

Town of Port Washington

2024 NEWSLETTER

PROPERTY TAX BILLS & PAYMENT

IN FULL & FIRST INSTALLMENT:

2024 Tax Bills were mailed in early December. The full amount or first installment will be due to the Town of Port Washington by **Friday, January 31, 2025**

BY MAIL: Include the tear-off stub for the 1st installment or full payment with your check made payable to **Town of Port Washington** and mail to:

Town of Port Washington Treasurer 2354 Willow Road, Port Washington, WI 53074

(Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like a receipt.)

DROP BOX @ Town Hall: Located on the south doors of the town hall. Please include your statement and check, along with your phone number.

BANK: Port Washington State Bank, 206 N. Franklin St., Port Washington is the only bank that payments will be received at. Payment accepted during lobby hours.

** If you have a refund coming, payment at the bank is suggested. Refunds can only be made after the entire tax bill has been paid.*



December

Sat, Dec 21: 8:00-Noon

Mon, Dec 23: 9:00-Noon

Sat, Dec 28: 8:00-Noon

Mon, Dec 30: 9:00-Noon

Tues, Dec 31: 9:00-Noon

January

Mon, Jan 20: 9:00-Noon

Wed, Jan 22: 1:00-4:00 PM

Mon, Jan 27: 9:00—Noon

Wed, Jan 29: 1:00-4:00 PM

Fri, Jan 31: 8:00—Noon

TOWN MEETINGS:

All Meetings are held at the Town Hall, 3715 Highland Drive

- ◆ Town Board Meetings: The Town Board meets the first Monday of each month at 7:00pm.
- ◆ Planning Commission Meetings: The Planning Commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.
- ◆ Annual Meeting of Electors—3rd Tuesday of April
- ◆ Board of Review & Open Book with Assessor—TBD, Spring
- ◆ Town of Port Washington Public Hearing, meeting of Electors to pass Levy—November

All meetings are posted at the town hall & on the town website.

Agendas of upcoming meetings and also Minutes of past meetings can be found on the Town Website. All meetings are open to the public, and we welcome you to attend. If you would like to have an item placed on the agenda of either the Town Board or Planning Commission meeting, please notify the Town Chairman, Mike Didier or the Town Clerk, Heather Krueger no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting. It remains at the discretion of the Town Chairman whether or not your item will be discussed.

Town Board:

Chairman:

Mike Didier
414-573-0018

mike@mikedidier.com

Supervisors:

Greg Welton
262-370-6207

weltonbuilders@yahoo.com

Gary Schlenvogt
262-483-7712

Gary.town.port-washington@gmail.com

Building Inspector:

Roger Kison
414-333-4511

rkison@wi.rr.com

Treasurer:

Mary Sampont
262-284-5394

Treasurer@
townofportwashingtonwi.gov

Clerk:

Heather Krueger
262-284-5235

clerk@townofportwashingtonwi.gov

Plan Commission:

Melissa Alexander
Chuck Baranek
Mark Doll
Ed Potokar

Town Planner/ Zoning Administrator:

Christy DeMaster
Trilogy Consulting
262-470-2277

ccramer@trilogy-llc.com

ELECTIONS

2024 GENERAL ELECTION RESULTS: TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON

- The Town of Port Washington had 1,173 Registered Voters on Election Day. (The total population of the town is estimated at 1,457)
- Total Votes Cast: 1137 = 97% of voters cast a ballot
- Election day registrations = 63
- Election day voters 568
- Absentee/In-person absentee Voters: 569

PRESIDENT:

Harris / Walz: 393

Trump/Vance: 717

US SENATOR:

Baldwin: 379

Hovde: 726

ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 22

Glasstein: 350

Melotik: 746

COUNTY RACES:

All unopposed

REFERENDUM:

YES: 837

NO: 260

2025 Election Dates

February 18th: Spring Primary Election (to be determined)

April 1st: Spring Election

REGISTER TO VOTE! Plan ahead and make sure you are registered to vote prior to election day! Proof of residence is required when registering. If you are new to the town, have moved within the township, or have a name change, you will need to register to vote. This can be done in the Clerk's office, but it is easiest to register online at myvote.wi.gov.

ABSENTEE VOTING: If you are a registered voter, you can request an absentee ballot after January 1, 2025, for an individual election or the entire calendar year. The Post Office cannot forward election material, so please make sure you are putting the correct address on your request if you will be out of town.

