MEET THE BOARD & STAFF

Jeff Amend, Chairman
Shelly Hiemstra, Supervisor
Scott Zacharias, Supervisor
Cindy Sheskey, Clerk
Pearl Schicker, Treasurer
Randy Zabel, Highway Supervisor

MAILING ADDRESS

W12605 Sheldon Rd.
Brandon WI 53919
Phone: (920) 291-7743

We're on the web!

www.townofmetomen.com

- Spring Election and Presidential Preference Primary - April 7, 2020
- Partisan Primary - August 11, 2020
- General and Presidential Election - November 3, 2020

NOTE: Public election machine testing will be held on the Wednesday BEFORE each election at 4:30 pm **Call Pam Ferch for absentee ballot (920) 960-2535**

PUBLIC POSTING NOTICES

Updated Statues 985.02 (2)(a): public notices will be posted in the town hall entrance and on our website. (Example-Meeting agenda, minutes, meeting date changes, annual budget and other notices). No longer will you see posting in the 3 posting boxes located throughout the township.

OPEN BOOK & BOARD OF REVIEW AT TOWN HALL

Open book is scheduled for April 22, 2020 from 6:00-8:00pm. Board of Review is scheduled for April 29, 2020 from 6:00-8:00 pm

TOWN OF METOMEN
W12605 Sheldon Road
Brandon, WI 53919

TOWNSHIP UPDATES continued...

BUILDING CODES: BUILDING PERMITS

The State Uniform Code covers all new construction of one & two family dwellings. New home construction building permits should be requested from Grand Valley Inspections Services at 920-229-6360. Grand Valley will cover inspections for footings, foundations, general constructions, electrical and plumbing, decks, porches, air conditioning, insulation, grain bins, barns or sheds with electrical, erosion control, and occupancy inspection.

A PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

- Remodel existing home – bathroom, kitchen, garage, basement, etc.
- New Garage, decks, porches, swimming pools
- Commercial and industrial construction, and remodel existing buildings

TOWN HALL RENTAL

You can rent YOUR town hall for your events. Chairs, tables, coffeemaker, refrigerator supplied in a nice kitchen area with large serving counter. Hall serves capacity of 70. Wheelchair accessible. Rental fee is $50.00 for town residents plus security deposit. Contracts and details are in the town hall entry on the bulletin board or See our website.

METOMEN NEWSLETTER

Newsletter designed by Christy Ross

CBD Oil---the new buzz words of 2019.

We have a rich history of hemp as a cultivated crop in Metomen. Industrial hemp and the medical values of CBD oil have resurged from its early beginnings a bit over 100 years ago.

With WW I looming, a need grew for a suitable fiber to make rope, twine and thread. The U.S. government with University of Wisconsin promoted this alternative hemp production to area farmers. Metomen/Brandon became the epicenter of national hemp production in a few short years to peak at 70% U.S. production of hemp fiber during WW I and WW II eras.

Matt Rens, an Alto area farmer latched onto the idea in 1914. After his first year of growing, harvesting and processing hemp, he realized all phases of growing this crop needed improvement. It was way too labor intensive and lacked fiber quality. He spent the next 30 years making these improvements. In 1915, he built the first area hemp plant mill on Hwy. 49, between Brandon and Waupun. Remnants of the original building are still there. By 1920, there were 15 mills in the area with one mill in the Town of Metomen on the west edge of the village of Brandon.

As with all agricultural crops, hemp had its ups and downs in it's 30-40 year reign. Matt got into the business, out of the business and back in, always making improvements. He became known as "America's Hemp King". The Rens Company mill by Brandon closed in 1957, but still flags it's old chimney up through the trees along Hwy. 49 west of Brandon.

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Need your help discovering Metomen History

This short story about hemp production was gleamed from many historical articles. We know there are many un-recorded recollections among our residents. If you have a story or photo(s), please share it with us. We have lots of wall space to display our town history.

Some ideas:

When/where the first telephone was installed
When/where electricity was first used.
Worst Blizzard, floods, tornadoes, drought
POW's harvesting crops
Inmates working in area
Barn Raising

Submit photos and stories with approximate date, location, names of people in photo (if possible) and your name and phone number in an envelope. Bring to a board meeting or drop off in a drop box in the town hall entrance.

2020 ANNUAL MEETING DATE

2020 Annual Meeting will be held on April 21, 2020 at the town hall. Please plan to attend. Town Hall site address: N6971 Hwy. 44/49 Ripon, WI

COMMUNITY

UPDTES FROM THE BRANDON PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is excited to announce an expansion. We have purchased the alleyway next door and we plan to double the size of the Library. With a capital campaign kicking off soon, we are hopeful for this expansion to take place in Spring of 2021. In general, libraries have become more than a place to pick up books, books on tape, DVDs, and magazines, and Brandon Public Library is no exception. We have become a place of hands-on learning resources with a variety of classes and workshops throughout the year. We offer game nights, hands-on woodworking (with a CNC woodcarver), greenscreen photography, adult coloring, music lab, embroidery and sewing basics, cooking class, and a tinker class - all made available in coordination with Laconia High School through a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, which administers the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA). The library continues to hold movie nights, LEGO Club, Preschool Story Time, Book Club, and Author Signings throughout the year, as well as a Summer Reading Program. With funding from the Friends of the Brandon Public Library AND more space, our programs and services will continue to grow.

