



EAU CLAIRE COUNTY, WISCONSIN
5750 Old Town Hall Road • Eau Claire WI 54701
(715)834-3257 • Fax (715)834-3325 • <https://townofwashington.wi.gov>

TOWN OF WASHINGTON NEWSLETTER

Vol. 47 No. 2 ~ December 2025

Incorporation Update: Your Voice Matters as We Enter a Major Milestone

By Town Board Chair Bob Solberg

The Town of Washington has officially entered one of the most important phases in our incorporation journey. Following extensive preparation and community input, our Incorporation Petition has advanced to review by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (WDOA) and the state's Incorporation Review Board. This is the most significant and challenging stage of the process, and your continued involvement is essential.

Public Hearing Set for December 17 — Your Participation Matters

As part of the state's review, the Incorporation Review Board will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 17, at the Town of Washington Municipal Building, from 4–6 p.m. Both in-person and virtual attendance options will be available to ensure all residents can participate.

This hearing is a legislative-style session designed to help the Board determine whether our petition meets the requirements of Wisconsin Statutes. It is also the community's opportunity to speak directly to decision-makers about why becoming the Village of Washington is important for our future.

Your voice has been central to this effort, and now is the time to make it heard. You're welcome to attend, offer testimony, and leave whenever you need. The hearing will continue until everyone who wishes to speak has had the opportunity.

Incorporation Review Board Public Hearing
Town of Washington Municipal Building
December 17, 4 PM – 6 PM

Why Your Testimony Is Critical

Community members play a key role in demonstrating:

- The value of local control and community-led decision-making
- The long-term benefits of incorporation
- How our petition meets the standards outlined in Wisconsin Statute 66.0207
- The importance of protecting our identity, services, and planning authority

If you have a perspective or story about why incorporation matters, this is the moment to share it. We will soon publish a guide on the Town website to help residents provide impactful public testimony. This resource will include helpful do's and don'ts to ensure everyone feels confident and prepared.

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What Happens After the Hearing

After the public hearing, additional written comments may be submitted to the WDOA until January 9, 2026.

If approved, the petition then moves to the Eau Claire County Circuit Court to order a referendum, giving residents in the incorporation area the opportunity to vote on officially forming the Village of Washington.

The latest information will be available on the Town website at:

<https://townofwashington.wi.gov/government/incorporationupdates/>



Winter Regulations and Reminders

School bus routes and hills are always given first priority. The larger the snowfall, the more time it takes to plow; we encourage you to be patient. When possible, our drivers begin their routes in the middle of the night before commuters and school buses are on the road; however, depending on the timing of the snowfall this is not always possible. The Town Road Department plows over 200 lane miles of roads after a snow fall. Our drivers will periodically push back snow farther off the road into the right-of-way to make room for additional snow. The right-of-way is typically 33 ft. from the center of the road.

If you live on a County road within the Town of Washington, your road is plowed by the County. Any questions or concerns should be directed to the Eau Claire County Highway Department at 715-839-2952. County Roads within the Town include: E & W Beaver Creek Road, Chickadee Road, Deerfield Road, E & W Lowes Creek Road, Mathwig Road, part of Mayer Road, Nine Mile Creek Road, Otter Creek Road, and State Street.

GARBAGE & RECYCLING

- Garbage and recycling receptacles and bins are only allowed at the edge of your yard or driveway on your collection day and should be at least 5 feet off the road, in your driveway, or yard. They are **never** allowed on the shoulder of the road, across the road from your residence or in a cul-de-sac.
- If your garbage hauler requests anything different, they are asking you to violate town road right-of-way ordinances and you are subject to a citation.
- For safety reasons, if your receptacles or bins are an obstacle during plowing operations, our drivers will not exit their truck to move them.

PLOWING & SIDEWALKS

- Snow you remove must remain on your property. Plowing snow back onto the roadway or across the road when plowing your driveway or parking lot is not only unsafe - it is illegal.
- Snow and/or ice must be cleared from sidewalks on your property within 24 hrs. from the time snow ceases to accumulate.

