



City of Mosinee

November 2018

Dear Mosinee Resident:

I hope you had a nice fall and are enjoying getting ready for the holiday season. Here at City Hall and the Mayor's Office, fall is one of our busiest times of the year because it is when we are busy working on preparing a budget for the upcoming year. Other taxing jurisdictions, including the School, the County and the Technical College are busy in the same process. Along with the City of Mosinee, all of these other taxing jurisdictions appear on the annual property tax bill you receive in December to arrive at your final property tax. Like the City Council for the City line of your property tax bill, the governing bodies of each of these other taxing jurisdictions determine what they can and will tax to meet their budgets for the following year.

Last year, I was happy to report that after working on much needed road repair and equipment replacement in 2016 and 2017, we would be holding our tax levy to a zero increase in 2018. This year, I am happy to report that our preliminary budget is projecting a tax levy decrease for 2019. Depending on the levies of the other taxing jurisdictions, your property tax bill may go up or down. However, at the City, it was my goal this year to have a zero increase and I want to thank staff for actually ending with a slight levy decrease.

In addition to a levy decrease, I am happy to report that for another consecutive year the City will be receiving Expenditure Restraint Aid from the State of Wisconsin. Expenditure Restraint Aid is not afforded to every municipality in the State; rather, it is reserved for those municipalities like Mosinee that have kept general fund expenses low. We have done that again in this budget and, as a result, we anticipate receiving nearly \$40,000 in Expenditure Restraint Aid in 2019, bringing our aid to over \$100,000 over the last three budgets.

In addition to lowering our tax levy and being rewarded by the State for keeping our expenses down, we are also making heavier cuts into existing debts in other places, including the utility's debt to the general fund. In 2015, the utility owed the general fund approximately \$3 million. We also faced double digit water rate increases and downgraded bond ratings. We started paying that debt back, slowly. With this budget we will be more than doubling our present \$25,000 payment and, in 2020, we anticipate increasing that payment to approximately \$200,000. Those increased payments will open up the possibility of creating, for the first time in decades, a cash street improvement fund.

Budgeting is not the only thing we were working hard on at the City in October. At the end of the month, I joined City staff and the Council at the annual League of Municipalities conference, where we had the opportunity to meet with local leaders from communities throughout Wisconsin to learn from each other. The League has hundreds of members, and each year we leave with great ideas for Mosinee, some of which I plan to start working on with City staff.

In other news, I was honored to attend several community activities in October, including the annual Community Center of Hope banquet for our local food pantry, a groundbreaking of a major expansion at AROW Global, an open house for our newest Central Wisconsin Business Park tenant, Transport Refrigeration, and a tour of the soon-to-open Mosinee Brewery with Governor Walker. I look forward to providing you with another update next month. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime with questions. Have a great rest of your November.

Mayor Brent Jacobson

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Winter Snowplowing Information

Snow season is here and along with snow comes slippery streets and icy sidewalks. The Public Works Department plows approximately 40 miles of streets, 10 miles of alleys, parking lots and sidewalks. It takes about 15 hours to clear the City of snow, although the time may vary due to the depth and type of snow. Due to the fact that the State of Wisconsin has significantly cut the amount of annual aid payments to the City and forced staff

reductions, the City will again be snowplowing with one less driver. **Similar to last year, it will take us approximately 4 hours longer to clear the City streets and alleys of snow.**

In order to make the job of snowplowing and snow removal easier for the Public Works Department, residents should keep the following in mind: City ordinances prohibit blowing or shoveling snow onto or pushing snow across any City street. Parking is also prohibited if a snow emergency is declared.

All sidewalks must be cleared of snow and ice within 24 hours after the snow has stopped falling. Failure to do so may result in fines to the property owner. Property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks safe and clear.

The City is divided into five areas for plowing purposes. Each area has streets that are designated as Priority 1. Priority 1 routes are the City's major collector and arterial streets and have been laid out in such a manner that most residences are no more than four city blocks from a Priority 1 street. These streets are plowed first and are kept passable at all times, if possible. The City does have a Snow and Ice Removal Policy which addresses snow plowing issues. A copy of this policy, along with a map of plowing routes, can be viewed at City Hall.

Every snowfall or snowstorm is different but in general we begin to plow, salt and sand when snow accumulations are about 1 inch on hills and busy intersections and 2 inches elsewhere. During heavy snows, plows concentrate on the Priority 1 streets during the day. A night plowing operation is then scheduled to clean all City streets. If you have any questions or concerns relating to snow plowing operations, please call the Public Works Dept. at 715-693-3840.