HOWEVER, we are still a place to get anything you need. Our Library is a part of the Winnefox Library System. So, if we don't have what you're looking for in-house, we can quickly "borrow" from any of the 29 other libraries in the Winnefox System, with system-wide delivery service 5 days per week. We are even able to acquire materials from outside the system (state or nation-wide). We have a fax machine, a color printer/copier/scanner, a 3D printer, Wifi (available 24/7), or you can stop in to use one of our 9 public computers.

If you are looking for a way to get involved with the library, we are looking for people to join our Friends or the Campaign...or BOTH. If you want to join or even keep up-to-date with Library news or Friends newsletters, you can find more information on the Library website (www.BrandonLibrary.net) or find us on Facebook. Attending any meetings does NOT obligate you to commit or join, but we invite you to come see what we're all about. In brief, the Friends are a non-profit, volunteer group of citizens who recognize that our public library is a vital community resource. Brochures containing more information and how to join are available at the Library.

Brandon Public Library
117 E. Main St. PO BOX 208
Brandon, WI 53919
Phone: 920-346-2350
Email: ross@brandonlibrary.net
Find us on Facebook: "Brandon Library"

Free library card, free resources, stop in,
Christy Ross, Director

UPDATES FROM THE
BRANDON-FAIRWATER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Have you ever heard sirens and wondered, where are they going? Have you ever seen smoke coming from a structure and prayed that everyone is okay? Have you stopped to think that I live in a great area and would really like to help my neighbor? Have you ever thought about being a part of a team? If you answered yes to any of these, the Brandon-Fairwater Fire Department would like to talk to you. We are looking for energetic individuals that are willing to help out our communities that we serve as well as our neighboring departments. If you feel you would like to join the Brandon-Fairwater Fire Department, please feel free to contact myself or any member of the department.

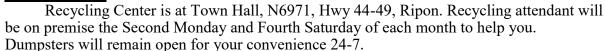I wish everyone a safe 2020.
Kevin Lieske, Chief

Brandon-Fairwater Fire Department
272 S. Woodward St. PO Box 1
Brandon, WI 53919
Non-Emergency Phone: 920-517-1790
Email: brandonfairwaterfd@hotmail.com

TOWNSHIP UPDATES

RECYCLING

Recycling Center is at Town Hall, N6971, Hwy 44-49, Ripon. Recycling attendant will be on premise the Second Monday and Fourth Saturday of each month to help you. Dumpsters will remain open for your convenience 24-7.
We have also gotten a lot of unwanted matter in the dumpsters and leaving the doors open. Please remember that only recyclables may be placed in dumpsters. All bags must be emptied, take the plastic bag with you and put in your garbage--do not leave plastic bags in dumpster. Break down any boxes as flat as possible to save room in the dumpsters. Each time we have to empty out a dumpster it costs the township approximately $900. If we continue to receive unwanted matter in dumpsters we will be forced to lock them and only open during recycling hours in future.

TOWN ROAD WORK

Following our 5 year road maintenance plan, the Township will be repairing Radio Road from Liner road north to Hwy 44 this year. We will grind out road, and repave the entire stretch of roadway. Crack-Filling will also be done on the town roads as needed. The Town Board also has some very good news on road repair for the next couple of years. With the help of Ryan Arndt, Civil Engineer (who did all of the creative grant application writing, thank you Ryan), we applied for three 90/10 grants and one 50/50 grant. State grants pick up 90% and 50% of cost of the projects. Of the 4 projects we applied for, we were awarded grant funds for 2 of them. We will receive 70% (of the 90/10) grant award to replace Dixon Road from Sunny Knoll to Brandon Village limits. The State was overwhelmed with the 90/10 grant requests as only 5% of the applications received funding---WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE. With the 50/50 Local Road Improvement Program Grant award, the Township will replace 1 mile of Radio Road in 2021.

DRIVEWAY AND CULVERT ORDINANCE: is in effect for all property on Metomen town roads.
Ordinance 6. Design Standards -Amended effective 1/1/2020

STEEL CULVERTS for agricultural entrances must be at least 80 feet long and residential culverts must be at least 25 feet long and placed under at least 1 foot of cover, be a minimum of 15 inches in diameter, be at least 10 feet from the nearest culvert. Culvert size will be determined by the Town Board so as to allow for proper drainage.
Contact Jeff Amend at 920-248-5390 for any driveway permit. A $50 fee for the permit will be charged.

TAX COLLECTION:

We **encourage** you to pay by mail to avoid waiting in line. Payment amounts are included on the payment stubs located at the bottom of our tax bill. Enclose the appropriate payment stubs with your payment. Mail payments to the location listed on the payment stub (note December/January address is DIFFERENT than the July payment address). Please do not enclose the original tax bill.
Payments will be accepted in the form of a check, cashier's check or money order. Certify that an escrow check meets or exceeds the tax bill amount and endorse the escrow check. Overpayments will be refunded within 2 weeks of payment.
WARNING: If payment is not made by the due dates, the installment option is lost and the total tax is delinquent and subject to interest and penalty. See the reverse side of your property tax bill for a complete explanation. Self Addressed stamped envelope is needed if you want a receipt.

TAX BILL PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements removed from land must be gone completely and inspected by the Town appraiser before January 1st of the tax year to be removed from rolls. Otherwise the improvement will be taxed until the following January 1st and then removed from the rolls

DOG LICENSES

Any and all dogs kept in the Township must be licensed with the Treasurer when you pay your taxes. Home/rental owners: please remind your renters of this law. A copy of the rabies vaccination is required and will be returned with your tags. UNPAID dog licenses will be monitored and collected with penalty (by WI Statutes)