



TOWN OF WYOMING NEWS

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TOTAL TAXES UP 2.0%

Total taxes levied against property in the Town of Wyoming increased 2% or \$35,458, as levies from most taxing districts increased per the table below. These increases were offset by the decrease in the total town levy in the amount of \$24,133 or 12% due to repayment of a loan from the State Trust Fund to purchase a new tractor and mower two years ago.

Town governments operate under levy limits as determined by the State, but can exceed levy limits for a number of reasons including debt payments of principal and interest. The levy limit applies to the total town levy which includes the charges from the Spring Green and Dodgeville fire departments, and this year's levy is at the limit.

COMPARISON OF LEVIES

<u>Taxing District</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Town of Wyoming	\$123,522	\$98,450
Fire – Spring Green	41,936	41,423
Fire – SG Debt Service	23,871	23,518
Fire – Dodgeville	7,801	9,350
Ambulance – Dodgeville	<u>2,624</u>	<u>2,880</u>
Total Town	199,754	175,621
Iowa County	649,180	686,498
School – River Valley	702,375	716,340
School – Dodgeville	307,036	305,285
Voc. – MATC	61,473	64,177
Voc. – SWTC	<u>36,756</u>	<u>38,069</u>
TOTAL LEVIES	1,956,575	1,985,990
State School Cr – RV	(132,411)	(128,967)
State School Cr – DV	<u>(58,568)</u>	<u>(55,969)</u>
PROPERTY TAXES	1,765,596	1,801,054
Lottery Credit	(23,070)	(19,733)
First Dollar Credit	<u>(19,568)</u>	<u>(18,822)</u>
TO BE COLLECTED	<u>1,722,958</u>	<u>1,762,499</u>
State Aids	1,136,802	1,185,242
Lottery Credit – RV	198.82	167.82
Lottery Credit – DV	199.14	164.80
First Dollar Credit RV	71.65	68.48
First Dollar Credit – DV	71.77	67.25
ASSESSED VALUE	93,701,100	95,288,800
EQUALIZED VALUE	99,970,500	106,502,600
AVE ASSSES. RATIO	93.73	89.47

THE MOST STOLEN SIGN



Knobs Road seems to be of special significance to sign stealers. The road sign would disappear every couple of years until John Pronold of Valley Repair welded the sign and the brackets to the sign post, and it was relocated from an easily accessible location to a precarious location near a steep drop-off. This deterrent was effective for many years, until this year, when once again the sign was stolen, this time along with the sign post and the brackets. Case unsolved, and no reward money in the budget. Above is a photo of the new sign and post.

TOWN CAUCUS SET FOR SATURDAY JANUARY 9

With an election for town officers coming up on April 6, 2021, a caucus to nominate candidates for the Town Board will be held on Saturday January 9, 2021, at 11 AM in the auditorium of the Wyoming Valley School, a space large enough for proper distancing during this pandemic.

The statutes require the caucus to be held no sooner than January 2 and no later than January 21. It is open to the public, but only qualified electors may nominate and vote for candidates. Any person 18 years of age or older, who has resided in the Town for at least 30 days before the caucus is a qualified elector, and also can be a candidate for office. Also, persons not living in the Town at the time of the caucus, but who intend to be residents by the time

(continued on page 2, Caucus)

(Caucus, from page 1)

they would assume office, can be candidates, but not vote in the caucus. Except for the Assessor who is appointed, all town positions are to be filled for two-year terms beginning April 20, 2021. The current office holders are shown on page 4.

WHAT'S LAND WORTH IN WYOMING?

Not much acreage was sold in the Town of Wyoming the past 12 months through October 31. Only 113 acres, or 0.4% of the 25,419 acres in the town. The five arms-length transactions were for smaller parcels, and the average price per acre was \$4934, considerably higher than ever before, but to be expected with smaller parcel sizes. Three of the sales included houses and the estimated value of the improvements was removed from the sales price to calculate the average price per acre. For just the two sales without improvements, the average price per acre was \$5351.

For the House the Rock Resort, there were five real estate transactions – two lot sales, two Fairview condo sales and one Aspen Glen unit sale.

