dept., failure to maintain, control or extinguish any fire so as to result in injury or damage to persons, property or the environment; or the burning of improper or prohibited materials; or allowing a fire to escape so as to endanger persons, property or the environment; or the burning of improper or prohibited materials; or allowing a fire to escape so as to endanger persons, property or the environment and requiring the attendance of any Fire Department to extinguish such fire or prevent such damage or injury, shall cause such person, or the property owner upon whose premises such fire is commenced or allowed to be commenced, to be charged the actual costs of such fire protection or suppression services provided, and imposition of such forfeitures, penalties and liability for damages as may be permitted by law.

Drop off site - things to remember

Keep doing your part!

The Town of Port Washington is one of the only townships in Ozaukee County that does not charge for trash or recycling!

Please be mindful when separating your recycling: Recycled products to not include plastic bags of any type. Any food item in or on a recycled product is not recyclable—please clean recycling products before separating.

Do your part ~ Recycle!

- ◆ Please respect the hours posted, the attendant needs time to open/close the site.

- ◆ Limit of 5 bags weekly . Only household garbage is accepted, no construction or yard waste allowed.
- ◆ Please enter from the south side of Highland Dr. to allow for drive-through traffic.
- ◆ Please pull to the side if you plan to socialize so your neighbors can continue to drive-through in a timely manner.
- ◆ A Town resident card which is available from the clerk, or your driver's license with current address may be necessary if the attendant does not recognize you.

TRASH & RECYCLING

Located at the Town Hall, 3715 Highland Drive is open for Town of Port Washington Residents

DROP-OFF

HOURS:

THURSDAYS:
4:00PM—6:00PM

SATURDAYS:
8:00AM-NOON

The following items should not be placed in the commingled recycling bin



No aerosol cans	No medicine or orange medicine bottles	No dishes or ceramics
No batteries	No motor oil bottles	No plant or landscaping pots
No black plastic	No yard waste	No lightbulbs
No bulky items/furniture	No packing from toys/electronics	No scrap metal
No containers that hold hazardous materials		No cookware
No plastic bags or film	No Styrofoam	

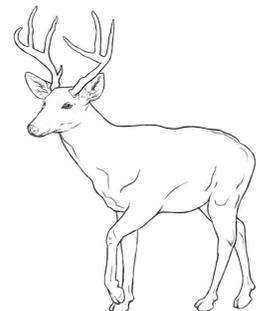
Car-Killed Deer (CKD)

The WI Dept of Transportation has an annual contract to remove all car-killed deer from State Highways, and Ozaukee County uses the Highway Dept. staff to remove CKD from any County Highway or local roadway.

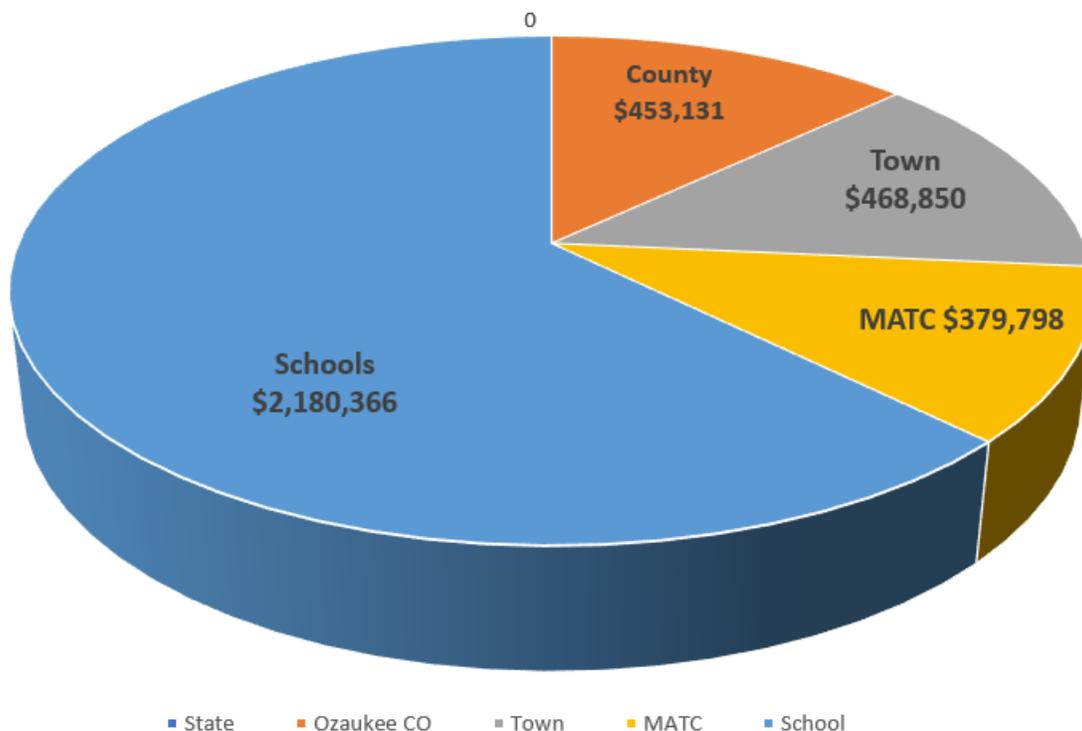
The funding for the removal of CKD is from the Ozaukee County Public Works Committee.

