

TOWN OF BASHAW

Annual Newsletter – December 2024

Find information about our township’s history, government, elections, taxes, meetings, financials, public notices, forms & permits, as well as contact information for our town board at www.townofbashaw.org.

2024/25 Financial Information

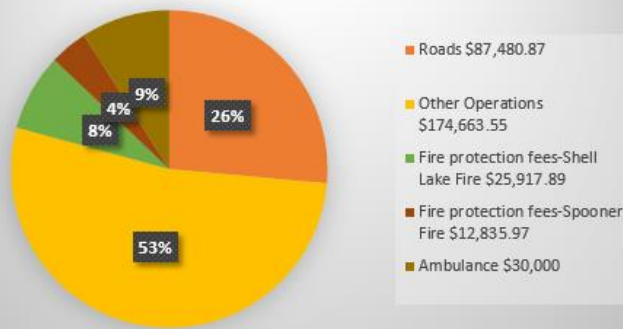
Distribution

Total Levy Distribution



- Washburn County 28.15%
- Town of Bashaw 8.69%
- Shell Lake School 55.84%
- Spoooner School 21.45%
- Northwood Tech College 2.55%
- School Tax Credit -16.68%

Local Funding Distribution



Town Equipment

Last year in this newsletter we reported on maintenance/ repair work done on the grader and the new plow truck the township had purchased. We are happy to report that we have had no problems with either and that they should continue to serve the township well for years to come. FYI...the balance on our truck loan is \$50,029.

Budget

REVENUES	2024	2025
Transportation Aids	\$151,518.28	\$151,518.28
Shared Revenue	\$34,000.00	\$34,000.00
DNR	\$850.00	\$850.00
Local Levy	\$133,979.00	\$136,030.00
Snowplow Flags	\$0.00	\$0.00
Interest	\$2,500.00	\$8,500.00
Total	\$322,847.28	\$330,898.28

EXPENDITURES

Roads	\$86,035.45	\$87,480.87
Capital Road Outlay	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00
Equipment		
Purchase/Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Supplies	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
Elections	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
Truck Loan	\$71,902.20	\$17,975.55
Insurance	\$8,593.00	\$11,888.00
Fire protection fees-Shell Lake Fire	\$25,917.89	\$25,917.89
Fire protection fees-Spooner Fire	\$12,835.97	\$12,835.97
Ambulance	\$29,762.77	\$30,000.00
Townhall Maintenance	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Board Salaries & Per Diems	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00
Assessment	\$10,000.00	\$37,000.00
Road Payment	\$0.00	\$30,000.00
Shell Lake Library Donation	\$500.00	\$500.00
Spoooner Library Donation	\$500.00	\$500.00
Hospice Donation	\$500.00	\$500.00
Washburn County Humane Society Donation	\$800.00	\$800.00
Total	\$322,847.28	\$330,898.28

Assessment

Most everyone is well aware that the township had a state-mandated total reassessment this year for the first time in about 20 years. Overall the township's equalized value nearly doubled but the mill rate went down about 50%, so while some people will see an increase in their property taxes some may see a decrease. Our normal assessment has cost us \$7,800 the last couple of years but the reassessment itself cost an additional \$40,000. The assessor agreed to split that bill over two years so assessment costs in both 2024 and 2025 will be \$27,800 and in 2026 will drop back to about the \$7,800 level. The \$40,000 cost of the reassessment is all money that would otherwise have been allocated for road improvements as reflected in our 2025 budget projections.

Deputy Town Clerk

When combining the Clerk and Treasurer positions two years ago the Board hired, on an hourly basis, a Deputy Clerk to primarily handle elections. With the increase in absentee and voting by mail the amount of work involved with an election has increased significantly. Evelyn Paffel was hired as the Deputy Clerk, and did a great job, but because of her other commitments does not want to continue beyond the April elections. The Board will be looking to hire a new Deputy Clerk. Anyone interested in this part time job should contact a Board member.

April Elections

At the April elections, electors will select a Town Chairman and two Town Board Members. Also, two years ago there were no interested candidates for the Town Clerk position. Lesa Dahlstrom, the Town Treasurer, agreed to do both positions with the addition of a Deputy. The Board took action to combine the two positions of Clerk and Treasurer into one Clerk/Treasurer position. With increased demands that elections require it has been discussed that the two positions should indeed be separated. The Board has held a special electors meeting to once again separate the two positions. As a result, the township ballots in April will reflect electing of both a Clerk and a Treasurer. There is reason to believe that qualified candidates will emerge at the town caucus held in January 2025.

Reminders

- Garbage containers must be far enough off the road bed that the snow plow wing will not reach them. That means a minimum of 6 to 8 feet.
- It is illegal to plow snow across the road. It is a liability for the home owner and often a problem for the snow plow.
- The front of your mailbox should be 2 feet beyond the road bed and the bottom should be 42-45 inches above the road bed. The township highly recommends that you install a swinging mail box. It minimizes damage and it reduces the necessary shoveling for the landowner.

Terri Trail

Terri Trail is a one quarter mile piece of road in the Green Valley Estates development located in the very northeast corner of the township. When that development was platted out 30-40 (or more) years ago Terri Trail was a part of it. However, except for a few rudimentary improvements it was never developed as a road. Despite that fact, the township has collected road taxes on it ever since. The township now has been asked to turn it into a functional roadway by adjacent property owners who are intending to build home(s) on their lots. This fall pine trees in the right-of-way have been trimmed up, some trees removed and ditches marked out. In the spring minor ditching will be completed, one culvert installed, some stumps removed, the roadbed shaped and a 4-inch mat of gravel put down. Total cost to the township should be around \$12,000 to \$15,000.

Sand Road



Sand Road has the highest traffic count of any road in the township and for many years has been in very bad repair, which leads to hazardous conditions. A few years ago, the township put a new surface on the first 1.5 miles west of Shell Lake. The remaining 3 miles had to wait until, somehow, the funds could be found. In late 2023 the state

offered a grant program to support projects like Sand Road. The application process seemed daunting but the Bashaw Board went to work and submitted. They were advised that proposals over \$500,000 stood a lesser chance of being accepted. Since 3 miles of blacktopping would exceed that they chose to apply for only 2 miles and did receive a grant for \$346,500 which was about 70% of the cost. The Board felt that it made economic sense to do the 3rd mile now even if it meant borrowing some of the necessary funds. Bashaw was also able to get an additional \$14,207 state grant to apply to that mile. The totals of the bids for the 3 miles were \$719,043. The total township cost for the 3-mile project was \$358,336 and that was covered by a \$250,000 4.5% loan and the existing cash on hand. Several municipalities in the county applied for money from this special state grant fund but Bashaw was the only township to get one. A project of this size happens rarely in a township the size of Bashaw. While this project is a great achievement for the township it will take a couple years to get it all paid for and that means major road projects will be minimal during that time.