

Lanark News

Volume 16 Issue 1

November 2013

Government by and for the People

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Lanark Tax Levy Increase Proposed

Eight years ago Lanark residents voted to borrow money to build a new Town Hall. We obtained a 7-year mortgage and made our final payment (\$31,670) in 2013. That debt is now ***paid in full***, and next year's town tax levy will be free of that debt.

The reason for this article, however, is to let you know that on ***November 19 at 7:00 p.m.*** the Lanark Town Board is conducting its annual Budget meeting and at that meeting will ask residents for permission to continue collecting that \$31,670 and applying the money to our road budget.

Simply put, this is an opportunity to improve our road budget without collecting more Town taxes than you have been paying.

Why do we need the money? We HAD been able to rebuild one mile of Town Road each year, with that mile of road typically costing about \$60-65,000. A well-built and maintained road should last about 30 years in this climate, and Lanark has 34 miles of Town roads. The plan had been to stay even with our roads by rebuilding that one mile per year. In recent years, however, the cost of asphalt products increased dramatically and the \$65,000 that used to buy a mile of road now buys about 2,000 feet. Our roads are now deteriorating faster than we can rebuild or repair them.

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In the spring of 2014 the Wisconsin DOT will be reconfiguring the intersection of State Highway 54 and County Road A. The information received as of this writing points to short closures of that intersection during the project. Improved visibility is the reason for the reconfiguration.

Property Tax and Dog License Collection Times for 2013 Payable 2014 Taxes

Property tax collection for the Town of Lanark at the town hall for 2013 taxes will be:

Saturday, December 28th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 30th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 25th 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 30th 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please pay your dog licenses at the time you pay your taxes. This will save the town money by not having to mail out reminder postcards.

You can also mail first half or full year's tax payments and dog license fees and proof of rabies vaccination to:

Theresa Maves, Town Treasurer
9070 County Road D
Amherst, WI 54406

Please send a self-addressed stamped envelope so she

can return the dog tags and/or the receipt for your tax payments.

Second half tax payments can be paid at the International Bank of Amherst (in person) or the Portage County Treasurer's Office (in person or via mail).

If you have never registered your dog in the town of Lanark you must do that every year-let's try to get a 100% of dogs in the town of Lanark registered! You will be fined \$150 by the Portage County Sheriff's Department if they have to come to your house for a problem with your dog and you have not registered it.

Fees are \$7.00 for spayed or neutered dogs \$18.00 per dog if NOT spayed or neutered.



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

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Our road construction budget totals about \$87,000, and that has to cover patching, seal coating, shoulder repairs, etc. We'd like to be able to rebuild one mile per year and seal coat roads that were rebuilt 5-8 years ago to help them last longer. That is why we're requesting your permission to continue collecting the \$31,670. Money that had been going to pay for the Town Hall would instead be directed to Town Roads.

State law requires that Lanark residents must consent to this change in taxes, either by referendum or at a special meeting. Since we have no elections this year, a referendum was seen as too expensive, so we are asking you to come to the November 19 (7:00 p.m.) meeting to be heard.

When residents approved going into debt to build the Town Hall, that tax increase was considered as a temporary addition to the Town's levy. The Board's request is permanent, so it calculates to a 13% increase in the levy even though it will not collect more money than we've been collecting since taking out the Hall mortgage.

We recently learned that the Department of Revenue does not permit the Town Board to designate *how* the added tax revenue would be spent. We find this rule to be strange – who would vote for a tax increase without knowing how the money would be spent? Since we

are not permitted to promise how the money would be budgeted, we have prepared two 2014 budget proposals. One includes the added revenue (and applies it to roads) while the other does not.

So what's the bottom line?

Assessed value for the entire township has dropped slightly, so the Mill rate is up slightly to compensate. Please see the accompanying table below for a comparison of options.

One more thing. State law says that our total road budget (construction, repair, mowing, plowing, salting and all associated labor and equipment costs) cannot exceed \$5,000 per mile without voter approval. That \$5,000 figure was set a decade or so ago and was based on statewide spending averages at the time. Today, that figure is seriously obsolete but the law remains. Voters would need to provide approval whenever the Board proposes a road budget that would exceed the \$5,000/mile spending limit set by the state.

To sum it all up, the Town Board is keenly aware of the increases in road construction and maintenance costs. The final payment on the Town Hall provides a unique opportunity to increase funding for our roads without increasing the amount of Town tax you have been paying for the past several years. The Board seeks your support in this effort to maintain our roads.

