



Grant Town Hall

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Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494
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Town Website:

townofgrantportageco.com

Sharon Schwab, Chair

715-325-3827 or 715-213-1717
grantchair@solarus.net

Heather Grys-Luecht,

Supervisor & Hwy Superintendent
715-213-0294
grantsupervisor.grysluecht@solarus.net

Scott Provost, Supervisor

715-213-0283
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Vicky Zimmerman, Clerk

715-213-7370
grantclerk@wctc.net

Greg Hakala, Treasurer

715-423-2120
granttreas@solarus.net

Marty Rutz,

Zoning Administrator
715-421-9200

Kathy Lee, Webmaster

715-423-3891

Emergency Services 911

Ambulance

United Emergency Medical
Services **715-423-7777**

Fire Departments

Grand Rapids **715-424-1815**
Plainfield **715-335-4253**

Severe Weather Alerts

Portage Co. Community Alert
Register: www.co.portage.wi.us
or call Sheriff's Dept:
715-326-1400

Winter 2021

In April 2021 Town of Grant electors brought in three new officials. Please help me in welcoming Supervisors Heather Grys-Luecht, Scott Provost and Treasurer Greg Hakala. All come with excellent backgrounds and experience that can assist the Town in the years ahead. I would also like to thank outgoing officials Chair Chris Kruger, Supervisors Dale Winkler and Jim Yetter, and Treasurer Diana Luecht for their previous service. Being a Town official is not an easy task but hopefully we can all find ways to work together for the benefit of the Town and the residents we serve.

I am pleased to reintroduce the Town Newsletter, last published in the Summer of 2018. This is only one format for information about the T. Grant. I encourage you to use others...we have a website and all Town officials have phone numbers and emails that you can use to contact us. You can attend meetings in person or on ZOOM. We hope to improve our capabilities to communicate with you in the months ahead. In the meantime, please use the resources we have. It's been a crazy couple of years – with concerns regarding the health and safety of all. We hope that by providing options for communication that we can reach each of you in ways that are comfortable for you and your loved ones.

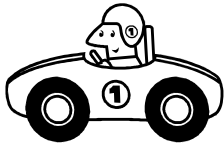
Sharon

→ **Regular Monthly Board Meetings** ←
2nd Wednesdays, 6:30 pm

Transfer Station Hours

	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
Nov - Mar	11am – 4pm	9am – 4pm
Apr - May	11am – 5pm	9am – 5pm
Jun – Aug	11am – 7pm	9am – 5pm
Sep - Oct	11am – 5pm	9am – 5pm

WELCOME: Larry Wagner & Brian Svoboda
Substitute Employees for our Transfer Station



Roads, roads, roads...

By Sharon Schwab

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) offers transportation grants to local municipalities every two years. The Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP) was created in 1991 to assist local units of government in improving seriously deteriorating municipal roads. Within LRIP, the Transportation Road Improvement (TRI) fund is provided proportionally to all 72 Wisconsin counties. A local committee, made up of town and village officials (and overseen by the county) decides how to distribute these funds. In Portage County each applying municipality gets a chance to receive grant amounts ranging from \$20,000-45,000 per project approximately every sixth year.

Concurrent with TRI is the TRI Program-Discretionary (D) and recently the TRI Program-Supplemental (S) grant programs. These are awards typically exceeding \$100,000 per project, and fund 50% and 90%, respectively. Submitted projects are first prioritized by the local committee, and then sent to Madison to compete against all projects statewide. Since 2008, the T. Grant has received TRID awards for: Deer Road (100-110th), Lake Road (CTH U – 85th), Mill Road (100th Street-CTH F), and 95th and 100th Streets over the Buena Vista Creek. Only the last has not been completed but is currently under design by Jewell Associates Engineers, Inc. Construction is slated for 2022. This year applications were made for three (3) projects, namely Buena Vista Road (CTH F – 130th) - \$319,000; 90th Street (CTH W – Griffith) - \$440,000; and Elm Street (90th – 100th) - \$385,000. The local committee ranked Buena Vista Road #1 against seven Portage Co. projects – citing safety (due to recurrent road closures) as a priority for funding. We will know the outcome of these applications in February 2022.

