

# Lanark News

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*Government by and for the People*

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## Town Purchases New Patrol Truck

Last winter was harsh, and the town's plow trucks had trouble keeping up with all the snow. During several storms both of the town's plow trucks broke down at the same time.



At the Annual Town Meeting in April residents approved the expenditure, and in June the Town Board considered three trucks and then voted to purchase a 2012 Kenworth which was delivered this September. The majority of the money was already saved up as our budget designates money to be put aside annually for major equipment purchases. The remainder of the funds came from this year's highway construction budget. There will be no increase in your town tax levy as a result of this purchase. The remaining plow truck has been given a maintenance check so we're ready for some snow!

## Lanark Satellite Fire Station Contemplated

The Town of Lanark obtains its fire protection by contracting with Amherst and Waupaca Fire Districts, with Amherst covering a bit over 70% of the Town and Waupaca covering the remainder. Amherst provides First Responder coverage to the entire Township.

The Amherst Fire District has approached the Lanark Town Board with an invitation to become a member of their District. Amherst's Fire District is currently owned by four municipalities: The Town of Amherst, and the Villages of Amherst, Amherst Junction and Nelsonville.

Normally, this would require Lanark to buy a share of the District's assets (building and equipment) but the District has come up with a novel way for Lanark to pay for its membership. Instead of paying for a share of the assets, Lanark would build a satellite fire station in Lanark. Once built, the fire station would serve as Lanark's payment to join the Dis-

trict, and the station would be equipped with equipment already owned by the District.

This station, if built, would be located on Highway 54 and would put most, if not all, of Lanark's residences within 5 miles of one of Amherst's fire stations. If implemented, this plan would result in Amherst's Fire District providing coverage to ALL of Lanark.

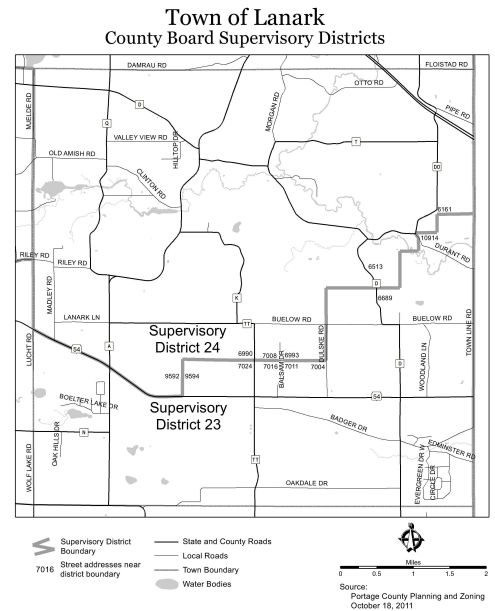
While this plan would improve response times for Lanark residents, there would be costs involved. The Satellite station would need to be constructed, at Lanark's expense (our payment for membership) and the annual dues for District membership would be approximately \$8,000 more than we currently spend for coverage from Amherst and Waupaca. Lanark would also join the other member municipalities in assuming its share of the costs for new

*(Continued on page 3)*

*\*\*\*Town Board Meetings are on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.\*\*\**

# County Supervisory Districts and Town Wards Change

The Portage County Board of Supervisors will be reduced from a 29-member board to a 25-member board. As a result of this reduction the Town of Lanark will now be divided into two supervisory districts. Previously Lanark has been in Supervisory District 20; it will now be divided between District 24 and District 23. The town's wards have been realigned to match these supervisory districts. Candidates for the newly realigned county supervisory districts will be voted on at the February/April 2012 elections.



## 2012 Election Cycle

- Spring Primary: February 21
- Spring Election: April 3
- Partisan Primary: August 14\*
- General Election: November 6

*\*tentative*

## 2011 Road Work

Road work completed in 2011 included repair of Lanark's portion of Damrau Road; crack sealing Lanark Lane, Riley Road, Valley View Lane, Old Amish Road and parts of Buelow and Madley Roads; and seal coating of Oakdale Drive where it was wedged in 2010. The resurfacing of Evergreen Drive East has been delayed due to the high price of asphalt, the eventual rescinding of the prevailing wage law, buried

trees/stumps in the road bed, and the much-needed replacement of our 22-year-old patrol truck. The Town applied approximately \$111,000 toward the purchaser of the patrol truck from its equipment purchase fund but also used approximately \$19,000 from 2011's road budget to complete the purchase. This purchase will NOT increase your property taxes.

