

Town of Port Washington

2023 NEWSLETTER

PROPERTY TAX BILLS & PAYMENT

IN FULL & FIRST INSTALLMENT:

2023 Tax Bills were mailed in early December. The full amount or first installment will be due to the Town of Port Washington by **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**

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:

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

(Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt.)

DROP BOX @ Town Hall: 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: The town Treasurer will be available at the Town Hall the following hours:

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| Mon. Dec 18: 9 AM—Noon | Thurs. Jan 18 & 25: 4 PM—6 PM |
| Wed. Dec 20 & 27: 1 PM—4 PM | Mon. Jan 22 & 29: 9 AM—Noon |
| Thurs. Dec 21 & 28: 4 PM—6 PM | Wed. Jan 24 & 31: 1 PM—4 PM |
| Fri. Dec 22 & 29: 9 AM— Noon | Sat. Jan 20 & 27: 8 AM—Noon |
| Sat. Dec 23 & 30: 8 AM—Noon | |

SECOND INSTALLMENTS or late first payments: The town cannot accept either, Payment is only acceptable to the Ozaukee County Treasurer by July 31, 2023. In person or mail to: Ozaukee County Treasurer, 121 W Main St., Port Washington, WI 53074.

TOWN MEETINGS: New in 2024, Town Board and Plan Commission meetings will begin at 7:00 PM

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 7:00pm.
- ◆ Planning Commission Meetings: The Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.
- ◆ 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.

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.



Town Board:

Chairman:

Mike Didier

414-573-0018

mike@mikedidier.com

Supervisors:

Greg Welton

262-370-6207

weltonbuilders@yahoo.com

Gary Schlenvogt

262-483-7712

Gary.town.port-washington@gmail.com

Building Inspector:

Roger Kison

414-333-4511

rkison@wi.rr.com

Treasurer:

Mary Sampont

262-284-5394

Treasurer@

townofportwashingtonwi.gov

Clerk:

Heather Krueger

262-284-5235

clerk@townofportwashingtonwi.gov

Plan Commission:

Melissa Alexander

Chuck Baranek

Randy Noll

Ed Potokar

Melissa Alexander

Town Planner/ Zoning Adminis-

trator:

Christy DeMaster

Trilogy Consulting

262-470-2277

ccramer@trilogy-llc.com

ELECTIONS

REGISTER TO VOTE! Plan ahead and make sure you are registered to vote prior to election day! Proof of residence is required when registering. If you are new to the town, have moved within the township, or have a name change, you will need to register to vote. This can be done in the Clerk's office, but it is easiest to register online at myvote.wi.gov. You can also register at the polls on election day, but there could be long lines, so plan accordingly.

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you are a registered voter, you can request an absentee ballot after January 1, 2024, for an individual election or the entire calendar year. The Post Office cannot forward election material, so please make sure you are putting the correct address on your request if you will be out of town.

The WI Election Commission has approved a new Voter certificate envelope and a new mailing envelope. The directions are similar to the envelopes in the past. Please make sure the certificate envelope is filled out correctly by yourself and your witness or your ballot will not be accepted.

ELECTION WORKERS: If you are interested in working at the polls on election day, contact Clerk Heather Krueger. Duties include checking in and registering voters, initialing ballots, processing absentee ballots and end of night closing procedures.

2024 Election Dates

February 20: Spring Primary Election (to be determined)

April 2: Spring Election & Presidential Preference Vote

August 13: Partisan Primary

November 5: General Election



Visit MyVote.wi.gov to:

- ✓ Register to vote
- ✓ Name or address change
- ✓ Request and track absentee ballots
- ✓ Find polling place
- ✓ Review voting history

SNOW PLOWING OF TOWN ROADS

New this winter season, Ozaukee County Highway Department will be responsible for plowing all town roads.

For the past decade all town roads were plowed by Dave's Excavating and JJ's Landscaping. Beginning this winter season, they have decided not to renew the contract with the town. The town published bids seeking service from other contractors, but no bids were received. The Town Board worked with Ozaukee County Highway Department to establish service for the town, which will begin this winter season.