In addition to the aforementioned grant applications were three (3) submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Surface Water grant program for \$50,000 each. These grants can assist municipalities to install bridges or culverts affecting waterways that have conservation value to wildlife/fish habitat. Applications were made for the 110th Street over Four Mile Creek, a project currently being designed by Westwood under the direction of Portage County Highway Department, and both 95th and 100th Streets over Buena Vista Creek noted above. We will also know the outcome of these applications in February 2022.

Oak Street, (CTH U east ~3500 linear feet) was finally reconstructed this year. Some of you may remember this project from 2016 when a TRI grant for \$22,000 was awarded to the Town. The project was designed by Quest Civil Engineers, LLC, let out for bid, and awarded to American Asphalt. But it was never constructed. Instead, the Town Board substituted the TRI funds to another engineered project on Evergreen to complete the crossing over Ten Mile Creek. Fast forward to 2021...Quest updated the designs, re-bid the project and American Asphalt was once again the successful bidder. The project was awarded for \$166,586.48 but the final payment was \$161,748.24 due to fewer materials needed. Thank you to both Quest and American Asphalt for completing this project!

Fahrner Asphalt Sealers was awarded \$25,435.35 for joint and crack-sealing the following roads: 110th Street (Lake – Grant), 86th Street (CTH FF – termini), 95th Street (Elm – termini), Glenwood (CTH U – 90th), Grant (100th-100th), and Lake Road (85th – 110th). However, due to a few mix-ups on 95th and 100th Streets, and delays due to COVID and scheduling \$19,724.85 was paid out so far in 2021.

Quest is currently drafting plans for Washington Street (CTH U – 90th St), a severely damaged and deteriorated road section. We hope to bid this project this winter with reconstruction slated for 2022. Last and included in this newsletter is a DRAFT Road Plan for 2022-23. If you have suggestions, comments, or critiques, please let us know. I hope to reinstate a Town Roads meeting in February 2022 where residents are invited to input their ideas for projects. As most of you know it is simply impossible to do all the road improvements we want due to funding constraints. However, it's very important for us to document those roads that should be prioritized based on community input.

TOWN of GRANT, Portage County
2022-23 ROAD PLAN
Updated November 21, 2021

Road Construction Projects
Recommended Candidate Listing

Road	Termini	Improvement	Length
Buena Vista Road	CTH F – 130 th Street S	Clearing/grubbing/ditch cuts/common excavation/sand lift/granite base	~1 mile
Deer Road	CTH U – 90 th Street S	Wedge/1x chip seal	1 mile
Elm Road	90 th Street S – 100 th St. S	Ditch/Gravel/AC Overlay	1 mile
Grant Street	100 th Street S – 110 th Street S	1X chip seal	1 mile
Griffith Ave.	100 th Street S – 110 th Street S	Wedge/1x chip seal	1 mile
Mertz Acres	82 nd – 84 th Streets, Arbor, Cedar Spruce Lanes	AC overlay/ paved shoulders [Note: TAP grant candidate 2024]	~ 2 miles
Oak Street	110 th Street S - CTH F	Spray patch/wedge, 2X chip seal or AC overlay	1 mile
Oak Street	CTH F – west of Ditch No.	Prep/pulverize/gravel	1 mile
Pine Street	CTH U = 90 th Street S	Wedge/1x chip seal	1 mile
Washington St	CTH U – 90 th Street S	Prep/pulverize/gravel/AC overlay	1 mile
100 th Street S	Elm St - cranberry marsh	Prep/gravel/AC overlay/Shoulders	¾ mile
100 th Street S	CTH WW – Lake Road (low priority)	Prep/gravel/AC overlay /shoulders	½ mile
87 th Street S	Evergreen – Tower	Remove trees out to 25’ from road center/prep/gravel, 2x chip seal	1 mile
90 th Street S	CTH W – Griffith	Clearing/grubbing/ditch swales/prep/pulverize/gravel/overlay	1 mile
95 th Street S	Evergreen – termini	Pulverize/2x chip seal	½ mile
95 th /100 th St (see below)	Buena Vista Creek crossings	Replace culverts, reconstruct approaches and partial roadway	

