

TOWN OF SPRINGFIELD NEWSLETTER  
November, 2009

Office Hours: The office is generally open at the Town Hall from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Occasionally meetings or errands may alter that time frame, so you may want to call ahead at 849-7887.

### TOWN BOARD MEETING TIMES

The Town Board holds their regular monthly meetings on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. Meetings begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall (6157 County Highway P). Agendas are posted at the Town Hall, Bong Excavating and the parking lot at the corner of Church Rd. and Co. Hwy. K and at [www.townhall@town.springfield.wi.us](mailto:www.townhall@town.springfield.wi.us). If a meeting time should be changed, it will also be posted. Our official newspapers are the Waunakee Tribune and the Middleton Times-Tribune. To be placed on the agenda contact the Clerk at 849-7887.

### PLANNING COMMISSION

The Planning Commission meets the first Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall upon demand. The Commission hears zoning and re-zoning requests, land division requests and amendments to Dane County zoning ordinances. They act in an advisory capacity to the Town Board. Please contact the Clerk to be placed on the agenda and to file the necessary papers for your request.

### BUILDING PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

The Town contracts with the firm "Independent Inspections, LTD." for a building inspector. Office hours are Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall or call # 1-800-422-5220 anytime. **Permits are required for all new residential, agricultural and commercial buildings. Remodeling may also require a building permit.** Re-siding, re-roofing and finishing of interior surfaces (e.g. carpeting) shall be exempt from permit requirements. Dane County also requires zoning and erosion control permits. We suggest that you call 266-4266 with questions regarding their regulations.

### TOWN BOARD MEMBERS

Don Hoffman, Chairman  
Jim Pulvermacher, Supervisor 2  
Art Meinholz, Supervisor 3  
Dan Dresen, Supervisor 4  
Dave Laufenberg, Supervisor 1  
Sherri Endres, Clerk Treasurer  
Bernie Laird, Assessor  
Jan Barman, Office Assistant  
Mark Grosse, Road Patrolman

### PLANNING COMMISSION

Jeff Gabrysiak, Chair  
Karen Crook  
George Pasdirtz  
Kate Hetzer  
Jeff Endres  
Jim Pulvermacher  
Scott Laufenberg

A drop box is available at the Town Hall. It is located just outside the front door.

Springfield Town Hall: 849-7887 (Voice mail is available 24 hours a day.)

Fax: 849-6187

New Email: [townhall@town.springfield.wi.us](mailto:townhall@town.springfield.wi.us)

Web site: [www.townhall@town.springfield.wi.us](http://www.townhall@town.springfield.wi.us)

## 2010 BUDGET and What Does It Mean To My Tax Bill?

It seems everyone is talking about budgets – the Town of Springfield is no exception. In fact we thought it our responsibility to inform you before you get your tax bill in the mail what is happening locally.

**What about the local levy limits?** The local units of government have a levy limit imposed on them by the State of Wisconsin.

**What does that mean?** It means that we can only increase our local levy "tax" amount for the

town 3% or net new construction % whichever is greater. As you can imagine in these economic times the town only had a 1.376% growth rate increase so the town can only raise their levy 3%. **Well that's a good thing – right?** At first blush one would think – well good that will hold down taxes at least locally. However, since our revenues from the state have been cut and costs for just about everything are up we found we needed to trim \$28,000.00 from our expenses. Sadly about the only place to cut from is our road budget. Throughout the history of the town we have done little to no borrowing preferring to save for large expenses (i.e. major road projects, town hall addition) until we could pay them in full. Since 2008 there are very little funds being put aside for the future as the current costs are consuming our levy limit. Town boards know this is not good for the long term financial picture of a town. Sooner or later road(s) will need a major improvement not just a “band-aid” and/or a piece of equipment will become too costly to repair and should be replaced.

**So then what happens?**

Levy limits do not apply to debt payments. Therefore if our costs out weigh our revenue we have to borrow. All of the fire and EMS buildings were built about 50 years ago and so two out of three of the districts we belong to have decided to build new or do major renovations within a two year time span. There is no way our town budget could allow for all this without borrowing. Following is a listing of the debt we are responsible for.

