

August 2020

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Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

Referendum Question on November Ballot

On August 25, 2020 the Town Board approved a resolution to place a referendum question on the November General Election ballot. With the current state of our annual allowable levy, the Board is asking for your approval to raise the state imposed levy limit and dedicate the increase to road construction projects. The Board has been contemplating this request for over a year and does not take this decision lightly. Past newsletters have explained the current funding situation and an online survey was conducted in 2019 with positive feedback from residents. Previous newsletters can be viewed at: <https://townofpleasantvalley.com/news-notices/>

As prescribed by state statute, this is the question as it will appear on your ballot:

“Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Pleasant Valley for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2021, is limited to 3.15%, which results in a levy of \$763,525. Shall the Town of Pleasant Valley be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2021, for the purpose of road construction projects, by a total of 26.194% which results in a levy of \$963,525, and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$200,000 for each fiscal year going forward?”

A “Yes” vote will approve permanently raising the levy limit \$200,000, allowing for more road projects to be completed and a “No” vote will keep the levy the same and further limit the amount of road projects which can be completed annually as the cost of materials and equipment continues to rise.

How Did We Get to This Point?

In 2006, the State of Wisconsin placed limits on the amount a Town can levy. A levy is the amount a Town can tax the taxpayers of the municipality. This amount is spread out equally among the tax payers based on assessed values of property. A low spending Town at the time of the levy limit caps was forced to remain a low spending Town with no ability to increase taxes to cover the increasing monetary demands. i.e. road construction and maintenance, fuel, vehicle maintenance, salaries, utilities. These demands have simply over run our allowed spending. The only levy increase a Town is allowed each year is the percent of net new construction. Typically, for the Town of Pleasant Valley this is around 2% of assessed value equating to a net levy increase of approximately \$10,000.

What about the County Wheel Tax?

The Town does not receive any of the Eau Claire County imposed Wheel Tax funds, however we do have county roads within the Town which benefit from the funding.

What were the 2020 road projects?

The subdivision of Woodridge received ditching, wedging and a blacktop overlay for approx. \$100,000, Interlachen Blvd had a section of road torn out, new base added, ditches improved, culverts installed and blacktop overlay for approx. \$60,000 and Birch Road received new base in the soft areas with a crushed blacktop surface applied for around \$12,000. A section of Spruce Road was redone, which did not cost the town any funds as it was warranty work from prior year’s construction. (Some projects are not completed as of printing).

What are the upcoming projects?

The list of upcoming projects is ever changing as road conditions can change unexpectedly. The short list does include Cedar, Maple, Balsam, Pine, Oak Roads, the southern portion of Lowes Creek Road along with the Woodfield and Interlachen subdivisions. Additionally approximately \$75,000 is spent on hot mix and cold mix to repair pot holes and blade patch roads annually. The Town maintains 67.64 miles of roads annually.

REFERENDUM INFORMATION ~ CONTINUED

How much have the Town expenses increased over the last 10 years?

Expense	2010	2020
Hwy Dept Budget	\$ 399,600	\$ 556,977
Annual Levy	\$ 521,202	\$ 747,215 (includes bldg. loan payment of \$185,443 added in 2015)
Plow Truck	\$ 150,000	\$ 200,000
Fire Protection	\$ 76,729	\$ 96,500
Ambulance Service	\$ 2,170	\$ 12,675 (will increase by approx. \$7,000 each year thru 2028)
Hwy Dept Wages	\$ 103,000	\$ 155,000 est
Town Board Wages	\$ 12,800	\$ 12,800 (total for 3 member board)
1 Mile reconstruction	\$ 145,000	\$ 500,000 est
Road Materials	\$ 43,000	\$ 95,000 est (salt, sand, hot and cold mix)

How will this effect my taxes?

Based on the 2020 assessed value of \$363,051,700 a \$200,000 increase would raise taxes by \$55.09 per \$100,000 of assessed value. Ex: A \$200,000 home would see an increase of approx. \$110 on the Town portion of the tax bill.

*These numbers are based on 2020 assessed values. As the Town continues to grow, the same amount of levied dollars is spread out over an increased value, netting out a decrease in the taxed amount per assessed dollar. These numbers reflect only the Town portion of your real estate tax bill. Approximately 13% of your real estate tax bill is Town tax. We can not predict any increases or decreases in County, School or Technical College levied dollars from one year to the next.

REFERENDUM OPEN HOUSE

The Town Board will be holding an Open House at the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 from 5-7pm. Please feel free to stop in and ask any questions you may have regarding the upcoming referendum question.