What does this mean for residents? Hopefully no one will notice the change in contractors and we will continue to receive exceptional service from the County. They may have a different schedule of when town roads are plowed compared to last year, be patient. If there are any issues, residents can contact the Ozaukee County Highway Department directly at 262-284-8331.



PRACTICE SAFETY WHEN OUT WALKING /BIKING ON RURAL ROADS

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation reminds pedestrians and drivers to stay alert to keep roads safe.

State Law requires drivers to:

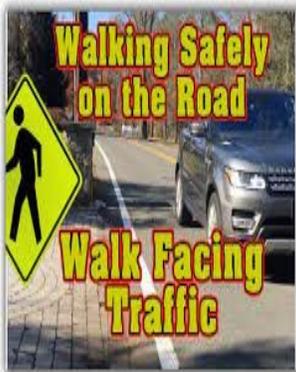
- Yield to pedestrians on roads and driveways
- Yield to pedestrians crossing a road or highway in a marked or unmarked crosswalk
- Not overtake nor pass a vehicle that stops for a pedestrian or bicyclist crossing the road

Other helpful reminders for drivers: Slow down, be alert and put your phone down.

To stay safe, the WisDOT recommends pedestrians:

- Yield to drivers when crossing a road where there is no intersection or crosswalk
- Not suddenly move into the path of an approaching vehicle that can't stop in time
- Walk on the left side of a road when a sidewalk is not present.

Other helpful reminders: Pay attention, cross only when it is safe, don't drink and walk, take extra care at night or dusk, provide proper supervision and training for children.



Looking for agenda's? Meeting minutes? Town contacts? Forms or permits? Check out the town's website for all the information you're looking for!

www.town.port-washington.wi.us

All About The Annual Town Meeting of Electors

By Mike Didier, Chairman

Towns, unlike village, city, county or state governments are the only form of government in WI where residents have the ability to self-govern to the degree of directly voting for their own property tax rate, among other things. The Annual Town Meeting of Electors should not be confused with monthly meetings of the Town Board where the day-to-day administrative issues of the town are handled by your elected town officials. Each April the Annual Meeting of Electors is held and town electors (residents) exercise their statutory authority over government of the town.

The powers that may be exercised by the people at the annual town meeting, and that are binding on the town, are enumerated in WI Statutes §60.10 and the list is lengthy. It could be said that the most important power of the town meeting of electors is the ability to levy taxes to be spent by the town. The meeting may levy a dollar amount—say \$100,000, or set tax rates, like a dollar/\$1000 on the taxable property in the town. Some other powers of the electors are:

- Fix compensation for town offices
- Combine certain town offices, such as clerk with treasurer or clerk with assessor
- Establish or abolish the office of constable
- Establish election of town board members by means of numbered seats.

The electors can also grant certain authority to the Town Board such as authorize the Town Board to purchase or sell land, approve highway and bridge expenditures, and authorize the Town Board to appropriate money in the next annual budget. Again, the complete list can be found in WI Statutes §60.10.

This summary should not make any town residents feel that the business of town meetings is too complicated for them to become comfortably involved. Every year, thousands of towns residents across Wisconsin actively participate in annual and special town meetings. Although all aspects of the meetings should be handled in conformance with the statutes, regular citizens who are not lawyers have participated in our annual meeting for over 150 years, and the town has prospered. We will continue to prosper if citizens of the town of Port Washington continue to do their part in town government.

Hope to see you at the next Annual Town Meeting of Electors on Tuesday, April 16, 2024

Assessment Information:

Each year, residents are given the opportunity to meet at the Town Hall with the Assessor during Open Book hours to discuss their current property assessment. If you choose after that meeting to appear before the Board of Review to contest your assessment you will need to submit the necessary objection form in advance and receive an assigned appearance time. The burden of proof lies with the property holder to provide their case for change in assessment. Look for Open Book dates, typically in May or contact the Assessor. Contact information is on the town website. www.town.port-washington.wi.us

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TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON DOG LICENSES

OWNER'S NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

Owners Address: _____

Name of Dog: _____ Breed: _____ Color: _____

Dog Sex: Male Female Spayed Neutered (Rabies certificate required with application.)