ELECTION WORKERS: If you are interested in working at the polls on election day, contact Clerk Heather Krueger. Duties include checking in and registering voters, initialing ballots, processing absentee ballots and end of night closing procedures.



Visit [MyVote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to:

- ✓ Register to vote
- ✓ Name or address change
- ✓ Request and track absentee ballots
- ✓ Find polling place
- ✓ Review voting history

BUILDING PERMITS: Building permits and planning project applications can be printed from the Town website: <https://www.town.port-washington.wi.us/> Permits are required for any structural changes, remodeling and alterations, additions, basement and/or garages. Also, replacement of heating equipment, plumbing and electrical. A permit is not required for residing, window or door replacement as long as there are no structural modifications or the first reroof. If you are unsure or have questions please call the Building Inspector.

Looking for agenda's? Meeting minutes? Town contacts? Forms or permits? Check out the town's website for all the information you're looking for!

www.town.port-washington.wi.us

ANNEXATION OF TOWN LAND

By Town Chairperson Mike Didier

What does the Town of Lake (Milwaukee County), and Town of Preble (Brown County) and Town of Madison (Dane county) all have in common? They no longer exist due to annexation. A town's boundaries can change via annexation, incorporation, or consolidation. Since Wisconsin became a state in 1848, the factors noted above have severely eroded the boundaries of towns all across the state from their original six-mile-by-six-mile template, as each was originally set up with via the Public Land Survey System of 1787. Annexation tends to generate the most widespread publicity and is the most common way for a town's geographic boundary to shrink.

WHAT IS ANNEXATION?

"Annexation" is the process used by cities and villages to increase their size through the acquisition of additional land from a town. In almost all cases, the land which the city or village seeks to acquire needs to be contiguous to the cities or village's existing boundaries. The Town of Port Washington shares boundary lines with the Village of Saukville and the City of Port Washington.

HOW DOES A CITY/ VILLAGE OR LAND OWNER ANNEX LAND?

Most commonly the land owners are the ones who decide if they want to annex. As outlined in Wis. Stat. § 66.021, there are three common methods that can be used to annex town lands: Direct annexation, Annexation by referendum, and Annexation of certain town islands. Most commonly the process is triggered by a landowner who wants to either connect to municipal sewer or develop the land at a higher density than permitted by the town. This would be an example of direct annexation, where the land owner/owners of the property sign a petition for annexation. Then procedural notices are completed including a review by The Wisconsin Dept. of Administration (DOA). Finally, the city or village with a two-thirds vote to adopt the annexation through an ordinance. This process does not involve the Town and a town can do little to stop or prevent annexations of town land unless it can be determined that the annexed land is not contiguous to the annexing municipality as Wis. Stat. § 66.0217(2) & (3), require that territory annexed be *contiguous* to the annexing city or village. And that term is not defined in the statute opening an area for objection.

DISADVANTAGES OF ANNEXATION FOR A TOWN:

Annexation can frequently trigger strong emotional responses from other residents in the town or city even if their land is not a part of an annexation petition or even located close to it. This is because Territoriality is an ancient instinct that humans retain vestiges of today. Any change can be distressing, and with annexation this is frequently so. In addition to territorial transfer, it adjusts the tax base and the service area of one governmental unit to the neighboring municipality. Disruption of service providers, new plans and ordinances always follow shortly after annexation. It is like moving to a new city, without physically moving.

Also, when cities/villages have authority to annex town land with such ease, it makes it difficult for a town to plan. Many towns are unwilling to engage in planning or provide services for their residents, fearing that an annexation will undermine these efforts. Also, towns, like cities and villages, rely on property taxes as their principal source of revenue. Therefore, when a city or village annexes town land, a portion of the town's tax base is eliminated. Because of this, towns across the state, including the Town of Port Washington, have in the past found themselves in prior years engaged in bitter and costly lawsuits with their municipal neighbors over boundary disputes. Over 500 acres of Town land has been annexed to the city since the year 2000.



*Town of Preble was annexed to the city of Green Bay in 1964 *Town of Madison was annexed to the city of Madison in 2023 *Town of Lake was annexed in the city of Milwaukee in 1964

TRASH & RECYCLING **The Town of Port Washington is the only town in Ozaukee County that does not charge for trash or recycling!**

Please help us self-police by making sure only town residents are using the drop-off facility!

