

Administrator's Annual Meeting Report for 2019 (presented in 2020)

County-wide addressing: After more than two years of legal battle, the Town's fight against county-wide addressing came to an unfortunate end in late spring 2019. The State Supreme Court made a unanimous decision in favor of the County. The better part of the summer of 2019 was spent with the changeover, which included switching to a six-digit house number and variety of road name changes. We held a public meeting allowing residents to have input for the new road names. By November, the County had installed the new blue flag and road signs. The Municipal Center fielded a lot of calls, but overall things went well. The calls have ended and everyone is transitioning to the new system. Admittedly, it is difficult to remember the new names. I often have to cross reference them to the old system.

Dark Stores: "Dark Stores", directly impacted the Town as the Town faced assessment challenges from Walmart and Sam's Club. The "Dark Store" theory is where typically big-box retailers suggest that their commercial properties should be appraised and valued the same whether they're operating or shuttered. The Town Assessor and myself worked on an assessment agreement with our big-box retailers.

Revaluation: Starting in 2017, the Town Assessor conducted the first walk-through revaluation in more than twenty years for the Town. The process closed out at the end of 2019. Not only did the full revaluation bring the values closer to market, but the process also brought the assessment files into the twenty-first century. The Board of Review was held in November 2019. We had a few appearances in front of the Board.

Sale of Town Property: What was once known as the "Tanglewood" property was sold in early 2020. The Town had purchased the property a few years back with the idea that it could be a site for a commercial/retail development. Adi Shabani the new owner, as of the date of this report, has not submitted a project plan for the property.

New Hauler: The Town went out for Request for Proposals for refuse/recycling services over the summer. The Town awarded a five-year contract to Harter's Disposal. It was the first significant change in service the Town has seen in many years. Finance Director Nicole Dunbar worked closely with our new hauler to correct/update records. There were errors on size of containers, amount residents were paying, etc. We also had to help coordinate the pickup of old containers and the delivery of new containers.

Staff changes: Orval Quamme started as Code Enforcement Officer starting late fall as former CEO Bert Nitzke relocated out of state. Orval has extensive law enforcement background as he once served as Jefferson County's Sheriff. Cathy Schneider left the Town as Deputy Treasurer after ten years of service. Town resident Debra Heeg replaced Cathy in early 2020. Director of Community Development Steve Kunst resigned in the fall as well to take a similar position closer to his home in Plover. Jared Wehner started in early 2020 and brought with him planning experience from his time in Weston. We also saw a few changes with the Office Assistant. Polly Lenz resigned in the fall to take another position full-time. For a short period, Dori Hirsch served as Office Assistant until January and recently the Town appointed Lynnae Kolden.

The Office Assistant position was revised to include more Deputy Clerk duties. As the election process becomes more complex, it made sense to give assistance to Clerk Joanne Ruechel. We also have added some minute taking responsibilities to the position.

Rotary Presidency: My Rotary presidency term ended in June 2019. As past-president I serve on the Board and will continue to be part of the grants review committee.

UW-Stevens Point Small Cities Conference: In the fall, I took part of the Small Cities Conference at UW-Stevens Point. I presented on consolidation of services and the Town's experience with SAFER.