<u>Year</u>	<u>No.*</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Av. Price</u>	<u>Price Range</u>	<u>Size**</u>
2020	5	113	\$4934	\$4300- 5446	9- 51
2019	5	202	4071	3190- 6506	13- 70
2018	9	401	4011	1785- 5595	11-137
2017	7	509	3447	2213-5000	19-160
2016	9	876	4383	2006-8712	18-255
2015	7	378	3250	2329-8300	10-146
2014	6	452	3615	2903-7500	10-157
2013	6	386	3469	2613-4631	13-126
2012	10	651	3560	2113-8209	7-114
2011	7	490	3943	3050-4909	36-173
2010	5	411	4204	3547-4500	16-227
2009	5	732	4154	3820-4238	53-236
2008	No transactions				
2007	4	264	4301	4074-4500	53- 88
2006	6	415	3862	3254-4640	38-109
2005	3	298	3893	3649-3998	42-205
2004	5	389	2536	1671-3414	40-134
2003	7	830	2761	1788-3704	43-203

*Number of land sales **Range in parcel size in acres

WYOMING ELECTION RESULTS

If Wisconsin and the rest of the country voted as the Town of Wyoming did for the position of President of the United States there likely would be no recounts, claims of widespread fraud and compromised voting equipment, mostly unfounded as of this writing, and lawsuits and anxiety over the outcome.

Biden out polled Trump 68% to 32% in Wyoming on his way to winning the presidency by a slim 20,600 vote margin in Wisconsin and a six million margin nationally. But Trump did do better in Wyoming this election with 32% of the vote compared to 2016 with 28% of the vote in his Electoral College win over Clinton.

Below are results of the November 3 election.

<u>PRESIDENT</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>WI</u>	<u>US</u>
Biden (D)	(168) 68%	56%	49.5%	51.0%
Trump (R)	(79) 32%	42%	48.8%	47.2%
Others	(12) 2%	2%	1.7%	1.8%

<u>HOUSE – 2nd DIST</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DIST</u>
Pocan (D)	(168) 68%	59%	70%
Theron (R)	(87) 34%	41%	30%

<u>ASSEMBLY – 51st</u>	<u>TOWN</u>	<u>CO</u>	<u>DIST</u>
Novak (R)	(89) 34%	47%	52%
Marion (D)	(169) 66%	53%	48%

Of the 260 Wyoming voters who turned out for the November election, nearly half or 128 voted absentee, while 132 voted in person. There were 295 registered voters, 21 of which registered on election day. Turnout was high as usual in Wyoming at 88%.

With extra precautions needed due to the pandemic, Clerk Mary Lloyd-Jones had a busy and challenging year handling absentee ballots, establishing safe procedures at the polling place, and setting up the newly acquired voting machine. Chief Election Inspector Mary Schultz was her invaluable partner, along with poll workers Kim Cates, Laurie Derse, Herb Paaren, Kim Prestangen, Sara Stellick, Lara Stroud and Katie Wyer. All are recognized and thanked for their gracious and efficient civic contribution.

LOWERY CREEK WATERSHED MAP

To understand what is happening in the Lowery Creek Watershed today, a multi-layer map has been developed that incorporates information that is available through state and county Geographic Information Systems (GIS) sources, and information collected from conversing with land owners and walking the land. Layers include or will include topography, land use, vegetation types, soil types, frog breeding sites, actively managed or restored uplands, actively managed streams, cultural sites, water monitoring sites, concentrations of invasive plants, and more. The map layers will continue to be added to and updated with notes on cropping history, cultural history and other aspects of land use.

The public is able to and invited to access this map, turn layers on and off, and zoom in with remarkable clarity and detail to features of interest to study relationships, and use the information to guide land management activities.

This interactive map is a project of the Lowery Creek Watershed Initiative, now in its third year, and developed by Mike Degen, with assistance from the South Western Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SWWRPC). Coordination of this project was supported by a Wisconsin DNR River Planning Grant.

The Initiative team will use the interactive map to identify opportunities for ecological restoration, get people talking about what is happening on the land, and think at the watershed level. <https://driftlessconservancy.org/lowery-creek-watershed> is the website to access this interesting map. Scroll down to “Mapping the Watershed”, and then click “View a working map of the watershed”.

A VIRTUAL YEAR

Since March, as the pandemic spread, settled in and then surged, all Town meetings have been held virtually on Zoom, with expectations for that to continue into 2021 for some time. An exception will be the Caucus, which is similar to elections. The agendas are posted at the Town Hall and Recycling Stockade, and posted, along with minutes, to the Town’s website, <http://www.townofwyoming.org>. But agendas and minutes can be sent directly to you by email as done in the Town of Clyde by contacting Mary Lloyd Jones.

