



# Department Updates

November 2017

## County Clerk

**DeeAnn Cook**  
County Clerk

### UPCOMING ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR 2018:

- Spring Primary Election: Tuesday, February 20
- Spring Election Tuesday, April 3
- Fall Partisan Primary Tuesday, August 14
- Fall General Election Tuesday, November 6

There were no fall elections this year but the next election cycle is just around the corner. Candidates interested in running for an office at the 2018 Spring Election should file their candidacy as soon as their intent to be a candidate is known. Up for election in April 2018 at the county level will be all County Board Supervisor seats. In addition, on the ballot will be state level Justice of the Supreme Court plus var-

ious school and municipal races. There will almost likely be a statewide February Primary due to the number of candidates who have expressed interest in the judicial race. Anyone interested in running for a seat on the county board should contact our office for information and assistance in filing the necessary paperwork. Candidates are reminded that they should file their candidacy with the filing officer prior to spending or collecting any funds and prior to getting signatures on their nomination papers. Candidates can start obtaining signatures on their nomination papers on December 1, 2017 and they must be filed no later than 5:00 PM January 2, 2018. Any incumbent not seeking re-election needs to file a Notification of Non-candidacy form with their filing officer no later than December 22, 2017. If an incumbent does not file candidacy and fails to

file a Notification of Non-candidacy, the filing period must be extended.

Every polling place is required to have a Chief Inspector who is in charge on Election Day. Individuals serving in that capacity must complete the required training course. Since I am a certified trainer through the Wisconsin Election Commission, we offered a training here recently and will offer at least one more session prior to the next election due to the demand. Attendees from Barron, Washburn, Rusk and Eau Claire Counties took part in training and received certification.

Dog licenses for the next year will be distributed to Municipal Treasurers soon and they will be bringing in their final settlement for 2017.

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## Forestry

### John Cisek, Forester

A wet summer and fall has given way to more seasonal temperatures. As the ground begins to firm-up the possibility of starting logging operations improve.

On November 6<sup>th</sup> the County Board passed a resolution to accept the 2017-2018 County Forest Accomplishment and Work Plan. This document outlines the accomplishments

that were completed on the county forest and sets out the plan for the upcoming year. The document is required to apply for various government grants.

#### Timber Sale Activity

- The harvest of the Chetek Firetower property was completed in October. The area will be surveyed to assess the need for clearing and seeding of trails in 2018.

- Two storm damage areas, the Silver Creek Plantation and the Wisti bids were let for a Sept. 8 bid opening. Both sales received bids.
- The Ski-Trail timber sale was opened in September. Wet weather slowed progress. Wood was being stacked on the landings until the main trail could be traveled.

## Highway

### Mark Servi Highway Commissioner

The weather has turned just as we are completing our fall projects. Pavement replacement was completed on CTH SS from the Chippewa County Line north to CTH AA, CTH D from CTH K to CTH P and CTH TT from USH 8 south to the termini. Despite many challenges, the crew did a fantastic job of meeting our schedule. We are very pleased with the quality of the work, once again showing the skill set and attention to quality that our employees have. We are fortunate to have a great group to work with.

This past year has seen more the normal turn over in our crew. We have had 6 vacancies that we have filled. Each of the new employees brings a different skill set and the ability to learn. This will continue to be critical as we see our crew reach the age of retirement and we will be looking to replace the many years of experience that they take with them. Training will be critical as we move forward, as it is almost impossible to replace 25-30 years

of experience. The Department is looking at potential training options to insure that we remain efficient in our activities.

Once again, we have performed many projects for the Cities, Towns and Villages in Barron County. These included projects ranging from patching and crack filling to culvert replacements to paving projects, and everything in between. The crew works hard to meet the expectations of the Locals on these projects. Each project figures into the success of our Department on a yearly basis.

As funding continues to be tight we are prioritize projects to insure we are getting the greatest rate of return for the investment the county is making in highways. By using all the various funding mechanisms available, this year we have replaced pavement on 9.2 miles of county highways and performed crack filling and seal coat of an additional 14 miles. There were also two bridges replaced on the

county system. With almost 292 miles of county highways, we are falling behind in our pavement replacement, which should be in the 14-15 mile range annually. This is not unique to Barron County, as statewide the investment in highway infrastructure is failing to meet the needs. A good example of this is the WISDOT is now performing "late in life" chip seal projects in attempt to hold roads together that should be replaced. An example of this is the work on STH 48 between Cumberland and Rice Lake this past summer. This section was originally scheduled for pavement replacement, but lack of available funding lead to the decision to chip seal. We will be seeing more of these types of "late in life" treatments in attempt to hold together pavements that are in need of replacement.

## Treasurer

### Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

#### Tax Collection

We are getting geared up for tax collections again. We have been working on updating the Lottery and Gaming Credits, getting the new Lottery Credits posted and deleting Lottery Credits that are no longer eligible. We will be spending a fair amount of time this month on getting information ready for our annual Municipal Treasurers' training that will be held on December 6, 2017.

#### Act 52- Municipal Treasurer's Bond

Effective for 2017 property taxes distributed in 2018, the municipal treasurer must execute a bond for

no less than the amount of state and county taxes apportioned to the municipality. Prior years the bond amount was \$250k. This year there will be no state taxes levied so the bond must be the amount of the county levy. The bond is not required if the municipality enacts an ordinance obligating the municipality to pay the county, if the municipal treasurer fails to do so.

#### Tax Deed

We have started the In Rem Tax Deed process on parcels that have 2014 delinquent taxes. The list has been sent to the title company to do the searches and the title search fees have been added to these parcels.

#### Land Sale

Barron County tax deed property is being sold on Wisconsin Surplus Auction Online, Auction Number 171005. The auction will end on November 30, 2017. Information can be found on the Barron County website at [www.barroncountywi.gov](http://www.barroncountywi.gov) under "What's New?". There are 14 properties listed and 8 of those parcels have buildings on them.