Road Maintenance/Materials Project
Recommended Candidate Listing

• **Bridge/Culvert Maintenance (PRIORITY – In Progress):**

Work includes but not limited to: fixing wash-outs, replacing existing structures with bridges, adding rip-rap, etc.

- 95th Street crossing Buena Vista Creek
- 95th Street crossing Four Mile Creek
- 100th Street crossing Buena Vista Creek
- 100th Street crossing Four Mile Creek
- 110th Street crossing Four Mile Creek
- Evergreen Avenue (100th – CTH F) – add material
- Griffith Avenue (110th – CTH F) – excavate spots/ditch cuts/sand lift/gravel, add material
- Lake Road (CTH F – Town Line) – add material
- Tower Road (CTH F – Town line) – add material
- Town Line Road (Buena Vista – T. Plover line) – excavate spots/add sand lift & base (~300 LF)
- Town Line Road (CTH W - Swamp Road –) add material
- 100th Street (Cranberry Marsh – STH 54) – add material (e.g. 1 ¼ inch gravel) @ 3” thickness at least 24’ wide)
- 130th Street (Buena Vista – Maple) – add material

Treasurer Report by Greg Hakala

I first want to thank Diana Luecht, the previous Treasurer, for her ongoing guidance and support. She has spent many hours teaching me what I need to know. Vicky Zimmerman, the Town Clerk, has also been a great help as she and I work together on the various financial matters.

Dog Licenses: As all you dog owners know you have to purchase a dog tag and provide proof of Rabies Vaccination every year. The money collected for the dog tags goes to the Portage County Humane Society. There are 24 Townships/Villages/Cities in Portage County that issue tags. I am proud to say that Grant Township has the 2nd best record of tags issued as a percent of the population out of the 24! Only the Town of Belmont edges us out of 1st. So, the vast majority of our dog owners purchase their tags as required. However, we still do have some dog owners who don't comply. The result is that the Town has to pay additional money to the Humane Society, out of tax dollars collected, to make up for uncollected dog tags. So, I implore all dog owners to pitch in and do what the law requires by purchasing your tag. I also want to mention one area of dog control that I receive comments about from residents. Many people walk their dogs along the road and encounter other dogs on other properties. In both cases it is a dog owner's responsibility under our Town Ordinance to keep your dog under control. This generally means on a leash or the ability to control your dog via voice command. We don't want those walking their dogs to have to fend off other dogs on their walks. I know from previous experiences of my own at dog parks that dogs can be unpredictable when among strange dogs. I am also going to offer an option to mailing me the dog tag applications if you want to save a stamp. If you want to call me in advance at 715-423-2120 I can meet you at the Town Hall pretty much any time any day. I prefer not to have people come to my house because my dog goes "bonkers" when people come to the door. Also, if you no longer have a dog in 2022 that you had in 2021 please call me or send me a note. I can then take your dog off the list and won't send you follow-up letters if I don't receive your 2022 application.

Finances: As noted by Sharon about Roads, we were able to Reconstruct Oak Street and perform joint and crack sealing on other roads using our General Transportation Aid (GTA) funds for 2021. We spent around \$200,000 on road projects and did not have to borrow money because we had the GTA money. It is important that we spend as much of each year's GTA as possible since the State looks at what was actually spent in past years when determining how much we get in future years. Overall, our cash on hand at year end will not be excessive, showing that we are spending pretty much as budgeted for the year, but again, not having to borrow money. We have properly paid our annual payments on the few outstanding loans we have and also added \$10,000 to our "Equipment Fund" bringing that bank balance to \$51,826. This fund was established five years ago to build up money for any new equipment purchase in a future year and alleviate any needed loan amounts.