A NEW SIGN



There was an inquiry this year about “where is this Factory Road located as I’m supposed to meet someone there and there is no sign to identify it”. Then another comment that the short gravel road that does not have a name that is located along Hwy 23 between the White Church and the former cheese factory, now the property of Paul and Sandy Erling, should be named Fahrni Road, in that the former cheese factory was the Fahrni Cheese Factory, and in recognition of Patrolman Dean Fahrni’s 35 years of service to the Town.

But the short gravel road already has a name, Factory Road. The road sign was taken down some years ago when State Hwy 23 was relocated, disappeared and never replaced. Shown above is Dean installing a new sign post and sign. He is thanked for his many years of dedicated service, but no road named after him yet.

PLAN COMMISSION

The Plan Commission organizes an annual town picnic and pig roast at Tower Hill State Park, but not this year due to the pandemic. While greatly missed, the event is incidental to its valuable and challenging assignment of reviewing land use requests and making a recommendation to the Town Board. This year it acted on two zoning requests, one conditional use, one internal driveway, one driveway access to a town road, and two building sites.

The Plan Commission meets as needed on the first Tuesday of the month. It consists of seven members appointed by the Town Board. Mike Degen is the Chairperson and Town Board Representative. Mary Lloyd-Jones is the Secretary, and the other members are Lewis Lama, Allen DeSchepper, Taliesin Representative Floyd Hamblen, Lara Stroud and Bill Ladewig.

(Plan Commission, from page 3)

AS A REMIENDER, any proposed (1) zoning change, (2) conditional use, (3) internal driveway, (4) access to a town road for any kind of driveway, (5) sign or structural change to a sign, (6) creation of a parcel 80 acres or less, (7) or a building site for residences or auxiliary structures, must be reviewed by the Plan Commission for conformity to the town’s Comprehensive Plan and land use ordinances as well as the Iowa County Zoning Ordinance. The Plan Commission will make a recommendation to the Town Board to approve, deny or modify a proposal. To get on the agenda and receive an application package, contact Mike Degen.

If the proposal includes a zoning change or a conditional use, the application to the Town is coordinated with an application to the Iowa County Office of Planning and Development, Scott Godfrey, Director.

HIGH WIRE NEWS CARDINAL HICKORY CREEK LINE IN COURT

Over a year ago the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (WPSC) granted approval of the Cardinal Hickory Creek 345kV line. But the ruling is being contested in federal and state courts, per the photo below of a sign on County Road ZZ across from the Pleasant Ridge Store.



In a recent ruling in federal court a judge allowed a lawsuit to proceed against the WPSC. The case was brought by the Environmental Law and Policy Center on behalf of the Driftless Area Land Conservancy (DALC) and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (WWF). They have asked the court to invalidate the WPSC decision and nullify the construction permit and will be allowed to make a case that Chairperson Rebecca Valcq and then-Commissioner Mike Huebsch had outside

entanglements that created perceived conflicts of interest. Howard Learner, an attorney representing the plaintiffs said “they are pleased that the US District Court’s opinion allows us to go forward in making our legal and factual case that the probability of actual bias by the WPSC commissioners is too high to be constitutional tolerable.”

The permit is also being challenged in state courts by DALC and WWF along with Dane County and Iowa County. The Town of Wyoming is a co-party to the lawsuit brought by Iowa County.

BADGER HOLLOW NETWORK UPGRADE

This fall American Transmission Company applied for a PSCW Certificate of Authority and a WDNR Utility Permit to uprate the 138kV line (x-17) that runs from Highland to Spring Green and crosses through the Town of Wyoming from southwest to northeast to the Wyoming substation and then across the Wisconsin River. The application states that selected structures would be modified or replaced to achieve 1008 AMPS “Normal Rating” and 1239 AMPS “2-hour Emergency Rating for all seasons”. Work would be conducted in existing 100 to 120-foot rights-of-way. The existing structures are wood pole H-frame, and replacements would be the same. The project is driven by the Badger Hollow Solar Plant in Iowa Co, and will cost \$15.6 million, with construction to start in August 2021 and finish by December 2021. The application further states that due to the pandemic, community outreach was focused primarily on 1 on 1 contact with affected landowners via telephone and email.

TOWN OFFICERS		
Chairman	John Hess johnhesswyoming@gmail.com	588-7082
Supervisor	Mike Degen degenmc@gmail.com	588-5346
Supervisor	Dick Cates richardlcates@gmail.com	588-2836
Clerk	Mary Lloyd-Jones townofwyoming@gmail.com	588-4335
Treasurer	Phil Limmex treasurer@townofwyoming.org	588-2820
Assessor	Randy Edge randy_edge07@yahoo.com	623-2719