

Village of Lena News

Small community—Great Opportunity



December 2020 Issue 28

Happy Holidays



Message from President Marquardt



I hope that this newsletter finds you well as we approach the end of another year. 2020 will definitely go down as a year to remember. It has reminded me that as residents of our Village, we are able to adapt to the changing environment we live in. Our teachers learned quickly how to teach differently, students learned and studied differently, churches live streamed services, restaurants shifted to takeout or curbside pickup, toilet paper was scarce, hand sanitizer and masks became the norm. Some of those changes have started to return to the way we always did them. Others may not. The important thing is that we continue to adapt and that we support and care for each other.

We are fortunate to have the number of businesses in our community that we do. When we were asked to stay home to stop the spread of the virus, that meant we needed to change the way we do business with our local businesses. When residents shop at local businesses within their communities, their tax dollars stay within the local economy, helping to improve their community as a result. Likewise, local businesses tend to buy locally as well, pumping more of the profits from their economic activity back into the community. Supporting events such as Small Business Saturday will benefit our local economy, personal relationships and help build the community.

We recently updated our 20 Year Comprehensive Plan which lays out a vision for what we would like to see our Village look like over the next several years. One of our main focuses is the revitalization of our downtown business district. Our Main Street has good buildings with character and identity that they once housed business storefronts with living quarters in the back or upstairs. We welcome your ideas, comments and help with how we can achieve our goal of revitalizing our Main Street to the prospering downtown that so many of us remember from years past.

President's message continued:

With any economic development plan it is important to focus on maintaining and helping our existing businesses prosper and be successful. Their continued success acts as a catalyst and gets the attention of entrepreneurs and small business owners looking to set up shop. I would encourage our business owners to take advantage of the services that the Oconto County Economic Development Corporation has to offer. Reach out to Paul Ehrfurth at Oconto County Economic Development Corp. (OCEDC) in Oconto at 920-834-6969 to learn more.

In closing, I wanted to thank you all for being a part of our great community. While we had to cancel our Village of Lights events this year, our residents have really done a nice job of showing the holiday spirit with lighting of the Village! Please take some time to enjoy a ride around village after dark to see the beauty. I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Oconto County Economic Development Corporation Helps Local Businesses

The Oconto County Economic Development Corporation (OCEDC) is a non-profit organization that provides an array of services to businesses throughout Oconto County. Located at 1113 Main Street in Oconto, OCEDC has three full time employees. The OCEDC staff provides services to businesses and local communities. OCEDC also promotes the many tourist amenities that are abundant throughout the County. Perhaps you have seen our Discovery Guide which we publish and distribute annually. We promote our tourism resources throughout the Midwest using print and online mediums.

The other primary service we provide is economic development assistance to businesses and units of local government. We have provided Micro Loans to thirteen businesses around the County including Lena. We worked closely with the Village on the Rosera Business Park and on the Dollar General project. We have a counseling and mentoring program that has assisted approximately forty small businesses including in Lena. Finally, we operate the Leadership Oconto County program. If you or a business you know would like our assistance please contact our office at 920-834-6969.



2021 Village President & 3 Trustee Positions Available

Incumbents Terry Hinds, Judy Patenaude and Nick Heise are up for Village Trustee positions in April 2021. Village President is also open which Steve Marquardt currently holds. Declaration of Candidacy papers are available at the Clerk's Office from December 1, 2020. Deadline for filing is January 5, 2021 5 p.m.



Winter Reminders

If your property has a sidewalk along it, you are required to have the snow cleared within 24 hours (Village Ordinance 277-10.) Winter parking rules are now in effect. No vehicle is to be parked on the street between 2:30 a.m.—7 a.m., December 1-April 1. If you have tenants that do not receive this notice please inform them. Parking citations will be issued for non-compliance. (Village Ordinance 302-16)

Village Board

President	
Steve Marquardt	920-373-2217
Trustees:	
Terry Hinds	920-373-3810
Nicholas Heise	920-309-1965
Craig LeFebre	920-829-6146
Linda Hinds	920-829-5639
Larry Belongia	920-829-6375
Judy Patenaude	920.829-5935

**Please
Pay With
Check Or
Money
Order**

Contact Information

**117 E. Main Street
Lena, WI 54139
920-829-5226
charlene.meier@villageoflena.net
www.villageoflena.net
Hours: M-Thurs 7:30-4 p.m.
Friday 7:30—11:30 a.m.**

Police Department: Due to COVID, all of our community events had to be cancelled. It was a hard decision to make but in order to keep everyone safe, all the programs in Lena schools such as Drunk and drugged driving, distracted driver program, self defense classes, career day, walk to school event, Day at the daycare, and movie nights were cancelled for 2020.

When school started back this Fall, Chief Herald once again was able to resume stopping into the schools and continues to have a positive working relationship with them.

Hopefully in 2021, life will get back to somewhat normal, so we can once again have National Night Out. I think we all could use some normal again.

Our new police squad is finally here. Due to COVID it was delayed many months. This squad was paid for with a grant that was received from USDA and monies that we put aside every year in our police budget so no money needed to be borrowed to pay for this squad. The old squad was sold on Wisconsin Surplus Auction site.

A handicapped sidewalk was installed this fall by the schools. It is ADA compliant and I feel a great addition to keep everyone safe when crossing Main Street.

Fire Department: The fire department was not able to do any fundraising this year and I know I really missed that pork dinner. The fundraisers that the firemen do help pay for some equipment needs that are not covered under their budget. The fire department is now seeking bids on a new tender and fire siren. Money is being budgeted every year for new equipment in our capital improvement plan. The village was also awarded a grant from the USDA that will be used toward the purchase of the new Tender and new Tornado siren. The fire department roof is in bad shape and the committee is looking into options for the repairs that need to be done.