Lastly a few short notes on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds...The Town received a little over \$103,000 in ARPA funds this year with an additional \$103,000 coming in 2022. At the moment there aren't many obvious allowable areas for us to spend the money. The money can't be used on roads and many rural communities like us are struggling to identify areas to spend. The good news is we still have 3 years to identify areas where the money can be used and the Federal Government has still not issued their "Final" ruling. That ruling may offer more areas (like roads) where the ARPA funds can be used. Once we have a definitive list of options we will of course involve the Town Residents on where they would like the money spent.

I have met many residents while at the Transfer Station and want to thank you all for your kind support.

Dear Town of Grant Residents,

A couple of things to share with you all: First, after many years of inquiry and requests, the Town of Grant now has a **Domestic Fowl Ordinance**. The Ordinance allows residents to keep chickens, turkey, or ducks in high and low residential zoned areas (i.e. R1 and R2). Previously, a resident in R1 or R2 would have to request a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) beginning with the Planning Commission, a \$150.00 application/public hearing fee, and finally Town Board approval. This could take months. With the Ordinance, you can now keep fowl if you comply with the conditions of the Ordinance. Please fill out the application if you have birds or are preparing to raise them. The application is free!

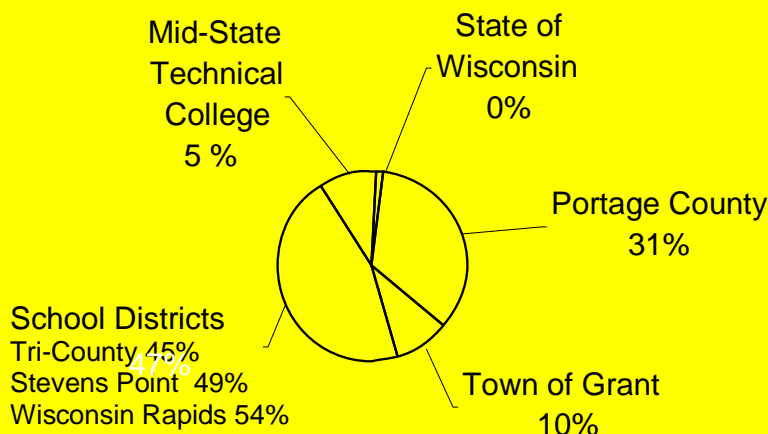
Surrounding communities that are much more densely populated than us, already have ordinances like this in place. This allows children to participate in some activities such as 4H or FFA. It also allows residents to grow their own food in a safe manner. Our Ordinance provides information on how to construct and keep birds in a safe and humane manner, a pathway to compliance with state laws and reduce neighbor conflicts. This will also allow the Plan Commission and the Town Board to spend time on more important issues. Please note that if you are not zoned as R1 or R2, you do not need to apply. Please look to our website for more information.

Secondly, I encourage you to reach out to the Board as you need to. I also encourage you participate in meetings by being there in person, or by our new option which allows you to “Zoom” via your home computer. Feel free to attend as an equal participate by being at home!

Thanks, Supervisor Scott Provost

WHERE DO MY TAX DOLLARS GO?

Approximate Property Tax Distribution Town of Grant



- The Town of Grant Transfer Station will be **closed** on:
 - **Saturday, December 25, 2021**
 - **Saturday, January 1, 2022**



Snowplowing

The winter season will soon be here! Please be reminded that you must not place or blow snow from your private drive onto or across any town road.

State Statute 346.94 (5): *“No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof.”*

State Statute 346.95(3): *“Any person violating s.346.94 (5) shall be required to forfeit \$50 for each offense.”*

Town of Grant

*9011 County Road WW
Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494*

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