

Lanark News

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Government by and for the People

In This Issue

Lanark Referendum Canceled	1
Refuse contract	1
November 6 General Election Info	2
54/A Realignment	3
ATC TV/Internet	3
Roadwork	3
School Bus Stop Signs	3

Lanark Renews

Contract with Veolia

At their September 11, 2012 Meeting, the Lanark Town Board voted to sign a 5-year contract with Veolia Solid Waste (soon to be called Advanced Disposal Services). Proposals were received from three companies (Veolia, Harter's, and IROW). Veolia's rate was the most competitive and the town has been satisfied with their service to date. No changes are expected to service at this time.

Lanark Fire Station Referendum Canceled

As reported in previous issues of this newsletter, the Amherst Fire District has invited the Town of Lanark to become members of their District. Normally this would require purchasing a proportionate share of the District's assets, but the District instead suggested that Lanark build a Fire Station at the corner of Highway 54 and County Road A, and that the building would serve as a substitute for purchasing a share of the existing assets (the Lanark Fire Station would be owned by the Amherst Fire District). The benefit for Lanark would be having fire equipment centrally located in the Town.

The cost of this building was estimated at roughly \$300,000. With one annual payment remaining on our Town Hall, the original thought was to extend the current loan, obtaining the dollars for the building and continuing to make the same annual payments.

We also learned that membership would involve proportionate responsibilities for maintaining the District's equipment. Major purchases, such as a new truck, would require incurring debt or setting money aside in advance, just as we currently do when we save in advance for purchasing a new patrol truck for plowing and road maintenance.

Our best estimate was that a combina-

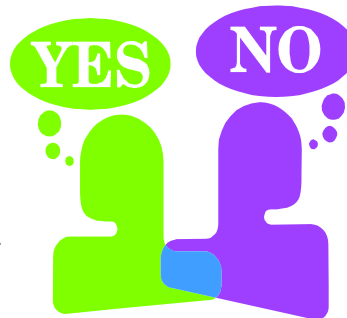
tion of increased annual member fees and setting money aside would result in a need to increase the Town's tax levy by \$25,000 – increasing the TOWN property tax by just under 10%.

State law currently prohibits an increase in spending without a special meeting or referendum, and the plan had been to hold a referendum during the November election. A Special Meeting would be a valid way to make this decision, but Special Meetings are typically attended by a small fraction of the Town's residents. Since Lanark's voter turnout is traditionally high, this would assure

strong public input on the District's invitation and its associated costs.

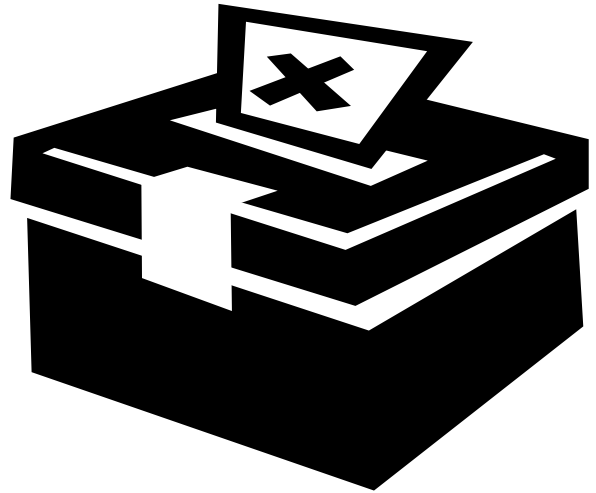
State law, however, requires that such a referendum must specify the exact dollar amount of the increase AND the period of time over which it will occur. The costs were not precise enough to meet the requirements, so the referendum has been abandoned.

The Town Board still wishes to know your opinion on this issue, since the invitation from the Amherst Fire District still stands. When you come to vote at the November 6th election there will be a table set up with a 1-2 question survey for you to complete. It will only take a few seconds. We simply want to know if you want the Town Board to pursue the Amherst Fire District's invitation in the future or if you'd prefer to leave fire coverage just the way it is.



Tuesday, November 6, 2012 General Election Information

- At this writing there is no voter ID requirement in place for the November 6th General Election.
- You may register to vote on election day with proper proof of residency and your WI driver's license number
- In order to vote in Lanark you must have lived here for at least 28 days
- All of Lanark votes at the Town Hall at the corner of State Highway 54 and County TT. Polling hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.



