

Watertown Township

Winter 2022 | Volume 8, Issue 1

Organized 1858

Important Dates

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm

Board of Appeal & Equalization Meeting

Monday, May 2 at 6:30pm

Monthly Board Meetings at 7pm

Residents are always welcome!

Monday, March 7

Monday, April 4

Monday, May 2

Monday, June 6

Tuesday, July 5

Monday, August 1

Tuesday, September 6

Monday, October 3

Monday, November 7

Monday, December 5

Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Monday, February 6, 2023

All meetings in 2022 will be held in-person at the Township Hall and online via Zoom.

Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j>

Meeting ID: 952 955 2446

Passcode: 55388

Audio only: 1.312.626.6799

Township Election Date

Tuesday, November 8

Township positions on the ballot include one Clerk (Wayne Hubin) and one Supervisor (Seth Quiggle, not seeking reelection).



Watertown Township Hall & Shop

3580 CR 10 North
Watertown, MN 55388

952.955.2446
watertowntownship@gmail.com

Chairman	Scott Hoese	952.693.6645
Supervisors	Jerry Bruner	612.803.1699
	Seth Quiggle	612.298.9155
Treasurer	Stephanie Coe	
Deputy Treasurer	Ann Bruner	
Clerk	Wayne Hubin	612.309.3996
Maintenance	Barry Fritzke	952.955.2446

Carver County

www.co.carver.mn.us
952.361.1500

MAT Scholarships for High School Juniors May 1 Deadline

The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is awarding \$2,000 scholarships to up to five juniors that plan to further their education at a college, university, or vocational school. Students can apply by visiting www.mntownships.org and submitting their application and essay.

Annual Meeting: Tuesday, March 8 at 7pm

Agenda

- 2021 Financial Statement
- Set 2022 Levy
- American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds
- Completed Capital Outlay: Audio and Visual Conferencing System, Security System
- Contracts: Fire Protection, Recycling, consider Police Services
- Resident Reminders: Solar Ordinance, County Road Construction, Right-of-Way, Burn Permits, Mailbox Supports
- Road Maintenance and 2022 Projects

2021 End of Year Financial Update

Beginning Total Balance	\$508,382.53
Checking Account	\$180,860.15
Investment Accounts	\$327,522.38
Ending Total Balance	\$668,378.83
Checking Account	\$340,062.73
Investment Accounts	\$328,316.10

Investments Include

- 0.02% APY Money Market at Bremer Bank: \$328,316.10 (opened 3/13/2019 with an interest rate of 2.39%)
- Closed 2.0% APY 5 year CD at Bremer Bank (opened 4/8/2016)

Checking account is held at Bremer Bank offering a 0.01% APY

2022 Proposed Levy: \$373,000

The Township board proposes no change from 2021 (levy set at \$373,000). The levy has remained unchanged since 2016.

General Fund	\$97,000
Road & Bridge	\$276,000
Base Road Maint.	\$91,000
Dust Coating	\$85,000
Road Projects	\$100,000

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021.

ARPA will provide the township with roughly \$136,000 to assist in our COVID-19 response. In 2021, the township received an initial \$69,284.94 and an additional \$67,088 is expected in July 2022.

The township has until 2024 to formulate a plan to use the funds and 2026 to exhaust the funds or give back to the government.

At the December board meeting, the supervisors and residents in attendance approved \$20,000 of the ARPA funds to be used to install an audio and video conferencing system to host meetings for those residents that would like to attend online. See cover page for Zoom video link and audio connectivity information.



A security system for the Township Hall and Shop will also be installed.

Note that no resident levy money is being used for these projects.

Right of Way Reminder

It is **unlawful to perform unauthorized work (tilling, planting) within a road right-of-way, as well as, to deposit snow, or other debris on or next to a public highway or street** per MN Statute 160.2715 and Watertown Township Ordinance.

Consideration of Police Services

 Prior to 2014, the Township had contracted with the County for policing services in a shared arrangement with the City of New Germany, the City of Mayer, and Laketown Township. Policing services at this time included investigation of misdemeanors and animal control issues, where a deputy was dedicated to the Township for 8 hours per week.

At the annual meeting in 2014, the residents voted to terminate the police contract as motor vehicle ticket revenue would no longer be coming back to the Township to pay for a large portion of these services. Ticket revenue paid for approximately 63% of the Township's expense (total contract was \$12,516 in 2014). In 2021, ticket revenue was \$4,242.79. The police contract has been discussed every year at the annual meeting; however, residents have continued to vote to not pursue a police contract.

Recently, some residents have shown interest in restarting the Township's policing services. At current rates, one full-time deputy would cost the Township \$132,000 per year. The sheriff's office has advised the Township that there is not enough work to support one full-time deputy; therefore, the Township would need to find a suitable partner(s) to share in the deputy's time and expense. If the Township would be able to find four other partners, it would cost roughly \$26,400 per year for 8 hours per week of police services.

Note that even without a Township police contract, the sheriff's office deputies cover emergencies, peace keeping, and felony base-level calls through residents' county tax dollars.

Solar Ordinance 6-2021-I

In response to resident concern about solar gardens in the Township, the board adopted the Watertown Township Zoning Ordinance No. 6-2021-I. **The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that all future solar garden development shall be placed and operated only upon owner occupied land.**

 All solar garden proposals must be submitted to the Township board and Township planning committee for review and determination of its applicability.

For more information regarding the application process or ordinance, contact Wayne Hubin at 952.955.2446.

Township Road Projects

Completed in 2021: Repaired culverts on Quaas Ave and Newton Ave; repaired erosion along Buck Lake Rd and Common St; and hauled 1,900 yds of gravel and 360 tons of and limestone.

Mumford Sanitation Recycling Service

 The Township provides a **free recycling service to residents** through Mumford Sanitation. The 5 year contract started in March 2018. The Township receives a county grant to cover a portion of the cost. **If you'd like to participate and receive a 65 gallon cart, contact Wayne Hubin or Barry Fritzke at 952.955.2446.**

Recycle pick-up is every other Thursday.

Single-sort recycling includes glass, plastic (1-7), cans, paper, shredded paper in closed bag, books, and corrugated cardboard and box boards.

Plastic bags are NOT recyclable. For more information on approved recycling items, contact Mumford Sanitation at 320.543.3601 (toll-free

Proposed for 2022: Paving of 900 ft of Quarry Ave (funded by state LRIP grant) with Watertown-Mayer Public Schools; new concrete box culvert on Rose Ave (funded by the county's bridge replacement program); and Common St repairs.

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Carver CRs 10 & 24 Construction



Construction March 2022 through October 2022

Stage 1: Repave CR 10 from MN 25 northward to the Wright County line; and reconstruct CR 24 from CR 10 eastward to Paul Ave.

Stage 2: CR 24 total redo of the road surface along with adding 8 ft shoulders (2 ft paved, 6 ft gravel), adding a west bound left turn lane at the intersection with Oxford Ave, and other safety related adjustments.

Stage 3: Reconstruct CR 24 from CR 127 eastward to the Hennepin County line.

Stage 4: Pave CR 24 from CR 10 eastward to the Hennepin County line; and repave CR 127.

Resident Reminders

Burn Permits

Annual burn permits are \$5 and available by calling Si Tesch at 952.955.1120 or online at <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/burningpermits>. Residents must call the number on the form prior to burning on that particular day.

Resident Mailbox Support

The mailbox support is the personal property of the homeowner and allowed in the road right-of-way. To help reduce your liability, install a swing-away mailbox support. The Township will purchase and install for a **fee of \$75**. For more information, contact Barry Fritzke at 952.955.2446 or watertowntownship@gmail.com.