PARKING

- No vehicles are allowed to park on roads during and 24 hours after a snowfall.
- We do not have Odd/Even Parking.
- In the event of a snow emergency **NO PARKING** on the road for 48 hours.
- Violators will be ticketed by the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department.
- Vehicles that present an obstruction and are not removed will be towed.



Tax Collection

The 2025 tax bills will be mailed out near December 5 and we will begin collecting on December 8.

Options for Submitting Tax Payments:

Drop Box: A 24-hour secure drop box is located just outside our front entrance; include your payment stub.

US Postal Service: Mail your payment to our office; include the payment stub from your bill

Pay Online: By credit card/debit card or echeck; convenience fees are applied - go to townofwashington.wi.gov; click Pay Online at the top of the home page—**ONLY** available in December and January for Town of Washington parcels

In-Person Collection:

Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM; Friday 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

December 24 Closed

December 25 Closed

January 1 Closed

- 1st installment (or full payment) is due by January 31, 2026 to the Town of Washington - do not pay Eau Claire County or make your check out to them.
- Receipts will only be mailed to you if a self-addressed stamped envelope is included with your payment. You can view or print a copy of your receipt by going to the Eau Claire County website at <https://ascent.eauclairecounty.gov/LandRecords/> - then type in your last name and/or address.
- Checks are deposited on the date received. All returned checks will be charged a \$35 service fee.
- **Do not included payment of dog licenses on the same check as your tax bill;** a separate check is required.
- If you have delinquent taxes, they can only be paid to the Eau Claire County Treasurer's Office.

The Town of Washington collects all real estate taxes that are due and distributes them to the separate taxing jurisdictions. Your bill includes taxes that are payable to the school district you reside in, Eau Claire County, the Town of Washington, the Chippewa Valley Technical College, and a small portion of our residents pay into the Lake Altoona District if they live in that district. You can see the breakdown on your tax bill.

There are also credits from the State that are applied on your tax bill. One is called the first dollar credit and, if you have lived in your home as of January 1st, you should also have a lottery credit. If you do not have a lottery credit but should, call our office to have it applied.

There are two separate special charges that are placed on your tax bill from Eau Claire County. Questions regarding these special charges should be address to Eau Claire County. For the SC Sewage charge call 715-839-4718 and for the SC Recycling charge call 715-839-2756.

Business/Advertising Signs in Road Right-of-Way

Placing business/advertising signs in the road right-of-way is not legal. Signs can only be placed on someone's private property (not within 33 ft. from the center of the road) where you have given permission for the sign. Our road crew removes signs as they come across them and we attempt to notify the company that they are subject to fines if they continue.

If there is a sign placed in your neighborhood on the road edge, please feel free to pull it, contact the business and let them know it is not legal.



2025 Road Projects Recap

Reconditioned Roads

Balsam Rd, Lila Ln,
Pinewood Rd, and Silver Springs Dr

Chip Seal Roads

Whitetail Dr, Voight Rd, and
Hillview Rd



New Balsam Road



New Pinewood Road

Tentative 2026 Road Projects

Roads to be Paved:

Gust Road
Hickory Road (North Rd to US 53)

Chip Seal Projects:

Inwood, Andrew, Ashley, Kathryn, Woodcrest Highlands, Mischler Rd, Palomino, Sindelar, Susan, Shetland, Birdlawn, and Rainetta

All projects are subject to bids and Town Board approval

Dog Licenses & Animal Regulations

A courtesy postcard will soon be mailed to those who licensed their dog(s) with the Town of Washington last year. Dog owners that are new to the Town of Washington should license their dog by January 1. Applications are on our website (under How Do I tab) or at the Town Office; you must provide written proof of vaccination against rabies from your vet. **If you no longer have a dog in the Town, let us know so we can remove them from our list.**

The Town does not require cats to be licensed however, you can be issued a citation if your cat is at-large. To report obsessive barking, animals at large, biting, an animal being mistreated, or a vicious animal; call the Human Association and leave a message at 715-839-4747. A humane officer will not be dispatched to pick up a dog or cat at-large unless the animal has first been contained.