Visit the new Voter Information Center at the GAB Website

The GAB website has created a new page called the "Voter Information Center." On it you can find the answers to many of your questions, i.e. how to vote absentee, how to register to vote, where you should vote if you have recently moved, military and overseas voting information, college student voting information, and much, much more. Check it out: <http://gab.wi.gov/voters>

Voter Public Access is now My Vote WI

The Government Accountability Board has launched My Vote WI at <https://myvote.wi.gov/>. This is an excellent site that Wisconsin voters can access to view registration status, polling places and hours, sample ballots, and much more.

In-Person Early/Absentee Voting and Voter Registration Dates

The following dates are available for early/absentee voting and voter registration in the clerk's office without an appointment:

Tuesday, October 30 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Friday, November 2 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

If you cannot attend either of these days and need to vote absentee, please call 715/256-9801 or email townclerk@townoflanark.org to make an appointment.

Other Important Dates

October 17: Last day for electors to register by mail to vote (must be postmarked 10/17/2012)

October 22: First day for electors to vote absentee in the clerk's office (by appointment)

November 1: Last day for electors to request absentee ballots by mail (must be received by clerk 11/1/2012 5:00 p.m.)

November 2: Last day for electors to register and last day to make application for an absentee ballot (clerk's office only).

November 6: Election Day, polling hours 7:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall

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 *****

WIS DOT Reconfiguring County A/State Highway 54 Intersection

The 2014 road construction season will bring about a reconfiguration of the intersection of State Highway 54 and County Road A. There have been numerous accidents at that location, and WIS DOT has planned to realign County A with 54 to create better visibility. This intersection will be completely closed during reconstruction. At this time no further information is available, but keep your eyes and ears open for more information to come in the next year.

TV/High-Speed Internet service coming to parts of the South Side of Lanark

You might have noticed work going on and near Highway 54. The Amherst Telephone Company is preparing to provide television and broadband internet to some parts of Lanark which are not in its telephone service range. Some of you may already even have it! Look for it to expand in the future.

2012 and 2013 Road Work

This past summer the Town of Lanark reconstructed Evergreen Drive East from Edminster for a length of 1,890'. Crack sealing was also done on Townline Road, and Badger Drive.

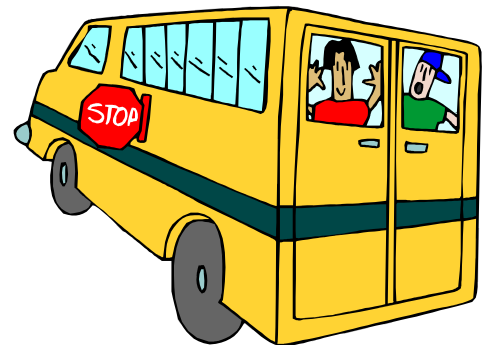
For 2013 the Town Board is contemplating reconstructing a portion of Evergreen Drive West from Edminster Drive to the south, and crack-sealing Pine Tree Drive. Estimates are being obtained and final decisions will be made late in the winter/early next spring.

School Bus Stop Signs

School bus stop signs are placed by the agency whose road the sign is on; signs on town roads are the responsibility of the Town of Lanark, signs on the state highways and the county roads are the responsibility of Portage County.

If you know of a place where a school bus stop sign is no longer needed or where one should be added, please contact the responsible agency for removal or placement.

The Town Hall phone is 715/256-9801; Portage County Highway Department is 715/345-5230.



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.
- ◆ Please keep the brush around your fire sign cut so that in an emergency your fire number is clearly visible

Town of Lanark
7174 County Road TT
Amherst WI 54406

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OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

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715/824-5231

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Amherst WI 54406
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Supervisor: Elmer Garms
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Amherst WI 54406
715/258-3055

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715/256-9801

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715/824-5600
District 23 Supervisor
Barry Jacowski
715/366-8500**

**Planning & Zoning
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County Treasurer
715/346-1348**

**Lanark Town Hall
715/256-9801
Lanark Town Garage
715/256-1376**

**Humane Society
715/344-6012
Building Inspector
715/340-1933**

We're on the Web!

www.townoflanark.org

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