## Notable News

- ◆ Issues related to garbage/recycling pickup should be directed to Veolia at 800/262-3101.
- ◆ Bulky items can be picked up by Veolia the 2nd Tuesday of each month with prior sticker purchase. Contact the clerk for more information and to obtain a sticker.
- ◆ Burning permits are now available online. Go to <http://dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire/burning-rp.htm> for more information.
- ◆ With snow inevitably on the way, this is a reminder for residents to not plow snow across any road; doing so creates a serious driving hazard.

*Newsletter Editor: Cheryl Leatherman. This Town publication is intended for public information on local issues and does not express opinions of the Town Board or Editor.*

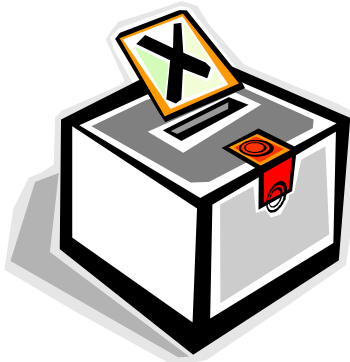
**\*\*\*Plan Commission Meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. as needed \*\*\***

## Highlights of new Voter Photo ID requirements

The next time you come in to vote at the Town Hall, the new Voter Photo ID law will be in effect. In addition to stating your name and address you will need to present photo ID, and you will also be required to sign the poll book prior to receiving your ballot.

For most of us this requirement takes minimal time and effort; if you have a Wisconsin driver's license you can use that as your photo ID. **There is no separate Voter ID card.** There are other acceptable forms of photo ID you may use including but not limited to a passport or a Wisconsin Identification Card.

Absentee voters will be required show ID when voting absentee in the Clerk's office and to provide a photocopy of their photo ID when voting absentee by mail. The period for voting by absentee ballot in person is limited to the third



Monday before the election to 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the election.

If you are unable or unwilling provide appropriate ID and sign the poll book, your ballot will be considered "provisional" and will only be counted upon completing the required ID or signature.

The residency requirement has also changed from 10 days to 28 consecutive days. Late voter registration will close on the Friday prior to the election at 5:00. You will still be able to register on election day with proof of residency.

All of the above changes are covered in greater detail along with more information on the changes put into effect by contacting the Government Accountability Board at <http://gab.wi.gov> or call 608-261-2028 with your questions.

### *Fire Station Contemplated (Continued from page 1)*

equipment when the need arose.

The cost of the building, currently estimated to be "under \$300,000", could be covered by extending the current loan on the Town Hall. That loan is scheduled to be paid off in two years, and paying for the fire station would extend that. Such a strategy would keep the budget, and taxes, the same as they are now.

The budget would need to absorb the roughly \$8,000 in added annual dues. Without citizen permission to increase the budget, that \$8,000 would come out of the dollars currently dedicated to road construction. Since many residents would oppose cutting road construction or maintenance, the remaining option would be to increase the Town levy to obtain the added dollars required for Annual Fire District dues.

The State has declared local government budgets and tax levies to be frozen for the next several years. Exceeding the current budget (increasing Town property

taxes) requires a vote of residents attending a Special Meeting OR a day-long referendum. This decision CANNOT be made by the Town Board. Given the costs and potential impacts on residents, a day-long referendum would allow the greatest number of people to have their say, especially if the referendum were held on the same day as another election.

In order for the Town Board to pursue the invitation from the Amherst Fire District, public approval would be required to 1) borrow money to build the satellite fire station, and 2) increase the annual levy to obtain the roughly \$8,000 required to cover the increase in annual dues.

The incentive to accept the invitation comes in the form of improved coverage from the Fire District. That improved coverage comes at a cost. The decision to pursue the invitation, or leave things as they are, rests with Lanark residents. Lanark will host several informational meetings, attended by Amherst Fire District representatives, to explain their invitation and help everyone decide how they wish to vote.

Town of Lanark  
7174 County Road TT  
Amherst WI 54406

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## OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

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10160 State Hwy 54  
Amherst WI 54406  
715/258-3055

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715/346-1334  
County Treasurer  
715/346-1348**

**Lanark Town Hall  
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Lanark Town Garage  
715/256-1376**

**Humane Society  
715/344-6012  
Building Inspector  
715/254-0886**

We're on the Web!

[www.townoflanark.org](http://www.townoflanark.org)

*\*\*All dogs 5 months of age and older must be licensed; contact the treasurer for more information\*\**