Town of Lanark Taxes	2012 taxes paid in 2013	Proposed 2013 tax paid in 2014	Unadjusted 2013 paid in 2014
Allowable levy limit	\$239,270.00	\$240,430.00	\$240,430
Town Hall Payment	\$31,670.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Increase in Levy		\$31,670.00	
Assessed Value	\$121,871,300.00	\$121,534,200.00	\$121,534,200.00
Mill Rate	\$2.22	\$2.24	\$1.98
Lanark Tax on a \$100K property	\$222.32	\$223.89	\$197.83

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 *****

GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE 2014—TOWN OF LANARK-NORTH OF STATE HIGHWAY 54
 Fridays (* denotes Saturday pickup due to holiday)

Jan 4* Garbage/recycling	Apr 4 Garbage only	July 5* Garbage/recycling	Oct 3 Garbage only
Jan10 Garbage only	Apr 11 Garbage/recycling	July 11 Garbage only	Oct 10 Garbage/recycling
Jan17 Garbage/recycling	Apr 18 Garbage only	July 18 Garbage/recycling	Oct 17 Garbage only
Jan 24 Garbage only	Apr 25 Garbage/recycling	July 25 Garbage only	Oct 24 Garbage/recycling
Jan31 Garbage/recycling	May 2 Garbage only	Aug 1 Garbage/recycling	Oct 31 Garbage only
Feb 7 Garbage only	May 9 Garbage/recycling	Aug 8 Garbage only	Nov 7 Garbage/recycling
Feb 14 Garbage/recycling	May 16 Garbage only	Aug 15 Garbage/recycling	Nov 14 Garbage only
Feb 21 Garbage only	May 23 Garbage/recycling	Aug 22 Garbage only	Nov 21 Garbage/recycling
Feb 28 Garbage/recycling	May 31* Garbage only	Aug 29 Garbage/recycling	Nov 29* Garbage only
Mar 7 Garbage only	June 6 Garbage/recycling	Sept 6* Garbage only	Dec 5 Garbage/recycling
Mar 14 Garbage/recycling	June 13 Garbage only	Sept 12 Garbage/recycling	Dec 12 Garbage only
Mar 21 Garbage only	June 20 Garbage/recycling	Sept 19 Garbage only	Dec19 Garbage/recycling
Mar 28 Garbage/recycling	June 27 Garbage only	Sept 26 Garbage/recycling	Dec 27* Garbage only

OUR HAULER IS ADVANCED DISPOSAL SERVICE—800-262-3101 FOR CUSTOMER SERVICE

For detailed garbage and recycling information visit: <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/solidwaste/index.htm>

GARBAGE & RECYCLING SCHEDULE 2014 -TOWN OF LANARK-STATE HIGHWAY 54 AND SOUTH
 Mondays (* denotes Tuesday pickup due to holiday)

Jan 6 Garbage only	Apr 7 Garbage/recycling	July 7 Garbage only	Oct 6 Garbage/recycling
Jan 13 Garbage/recycling	Apr 14 Garbage only	July 14 Garbage/recycling	Oct 13 Garbage only
Jan 20 Garbage only	Apr 21 Garbage/recycling	July 21 Garbage only	Oct 20 Garbage/recycling
Jan 27 Garbage/recycling	Apr 28 Garbage only	July 28 Garbage/recycling	Oct 27 Garbage only
Feb 3 Garbage only	May 5 Garbage/recycling	Aug 4 Garbage only	Nov 3 Garbage/recycling
Feb 10 Garbage/recycling	May 12 Garbage only	Aug 11 Garbage/recycling	Nov 10 Garbage only
Feb 17 Garbage only	May 19 Garbage/recycling	Aug 18 Garbage only	Nov 17 Garbage/recycling
Feb 24 Garbage/recycling	May 27* Garbage only	Aug 25 Garbage/recycling	Nov 24 Garbage only
Mar 3 Garbage only	June 2 Garbage/recycling	Sept 2* Garbage only	Dec 1 Garbage/recycling
Mar 10 Garbage/recycling	June 9 Garbage only	Sept 8 Garbage/recycling	Dec 8 Garbage only
Mar 17 Garbage only	June 16 Garbage/recycling	Sept 15 Garbage only	Dec15 Garbage/recycling
Mar 24 Garbage/recycling	June 23 Garbage only	Sept 22 Garbage/recycling	Dec 22 Garbage only
Mar 31 Garbage only	June 30 Garbage/recycling	Sept 29 Garbage only	Dec 29 Garbage/recycling

Town of Lanark
7174 County Road TT
Amherst WI 54406

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
AMHERST WI
PERMIT NO. 15

OFFICIALS DIRECTORY

Chairman: Michael Pagel
10408 Otto Rd
Amherst WI 54406
715/824-5231

Supervisor: William McKee
6167 County Rd A
Amherst WI 54406
715/824-3725

Supervisor: Elmer Garms
10160 State Hwy 54
Amherst WI 54406
715/ 258-3055

Clerk: Cheryl Leatherman
9819 County Rd. D
Amherst WI 54406
715/256-9801

Treasurer: Theresa Maves
9070 County Rd. D
Amherst WI 54406
715/824-2162

Assessor: Jeremy Kurtzweil
1501 N. Hume Ave.
Marshfield WI 54449
715/486-9019

**Portage County
District 24 Supervisor
Lonnie Krogwold
715/824-5600
District 23 Supervisor
Barry Jacowski
715/366-8500**

**Planning & Zoning
715/346-1334
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