

# VILLAGE OF ELLSWORTH

# Newsletter

WINTER 2021

## HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## CONTACT INFO

Village Administrator/  
Clerk-Treasurer's Office  
(715) 273-4742

Police Department  
(715) 273-3275

## DROP BOX

Payments and/or paperwork can be submitted using the 24-hour drop box on the front side of the Village of Ellsworth (130 N. Chestnut Street).

## FRIENDLY REMINDERS

### Dog Licenses

All dog licenses expire on December 31 each year. Dog licenses/fees are due by March 31 or will be assessed a late fee.

### Payments

The Village accepts cash, check and/or Point and Pay payments. All checks should be written out to the Village of Ellsworth.

## Welcome!

*Message from Becky Beissel, President, Village of Ellsworth*

Dear fellow community members,

To enhance communication, the Village Board approved publishing four newsletters per year. These will arrive via your tax and utility bills (extra copies will also be available at the Village Hall). I believe this is a positive step forward in transparency and bolstering the connection between the Village and the community, a goal that is important to me. I hope you enjoy this first issue!

I have been at the helm as board president for eight months. It has been an exciting learning



**Becky Beissel**  
President

curve—I have spent many hours getting my bearings, examining processes, asking questions, etc. We've already tackled several projects: a new village website, preliminary planning for updating our comprehensive plan, hiring three new police officers, hiring our new public works director, continuing progress on the new library project, and updates to some internal processes. I have also spent some time at our schools, speaking to students about local government.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. I wish you and your families much happiness and health this holiday season.

## Winter is Here

*A brush up on winter weather procedures*

Winter weather has made its return—and with it hazards on our roads and sidewalks. Here are some important reminders about the Village of Ellsworth snow removal policies:

The Village of Ellsworth will mobilize its crews when there is a measurable accumulation of snowfall or if the winter mix is causing a hazardous driving situation such as freezing rain. Our Public Works Department is responsible for over 45 miles of roadway with a fleet of 2 plow trucks, 1 grader, 1 loader, and a 450 V plow truck – and a crew of 5 employees. Street plowing operations are performed in the following order to ensure the safe flow of traffic:

1. High traffic and downtown areas
2. Hills

### 3. Secondary streets

Shoveling guidelines for residents and commercial property owners:

- Commercial property owners and residential property owners are responsible for shoveling sidewalks adjoining their businesses/homes.
- Shoveling/plowing snow into the street is a village code violation.
- Shovel out fire hydrants that are in or around your property
- Uncover your mailbox and create a path for postal vehicles to pull up to mailboxes.
- Be a good neighbor and help those who may need assistance with snow removal.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

## Winter Parking Ban

On-street parking is prohibited by Village Ordinance 233, 443, 545 12/2004, which states: No person shall park on any street or highway in the Village any vehicle, except physicians on emergency calls, between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m. from November 1 through March 31. Cars that are parked on streets may be ticketed and/or towed at owners' expense.

Parked cars are an obstacle to the snow plows. In addition, plowing around parked cars leaves areas of snow and ice on the roadway. Thank you for your cooperation.

# New Village of Ellsworth Website

*Providing better resources for the community*

After months of hard work, we're thrilled to be launching our new Village website this month. A functional and informative website is a necessary tool in these times.

Not only will the website be a valuable resource for residents, new residents and business owners will also find it a helpful tool. Often, this is their first impression of the community; we want it to be a good one with easy access to the information they need to live and do business here.

As you explore the new website, some features you will find useful include:

- Signup to receive email or text notifications based on your preferences. Notifi-

cations can include meeting notices, agenda updates, announcements, etc.

- Learn more about our Village committees, boards, and commissions. What they do, names of committee members serving, and more. You can also request consideration for a committee assignment.
- Find answers to your questions in our Resident Help Center.
- Businesses can find resources in our Business area.
- Pay utility bills or tickets securely online (fees do apply).
- Easily navigate and search ordinances (coming soon).

## VILLAGEOFELLSWORTH.ORG

### Plan [2022]

*Updating the Village of Ellsworth Comprehensive Plan*

Per state statute, beginning January 1, 2010, every municipality in the state of Wisconsin was required to have a comprehensive plan. A Comprehensive Plan includes the following nine elements: (1)Issues and Opportunities, (2)Housing, (3) Transportation, (4)Utilities and Community Facilities, (5)Agricultural, Natural, and Cultural Resources, (6)Economic Development, (7)Intergovernmental Cooperation, (8)Land Use, (9)Implementation.

These plans are required to be updated no less than every ten years. To assist with this update process, we

have contracted with Chris Holtkamp and his team from the University of River Falls. Chris has helped several other communities with their comprehensive plans; we are excited to have him guiding us.

We are currently in the pre-planning process, which started with a small group of representatives from the Village Board and Planning Commission. Chris walked them through a process to form our steering committee tasked with keeping the project moving forward. Thank you to the following individuals willing to serve: President Becky Beissel, Trustee Andrew Borner, Trustee

Mindy Anderson, Steve Georgakas, Jeremiah Paulson, Ashley Boe, CJ Campuzano, Jared Murphy, and Angel Anderson.

An important element of the process is the need for extensive public feedback. Your input will be needed! Watch for a community survey, town halls, and meetings for residents, local groups, and organizations. These will begin at the end of January.

The team at UW-RF will then take the community feedback and create a useable plan specific to

Ellsworth, incorporating community and stakeholder feedback. The final plan will include goals for each of the nine essential elements, along with steps on how to achieve them. A need for secondary plans may come out of the process (i.e. Complete Outdoor Recreation/Parks Plan, Downtown Design Guidelines, etc.)

Another benefit of having foundational plans is that they make us more competitive for grant opportunities. With budgets being as tight as they are, this opens up additional funding opportunities for our community.

### Spring 2022 Election



There are three trustee seats up for re-election/election in spring 2022. As of December 1, Village Board Trustee candidates can circulate nomination papers for this election.

Are you interested in serving on the Village Board? Candidate packets are available at the Village Hall for anyone interested in running. Questions? Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer Stewart can assist you with questions regarding the candidate packet. Reach her by phone at (715) 273-4742 or email at nicole@villageofellsworth.org.

#### Important Dates

- December 27, 2021 – Last day for incumbents not seeking re-election to file a Declaration of Non-Candidacy
- January 4, 2022 – Final day (4:30 pm) for filing nomination papers.
- February 15, 2022 – Spring Primary (if necessary)
- April 5, 2022 – Spring Election

WI residents can visit [myvote.wi.gov](https://myvote.wi.gov) to register, find polling locations, review a ballot, and request an absentee ballot.

### Meet our New Public Works

#### Director: Bradley Vick



**Bradley Vick**  
PW Director

With the retirement of public works director Greg Engeset in April, we had an important role to fill at the Village. A big thank you to public works employee (foreman) Mike Huppert who covered this role for us as interim public works director.

We are pleased to announce our new public works director Bradley Vick. Bradley comes to us from Rhinelander, WI where he worked with the City of Rhinelander for 15 years. When asked what he's looking forward to the most, joining the team here in Ellsworth, he replied, "a good working environment and knowledge crew."

Bradley and his family are looking to relocate here in the coming months. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, and snowmobiling.

Please join us in welcoming Brad to the team!