2026 Dog License
Spayed/Neutered - \$18
Unaltered - \$28

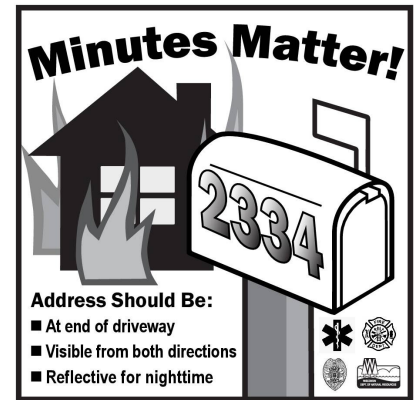
(If sent with tax payment,
a separate check is required)



Township Fire Department, Inc. - Station 2

Road conditions change very fast this time of year. With snow and poor driving conditions, the Fire Department sees an increase in calls for vehicle crashes. Make sure to slow down and provide enough stopping distance to keep you and everyone else safe.

With dropping temperatures, we also face more structure fires; commonly chimney fires. The best practice a homeowner can do is prevention by having a wood burning fireplace inspected and the chimney cleaned by a professional on a yearly basis. This should be considered regular maintenance, yet it gets overlooked very easily.



In the month of November, we changed our clocks back an hour for day light savings. That means it is also time to change your batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, testing them, and checking the expiration dates. Most smoke detectors only last 5 to 10 years and will not be reliable if they have expired. Most carbon monoxide detectors only last 3 to 5 years and will not be reliable if they have expired.

As many of you saw we are currently fundraising for a UTV to help with calls in hard to reach places. Thank you to those residents that have donated so far! The UTV will have a skid unit that will be able to assist with grass fires as well as room to transport EMS victims. If you are interested in donating towards the UTV please mail or drop off a check for Washington Firefighters at the Washington Municipal Building, 5750 Old Townhall Road. Every little bit helps us reach our goal; we currently have about three quarters of the funds raised. A large part of equipment that we have on the Fire Department was purchased through donations from YOU, so thank you for the past and future support!

We are a paid per call department which means everyone at our station responds to calls during their own time, from their house or maybe their day job. Our station is looking for more people to become firefighters! Anyone over the age of 18 can apply to join the Department as a firefighter and anyone aged 16 to 18 can apply to join the Department as a student firefighter. If you know someone who is curious about joining but may have questions, they can reach out to me, Battalion Chief, Jared Rico at chief20@townshipfire.org. You do not have to live in the Town of Washington to join our station, most of our firefighters live on the south side of the City of Eau Claire. What matters is that someone wants to make a difference and help serve the community. We encourage anyone who may be interested to check out our webpage to obtain more information.

Jared Rico, Battalion Chief

Township Fire Department, Inc.
townshipfire.org
715-834-6868

Wheel Tax

If you live in the Town of Washington, you are subject to the County wheel tax of \$30 when you register a vehicle. However, you are not subject to the \$50 wheel tax for the City of Eau Claire. If you have a zip code of 54701 in the Town, be sure to check your registration renewal and your paperwork while purchasing a vehicle to ensure you are not being charged the City wheel tax.

If the tax is included on a renewal, contact the WI DMV at (608) 266-3041 or go to their website at:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/pages/dmv/vehicles/title-plates/wheeltax.aspx>
for instructions on how to have the tax removed.





5750 Old Town Hall Road
Eau Claire WI 54701

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Eau Claire, WI
Permit 203

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
from the Town Board and Staff

TOWN STAFF & BOARD MEMBERS

Administrator:	Janelle L. Henning	715-834-3257
Clerk/Treasurer	Jackie Vold	715-834-3257
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer:	Leesa Malek	715-834-3257
Chairperson:	Robert Solberg	715-829-3138
Supervisors:	Tina Ball	715-577-0003
	Jane Mueller	715-878-4058
	Karen Tomesh	715-835-4742
	Jeff White	715-379-0699

Town Board Meetings

3rd Thursday each month at 5:00 PM

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Friday

8:00 AM – 2:00 PM