TRASH: All household trash is required to be bagged, the town does not accept construction debris, yard waste or large items. For this type of trash, please contact any private waste contractor or Ozaukee Iron & Metal @262-284-4060, located at 728 Schmitz Dr., Port Washington.

RECYCLING: Recycling should not be bagged or include plastic bags of any type. Any food item in or on a recycled product is not recyclable—please clean recycling products before separating. If you are unable or unwilling to clean the recyclable, please dispose of it in the trash.

HOURS: THURSDAYS 4:00-6:00PM & SATURDAYS 8:00AM-Noon

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS SHOULD NOT BE PLACED IN THE COMINGLED RECYCLING DUMPSTER:



TOWN TAXES

Town officials are often asked how collected tax dollars are spent. The pie chart shows how property taxes collected during the 2024-2025 tax season will be allocated.

The total amount of property taxes collected will be \$3,650,697. About 13.29% or \$485,213 is allocated to the Town to run the municipality.

2025 Town Budget Items:

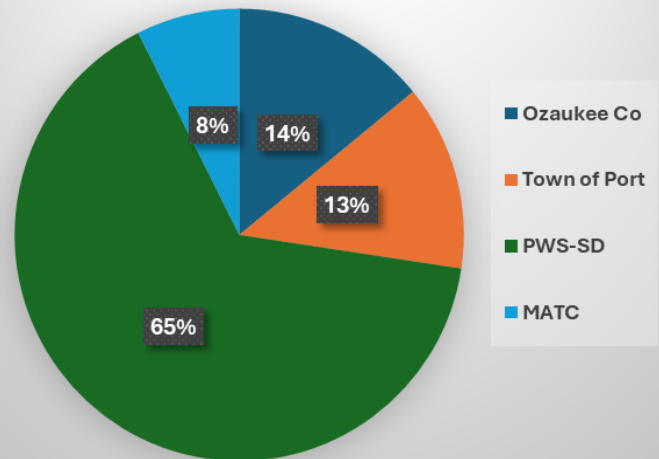
- *Road Construction Projects- \$ 170,000
- *Road Maintenance- \$ 50,000
- *Snow & Ice Removal- \$ 45,000
- *Trash & Recycling- \$ 47,750
- * Fire Protection— \$176,600

The Town Board continues to explore ways to maintain the quality of Town services, while negotiating for the best price.

Assessment Information:

Residents can meet at the Town Hall with the Assessor during Open Book hours each year to discuss their current property assessment. If you choose to appear before the Board of Review to contest your assessment after that meeting, you will need to submit the necessary objection form in advance and receive an assigned appearance time. The burden of proof lies with the property holder in providing their case for change in assessment. Look for Open Book dates, typically in May, or contact the Assessor. Contact information is on the town website. www.town.port-washington.wi.us

2024 Tax Distribution



\$3,650,697—2025 STATEMENT OF TAXES

\$514,682—OZAUKEE CO TAX LEVY

\$485,213—TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON TAX LEVY

2,747,264—PORT WASHINGTON SAUKVILLE SCHOOL DISTRICT

271,222—MATC

TOWN OF PORT WASHINGTON
DOG LICENSE APPLICATION
MARY SAMPONT, TRESURER

Wisconsin State Statutes mandate that the owner of a dog more than five months of age on January 1, or five months of age within this year, **shall obtain a license prior to April 1** or on or before the date the dog becomes five months of age. A late fee of \$5 per dog licensed after March 31st will be applied. This fee is in addition to the regular license amount listed below.

- All dogs must be licensed in the Town of Port Washington.
- If you own a dog/s, please complete the application below and send it to the town treasurer.
- Please do not include the dog license fees on the same check as your property tax payment.
- **You will need to send along verification of rabies vaccination.**
- Please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your return dog tag, license, and vaccination records

Mail Application, Information, and Check To: MARY SAMPONT, TREASURER, 2354 WILLOW ROAD, PORT WASHINGTON, WI 53074

SPAYED OR NEUTERED DOGS: \$3.00 EACH / FEMALE OR MALE DOGS: \$8.00 EACH

OWNER NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

HOME ADDRESS: _____

1 NAME OF DOG: _____

BREED: _____ COLOR: _____

MALE FEMALE

SPAYED NEUTERED

2 NAME OF DOG: _____

BREED: _____ COLOR: _____

MALE FEMALE

SPAYED NEUTERED

3. NAME OF DOG: _____

BREED: _____ COLOR: _____

MALE FEMALE

SPAYED NEUTERED