

TUESDAY AUGUST 13, 2024

# TOWN OF OSCEOLA

## ROAD MAINTENANCE REFERENDUM

516 EAST AVENUE NORTH, DRESSER, WI 54009 ▪ 715-755-3060 ▪ WWW.TOWNOFOSCEOLA.COM

### Road Maintenance Referendum

#### Why a Referendum?

Due to levy limits, the Town of Osceola must ask for approval from taxpayers through a referendum to increase the tax levy to fund road construction and maintenance. In the past the Town's population was less than 3,000, which allowed the Town Board to adopt a resolution supporting an increase in the levy if approved by a majority of the residents voting on the question in a special town meeting.



In 2006, the State of Wisconsin placed limits on the amount a Town can levy. A levy is the amount a Town can tax the taxpayers of the municipality. The only levy increase a Town is allowed each year is the percentage of "net new construction". Typically, for the Town of Osceola, this has been around 0.11% of the assessed value, equating a net levy increase of approximately \$9,062. This amount is spread out equally among the taxpayers based on assessed values of property. As a low spending Town at the time the levy limit caps was enacted, the Town is forced to remain a low spending Town with a limited ability to increase taxes to match the inflating monetary demands, i.e. road construction, road maintenance, fuel, vehicle maintenance, salaries, and utilities. Increased supply and labor costs, coupled with higher road maintenance costs are at a much higher rate than what the Town's current levy can cover.

### REFERENDUM

The Town Board recently approved a resolution placing the following referendum question on the August 13, 2024 Election ballot. The below referendum question is the wording as prescribed by State Statute §66.0602(4)(c) and the WI Department of Revenue.

**The Question: "Under state law, the increase in the levy of the Town of Osceola for the tax to be imposed for the next fiscal year, 2025, is limited to 1.062%, which results in a levy of \$861,339.00. Shall the Town of Osceola be allowed to exceed this limit and increase the levy for the next fiscal year, 2025, for the purpose of road construction, by a total of 36.083% which results in a levy of \$1,178,339.00 and on an ongoing basis, include the increase of \$317,000.00 for each fiscal year going forward?"**



## YOUR TAX BILL

Taxes are calculated off of the assessed value of a property (*shown on your tax bill*). This is how a \$317,000 levy increase will affect your tax bill.

Assessed Value	Increase to Tax Bill*	
	Annually	Monthly
\$200,000	\$221.61	\$18.47
\$300,000	\$332.42	\$27.70
\$400,000	\$443.24	\$36.94

\*These calculations are based on 2023 assessed value figures



## WHAT DOES THE QUESTION ON THE BALLOT REALLY MEAN?

The Town Board is requesting a levy (*amount taxed to the property owners*) increase of \$317,000 which will become a permanent part of the annual tax levy to the property owners of the Town for the purpose of adding additional funds to the road construction annual budget. Instead of the estimated 2024 levy of \$861,339 the annual amount will increase to \$1,178,339. This is an estimated 36.083% increase ONLY the Town portion of your total tax bill. The Town portion of your tax bill is approximately 17% of your annual real estate taxes.

## ROAD COSTS

The largest part of the Town budget is public works, which includes road construction and maintenance. A glaring example of skyrocketing costs is road construction. In 2006, the cost to blacktop one mile of road was approximately \$83,000. In 2024, the cost is approximately \$221,000. This is an increase of 166%. Shared revenue from the State of Wisconsin has not kept pace with these increases.

The Town Board has been aware that cumulated effect of these State-mandated limits in the face of rising costs would eventually require the Town to pursue an increase to the levy or be forced to reduce or eliminate services currently provided by the Town.

### 2024 Estimated Road Construction Costs

- **1 load Blade Patch/100ft/2 lanes \$800**
- **1 Culvert installed \$4,000**
- **1 mile Pulverize \$15,000**
- **1 mile Single Chip Seal \$23,000**
- **1 mile Crack Seal \$10,000**
- **1 mile 4" base – hauled \$20,000**
- **1 mile 2 ½" blacktop overlay \$160,000**
- **1 mile Total reconstruction \$221,000**



## WHEN WILL YOUR ROAD BE RECONSTRUCTED?

With 63.1 miles of road to maintain, the Town cannot guarantee specific maintenance to any particular road, due to ever-changing road conditions. Currently the Town is planning for a 30-year pavement life cycle for our roads, if the referendum passes.

All of our roads are used by law enforcement, fire protection, ambulance services, garbage haulers, school buses, delivery trucks, neighbors, friends, and many more valuable service providers. It is important that we have safe, well-maintained roads. All roads will get their turn as funding permits. The Town has been and will continue to apply for grant dollars as they become available in order to reduce local cost.



## WHAT A YES VOTE MEANS

The Town will have the ability to continue providing services and public works maintenance at current levels, including fire protection, ambulance services, public works, parks, personnel and equipment, and properly fund the road construction budget for a 30-year pavement life cycle and to better meet current needs for the Town.

## WHAT A NO VOTE MEANS

Due to budgetary restraints, the Town will be forced to reduce and/or eliminate some services currently being provided. For road construction/maintenance, the Town is doing approximately 84% of what is required to properly maintain the roads due to escalating material costs.

## OF NOTE

The Referendum language could be misinterpreted that the increase of \$317,000 would be added on top of the levy in each succeeding year. **This is not the case; if passed, it would be a one-time, base-building, increase of \$317,000** that remains as an ongoing part of the yearly tax levy going forward each year.

## WHEN AND WHERE TO VOTE

**Tuesday, August 13, 2024, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.**

**Town of Osceola residents vote at the Town Hall**

**516 East Avenue North, Dresser, WI 54009**

**Register to vote at [www.myvote.wi.gov](http://www.myvote.wi.gov)**



Town Of Osceola  
P.O. Box 216  
Dresser, WI 54009



## MORE INFORMATION



### Information Session - Monday July 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m

For more information about the Town of Osceola Road Maintenance Referendum join us for an information Session on Monday July 22, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. At the Town Hall, 516, East Avenue North, Dresser, WI 54009.



Visit our Website at [www.townofosceola.com](http://www.townofosceola.com) or scan the QR Code for more information.