FEE'S: SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOGS \$3.00 each FEMALE OR MALE DOGS: \$8.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON

Include all the dogs you own, add additional pages if necessary ADDITIONAL FORMS ARE ON THE TOWN WEBSITE





TRASH & RECYCLING

The new DROF-OFF SHELTER is Complete! Thank you to all town residents and our diligent, conscientious, and dependable attendants Jim and Tim VanHoogen for all your patience during the process of moving the drop-off site to the new sheltered location without service interruption. The town purchased the property in 2017, tore down the abandoned duplex that was on the site, and then began to make plans to build the shelter. 2023: the shelter is complete, and the town has paid for the land and building by budgeting each year and is currently debt-free.

As a reminder, any recyclables need to be clean for the item to be able to be recycled. Dirty glass, plastic, and metal containers that contain food debris are not recyclable and ultimately need to be removed causing the cost of recycling cost to go up. **If you are unable or unwilling to clean the recyclable, please dispose of it in the trash and do not put it in with the recyclables.**

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN THE COMINGLED RECYCLING BIN:

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN THE COMINGLED RECYCLING BIN:



Keep doing your part!

The Town of Port Washington is the only township in Ozaukee County that does not charge for trash or recycling! Please be mindful when separating your recycling: Recycled products should 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. All plastics #1-7 are allowed (except for foam cups or packing materials) . Limit of 5 bags of trash weekly, no construction or yard waste is allowed.

HOURS: THURSDAY 4:00 PM—6:00 PM and SATURDAY 8:00 AM—NOON

DIXIE ROAD

Dixie road is a shared road in the town.

Along with the Town of Belgium, the townships have applied with the Department of

Transportation for a grant to rebuild the bridge that goes over Sauk Creek. This grant will cover 100% of the cost to rebuild the bridge. There are minimal costs involved, but will be shared with Belgium. The current bridge has been in place since 1951.



Dixie Road has become longer! Ozaukee County has completed a jurisdictional transfer of the entirety of County Road P from Ozaukee County to the Towns of Port Washington & Belgium. The name has been changed from CTH P to Dixie Road.

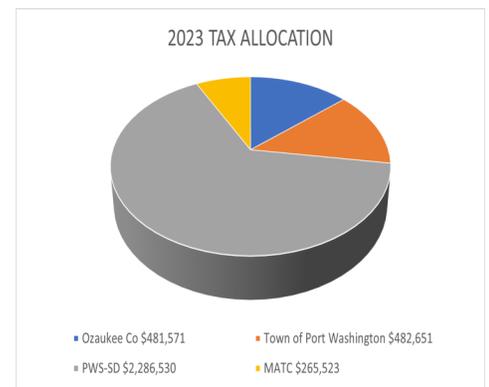
TOWN TAXES

Town officials are often asked how collected tax dollars are spent. The pie chart shows how property taxes collected during the 2023-2024 tax season will be allocated.

The total amount of property taxes collected will be \$3,516,275. About 14% or \$482,651 is allocated to the Town to run the municipality. The town will also be using a grant in the amount of \$170,000 for road work. The majority of the expenses for the town include:

- *Road Construction Projects- \$ 190,000
- *Road Maintenance- \$ 50,000
- *Snow & Ice Removal- \$ 45,000
- *Disposal & Recycling- \$ 47,750
- * Fire Protection— \$140,000

The Town Board continue to explore ways to maintain the quality of Town services, while negotiating for the best price.



2023 Statement of Taxes: \$3,516,275

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|----------------------------|----------|
| County Tax Levy: \$481,571 | = 13.69% |
| Town Tax Levy: \$482,651 | = 13.72% |
| PWSSD Levy: \$2,286,530 | = 65.02% |
| MATC Tax Levy: \$265,523 | = 7.55% |