ATV/UTV Routes and Regulations

The Town Board has approved SOME roads within the Town open for ATV/UTV usage. The Big Creek ATV/UTV Club is responsible for applying to the Town Board for routes as well as placing and maintaining all the signage. Routes are not considered open until they have been approved and all signage is installed.

More information and a map of the open roads can be viewed at: <https://townofpleasantvalley.com/atv-utv-routes/>

Only approved vehicles can be operated on the town roads. Off-road motorcycles, small atv's, golf carts and three wheelers are not acceptable. Please refer to Wis Stats 23.33 and Wisconsin Administration Code NR 64 for detailed information. Hours of operation are from dawn to dusk only, speed limits are 35mph (unless posted at a lower speed) and the driver must be over 16 years of age. Please watch for these vehicles on our roadways.

Violators should be reported to the Eau Claire County Sheriff's Department non-emergency number. If the regulations are not followed, the Board has the discretion to close a road or all roads for ATV/UTV usage.

November 3, 2020 General Election

Voter Registration and Absentee Ballot Requests from Third Party Vendors—CAUTION!

Voter registration drives and absentee ballot requests from special interest groups will increase this fall. Although some of the mailings will appear to be originating from the Town of Pleasant Valley, the Town is not affiliated with any of the organizations. While most organizations are legitimate, this is also an area of opportunity for identity theft. Be aware that voter registration requires personal information such as your date of birth and driver's license number. Always read the fine print and be aware some of the mailings do not provide you with all the information you need to properly register to vote or request an absentee ballot. Voter registrations require Proof of Residency and absentee requests require Photo ID. The safest means to register to vote or to request an absentee ballot include the following:

- Online at myvote.wi.gov
- Contact your Municipal Clerk for the proper forms to be emailed or mailed to you.
(townofpleasantvalley@gmail.com or 715-878-4645)
- In-person at your Municipal Clerk's Office: Check website or call 715-878-4645 for hours.
- In-person at your assigned polling location on Election Day 7am-8pm
- Additional information is on our website at: <https://townofpleasantvalley.com/useful-information/>

NOTE: The Wisconsin Elections Commission will be mailing information to all registered voters who do NOT have a valid absentee request on file information on how to request an absentee ballot for the November Election.

myvote.wi.gov

The myvote.wi.gov webpage is an excellent tool for voters in the State of Wisconsin. You can do the following in a few simple clicks:

- Find your polling place and clerk contact
- Verify your registration and/or register online if your drivers license is current. Learn about other registration options.
- Request an absentee ballot
- Track your absentee ballot online
 - view the date your ballot was mailed to you
 - confirm your ballot has been received in the clerks office after you return it
 - verify your vote was counted on Election Day. (The counted feature is not available until a couple of weeks post-election)



CLEGHORN HARVEST FEST

Saturday, September 12th, 2020

*For the Safety of our Community and our Attendees,
we will be offering sales of a Drive-Thru Chicken Dinner as this year's event.*

Dinner Includes:
1/4 Chicken
Chips, Pickle, Dinner Roll, Dessert
Milk or Water

PLUS
a Chance on Winning a Door Prize

\$10
Serving from 11am – 5pm,
or until gone.

Drive Thru Only – Watch for Signs

Cleghorn School Park
510434 County Rd HHI
(about 6 miles south of Eau Claire)

RAFFLES!

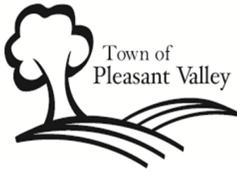
PRIZES!

CLEGHORN LIONS CLUB
WE SERVE

*Proceeds will help provide food, clothing and special gift requests
for children who need it the most during the holiday season.*

www.CleghornHarvestFest.com  www.facebook.com/cleghornharvestfest

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or townofpleasantvalley@gmail.com

Town Shop (715)878-9461
Burning Permits and regulations:
(715)834-6868 and townshipfire.org

Town Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of
each month at 7:00pm in the Town Hall.

PLEASANT VALLEY FIRE FIGHTERS 2020 DONATION DRIVE

With the reduced size of Harvest Fest due to COVID19, the Pleasant Valley Fire Fighters will not be holding their annual pancake feed or calendar fundraisers. The PVFF will be conducting a by-mail donation drive this fall.

Donors will be entered into a drawing for door prizes. Stay tuned for future PVFF fundraisers!

The PVFF are always looking for new members. Please contact John Norby at 715-577-4319 for more information.

townofpleasantvalley.com

Visit our website and you will find all valuable information including: calendars, meeting agendas and minutes, facts, notices, forms and permits, frequently asked questions, budget information and more.

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