Weeds Committee: The committee feels that everyone is doing a great job at keep their properties neat and clean. It is important to keep the weeds cut along our homes as well as fences. Remember that your sidewalks need to be cleared within 24 hours of the snow ending.

In closing, the Public Safety Committee continues to strive to keep our small community safe. We greatly appreciate everyone's help with this. If you have any questions or concerns, you are encouraged and welcome to come to our monthly meetings. I am hoping and praying for a great 2021 so we can once again host our community events.

Judy Patenaude, Chairperson



The Village of Lena Promotions Committee. What are we and what do we do.

We promote the Village to attract other businesses to settle in our Village. At the same time support the businesses that are in the Village. Bringing attention to us with our festivities. Having the Village rummage sales, Taste of Fall, Village of Lights, Thunder on Main and flower pots on Main Street.

We hope that by doing these it makes the residents proud.

On a side note we would love to thank you for the glow of added Christmas lights to your homes this year. We may have had to cancel events this year, but we have continued to plan for next year.

Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, Blessed New Year. *Linda Hinds, Chairperson*

Village Quarterly Schedule

January

Jan 11— Court 4 p.m.
Jan 12—Finance Mtg. 8 a.m.
Jan. 12—Public Works 9:30 a.m.
Jan 18—Village Board 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 31—Final tax payments at Village

February

Feb. 8-Court 4 p.m.
Feb. 9-Finance 8 a.m.
Feb. 9—Public Works 9:30 a.m.
Feb. 14th Happy Valentine's Day
Feb. 15-Village Board 6:30 p.m.

March

Mar. 8-Court 4 p.m.
Mar.9-Finance 8 a.m.
Mar. 9—Public Safety 9:30 a.m.
Mar. 15-Village Board 6:30 p.m.
Mar. 17 Happy St. Pat's Day

Public Works Report 2020

SEWER: The sewer plant has been required by the WI DNR to reduce the phosphorus content of the effluent discharge into Jones Creek. This reduction is being planned during the next two years and a pilot project was done this year to determine the most cost effective process.

The sewer plant needed to purchase a replacement refrigerator to store its samples and purchase new impellers and chemical feed pumps for the plant. The DNR sent the village a notification that the sewer plant needs a Comprehensive Facility Plan assessment prior to any plans for upgrading the wastewater treatment system.

WATER: The water plant continues to run efficiently, delivering good clean drinking water to you. The SCADA system which controls all the electronic operations of the water and sewer plant and the water tower was upgraded and adds a layer of protection from cyber interference.

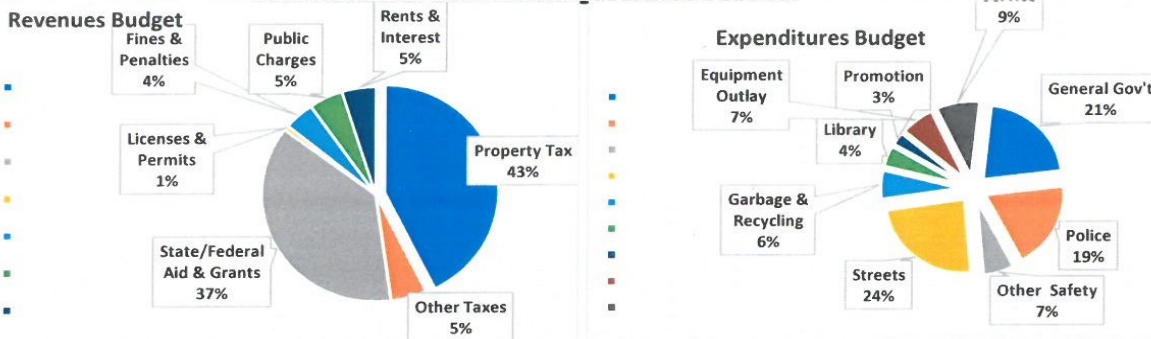
STREETS: The street department welcomed a new part-time employee, Shane Behnke, to replace Brad, who resigned. New ATV signs were installed for the village ATV routes. Storm water basins were cleaned out. This has not been done for several years. A cleaned out system assures proper flowage and minimum backups of water from the streets. The railroad crossings on Pelkey Street and Harley Street were finally repaired by the railroad after considerable negotiating. The street sweeping, brush and leaf collection programs continue to be operated very successfully, to the satisfaction of the residents. Plans are being initiated for a project to address West Maple Street road surface, including water and sewer lines. The crew continues to do the work in putting up flags, flower planters, seasonal decorations, etc. to help in the aesthetics of the village of which many favorable comments are received.

Linda Hinds, Chairperson

Finance Committee Annual Report of Activities 2020

- * The Committee initiated upgrades to the village's clerk area for safety and security. Most of the project was funded by available Covid 19 grant funds.
- * The Committee initiated an upgrade to the village Code of Ordinances. The project will result in putting the Code on the village website. Expected to be completed in 2021.
- * The Committee facilitated an appraisal of the Business Park parcels for reference for future sales.
- * The Committee assisted in locating of a new business (Dollar General).
- * The Committee develops the annual budget for Village Board adoption and holds a Public Hearing.

2021 VILLAGE OF LENA GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET



Garbage Bags must be tied. 40 lbs. limit per bag.



Property Taxes—Please pay with Check/Money Order

Due to COVID 19 we are asking everyone if possible to pay your taxes by mail or use the drop box just outside the front door of the Village Hall.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



Sewer Rate Increase effective March 2021

Due to increasing operational costs the Village of Lena Board has approved a 3% rate increase on sewer rates effective March 2021. If you have any questions, please contact the Village Hall at 920-829-5226.