CKD calls are typically directed to the Sheriff's dispatch. They will notify the WisDOT CKD Contractor or the County staff depending on the CKD location.

If you encounter a CKD on the road, please call the Ozaukee County Sheriff at 262-284-7172.



Where Town of Port collected tax money goes



DID YOU KNOW: The planning commission and Town Planner has researched the availability of residential zoned single-family lots within the Town of Port Washington. As of August, 2020, below is the location and number of vacant lots where a building permit would be issued for single family homes.

Estimated # of Vacant Residential Lots in the Town as of Aug. 2020

Lange Estates	13
Northwoods Lane	1
Rolling Hills	1
Burbach CSM – Lakeshore Dr	2
Freier Fields CSM – Sunset Road	2
Plier Farm CSM – County Road LL	2
Willowcrest Estates – Hillcrest Dr	3
Dixie Highlands Subdivision	7
<u>Gantner CSM – Hillcrest Dr</u>	<u>4</u>
Total	35

BUILDING PERMITS:

Building permits and planning project applications can be printed from the Town website: <https://www.town.port-washington.wi.us/>

Permits are required for any structural changes, re-modeling and alterations, additions, basement and/or garages. Also, replacement of heating equipment, plumbing, new electrical. A permit is not required for residing, window or door replacement as long as there are no structural modifications or the first re-roof. If you are unsure or have questions please call the Building Inspector.

Rick Fellenz 414-651-0021
fellenzrick@gmail.com



TIME TO RENEW YOUR DOG LICENSES! Fill out the enclosed form and include it as a separate payment with your tax payment.

Regulations and Guidelines for Licensing your dog are governed by Ozaukee County under WI State Statues §174

TOWN ROADS UPDATE:

2020

Northwoods Land and Norport Drive were both resurfaced this past summer. Repair was on the Dixie Road bridge. Road repair work was completed on Willow Lane, Green Bay Road, Mink Ranch, and Highland Dr.

2021

will include the annual Road Tour, which takes place in Spring. It is when the Town Board members tour and rate all the Town roads. This is performed to anticipate which roads will need repairs. The Town will possibly be resurfacing Hawthorne Dr.

Winter

The Town will continue using private contractors to remove snow and to salt/sand Town roads. The Town participates in an early buy salt program with the state. Road salt is purchased at a discounted rate by committing to the purchase early in the year, and storing the salt ourselves. We have two licensed storage facilities in the Town where over 100 ton of salt is currently being stored. By using private contractors and self-purchasing the salt, the Town is able to save you tax dollars!

Please use caution this winter, and keep in mind that this is a rural area and perfectly clear roads will not always be possible. Please do not follow plow trucks closer than 200 feet. Pushing your driveway snow onto or across a Town road, or into the right-of-way is illegal. Please keep all right-of-way's free from snow piles or any personal items.

GRANTS: The Town of Port Washington received grant funds to help off set the costs associated to the COVID-19 pandemic.

WEC CARES Subgrant program awarded the Town \$1393.71. These funds covered additional expensed due to the election.

ROUTES TO RECOVERY Grant will be reimbursing the Town \$21,648 for expenses directly related to COVID-19. Some of the expenses submitted were the following: additional funding to cover the cost of the elections: Election supplies to support absentee voting, wages related to public safety response including cleaning pay and hazard pay for election inspectors. Clerk expenses for absentee related materials, pay for additional hours to process absentee ballots, general office supplies. PPE items, Town hall items including: chairs, tables, mounted drop box, message boards, Plexiglas partitions.

Town of Port Washington
Town Hall
3715 Highland Drive
Port Washington, WI 53074