\$315,500.00	10 yr. loan	Middleton Fire	4.2% interest
162,000.00	10 yr. loan	Waunakee Fire	TBD
123,000.00	10 yr. loan	Waunakee EMS	3.7% interest
15,367.00	5 yr. loan	International Town Truck	– Final payment 2010

Operating Costs for some of the Fire and EMS have also increased

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010.</u>
Waunakee Fire	27,538.00	30,344.00
Middleton Fire	83,000.00	84,752.00
Middleton EMS	6,994.00	12,641.00
Waunakee EMS	9,923.00	9,923.00
Cross Plains EMS	10,010.00	10,010.00

These costs have to be part of the local town tax which will see an increase of 8.6% or \$1.75 to \$1.90 per thousand of assessed value. Therefore the town tax on a \$250,000.00 home will go from \$437.50 to \$475.00.

Your tax bill is comprised of 5 taxing jurisdictions which can all see increases and also includes your refuse/recycling charge for the upcoming year. You pay taxes to:

1. State of Wisconsin -
2. Dane County
3. Town of Springfield + 8.6%
4. Your School District
  - Waunakee +13.58%
  - Middleton-Cross Plains +12.10%
  - Sauk-Prairie +14.47%
5. Vocational School: Madison Area Technical College +1.31%

Every property tax payer pays these taxes regardless of whether you have children attending any

of these schools.

Like many people all staff and elected or appointed officials will experience a wage freeze in 2010. **When can I expect my tax bill so I know for sure the amount I will owe?** State Statute requires that all property tax bills be mailed by the third Monday in December. A reminder also that you only have to pay ½ of your bill by January 31, 2010 and the other half will be due to the Dane County Treasurer by July 31, 2010.

We are providing this information so that you can better prepare for your tax bill and any increases that you may expect.

**WI TRIVIA:** DID YOU KNOW that in 1849 the State of Wisconsin legislature organized its Towns (not Townships) for the purpose of Township government? So when asked where you live be sure to say the "Town of Springfield".

### **2010 Census**

It doesn't seem that long ago but 10 years have passed and it is time for the 2010 census. Funding for education, food grants, transportation, roads, programs for the elderly, emergency food and shelter are just a few of the benefits the town receives based on our census numbers. The census also determines the number of seats our state will have in the House of Representatives and where the legislative districts are drawn. The 2010 census will only be using the short form with 10 easy questions. All information gathered is completely confidential and census workers face fines of \$250,000.00 and/or 5 year prison term for disclosing any information. The questionnaires will be sent out in mid-March 2010 which will be here before we know it. Every person living in the town needs to be counted, so we all can benefit from the funding that will be available to us. Watch future newsletters for further updates.

### **Election News for Local Town Offices**

**The first day to circulate nomination papers is December 1, 2009 and final day for filing nomination papers is January 5, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.** A minimum of 20 signatures is needed to be placed on the ballot. All necessary papers are available from the town clerk treasurer. If a primary is necessary, the primary will be held on Tuesday, February 16, 2010. The spring election will be April 6, 2010. Offices up for election are:

Office: Town Board Supervisor III

Incumbent: Art Meinholz

Office: Town Board Supervisor IV

Incumbent: Dan Dresen

All terms are for two years and begin on April 13, 2010. The Town Board currently meets twice a month the first and third Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and a per diem of \$45.00 is paid. For more detailed information on responsibilities, please feel free to contact the clerk treasurer at 849-7887.

### **NEW AGRICULTURAL BUILDINGS NEED BUILDING PERMIT**

**Beginning January 1, 2010 all new agricultural buildings will need to obtain a building permit.**

Contact the building inspector at 608-849-7887 Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1-800-422-5220 anytime and ask for the inspector to call you.

Before starting any projects you should also check with Dane County (#266-4266) to see if you need permits for storm water run off or erosion control and to check on set backs, flood plain and driveway issues. Avoid having your project delayed once you have started by getting all necessary permits prior to breaking ground. Thank you for your cooperation.