STREET PARKING RESTRICTED

Parking is not allowed during the hours of 2:00a.m. and 6:00a.m. on any street or highway from November 1 to April 1 in the City of Mosinee. For more information please contact the Mosinee Police Department – 715-693-2000

SIDEWALKS – SNOW REMOVAL ORDINANCE

The owner, occupant or person in charge of each and every building or structure or unoccupied lot in the city fronting or abutting any street shall clean or cause to be cleaned the sidewalk in front of or adjoining each such home, building or unoccupied lot, as the case may be of snow or ice to the width of such sidewalk within 24 hours after the snow has ceased to fall and shall cause the sidewalk to be kept clear from ice and snow, provided that when the ice has formed on any sidewalk so that it cannot be immediately removed, the persons referred to in this section shall keep the sidewalk sprinkled with salt, sawdust or sand.

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Recycle Christmas Lights



Habitat for Humanity of Wausau is collecting Christmas lights. Every year tons of light strings are thrown away and end up in landfills across the country. Habitat for Humanities collects all kinds of light strings – old or new, working or not. Worn out extension cords are also collected. Habitat for Humanities recycles the copper and plastic from the strings and uses the proceeds to assist low-income families in our community. **A drop box is available at City Hall – 225 Main Street.** For more information please call City Hall or HFH at 715-848-5042.

Christmas Craft Show, Festival and Parade

Saturday, December 1, 2018

Admission: Free

Location: Mosinee High School and Downtown Mosinee

9:00 am-3:00 pm: At the Mosinee High School you will find a Family festival with an Artisan, Craft and Small Business Show (annually over 130 vendors within two gyms and the hallways). The Chamber's Candy Cane Raffle to benefit our Mosinee High School Chamber Scholarship. Mrs. Klaus's Cafe with food and refreshments. And don't forget to bring the kids to visit Santa. The Mosinee High School Choir will also host their Annual Bake Sale with lots of great Christmas treats. **[Register your booth online at the Mosinee Chamber of Commerce website \(www.mosineechamber.org\).](http://www.mosineechamber.org)**

9:00 am-11 am: Pancake Breakfast with Santa & Live musician in the Mosinee High School Cafeteria. The Children's area has craft activities for children while they wait to visit Santa.

9:00 am-11 am Photos with Santa in the Mosinee High School Cafeteria. Have your picture taken with Santa for a minimal fee or bring your own camera.

5:45 pm: Make sure to head to Downtown Mosinee for the Annual Christmas Parade and Downtown Tree Lighting with the Mayor.

5:30 pm: Line-up for Parade

6:00 pm: Parade starts. The parade is sponsored by Advantage Community Bank **[Register your float online at the Mosinee Chamber of Commerce website \(www.mosineechamber.org\).](http://www.mosineechamber.org)** Registration Deadline is Nov 25. Line-up is at 5:30.

For more information on the Christmas Craft Show, Festival and Parade contact the Mosinee Chamber of Commerce at 715-693-4330.



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SECURE YOUR MAILBOX

Reminder to Check Your Mailbox Before Snowplowing Season *Please inspect your mailbox and post to insure that it is installed properly.* Just a reminder to make sure mail boxes are sturdy and able to withstand the force of plowed snow. Make sure the posts are solid in the ground, and boxes will not pop off if a pile of snow is pushed against it. Rotted wood posts and rusted steel posts will not withstand the weight of snow being pushed against them. Plow Operators are instructed to be cautious near mail boxes. In most cases a properly installed mail box will permit a snow plow to clear snow around it. Most cases of damaged mail boxes are caused by heavy snow hitting the box. The mail boxes are not usually hit by the plow. A mailbox with alleged damage from a direct hit by a City snow plow must be reported immediately and will be visually inspected by City staff. It is the policy of the City to only reimburse the owner for mail boxes broken from coming in direct contact with the plow.

OPEN ICE SKATING HOURS – MOSINEE REC CENTER

The City of Mosinee and Mosinee Hockey work together to provide Open Skate hours at the indoor ice rink at the Mosinee Recreation Center located at 701 11th Street. This month's open skate hours are:

November 16th - 6:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.

November 17th - Noon to 8:00p.m.

November 18th - 10:30a.m. to 4:30p.m.

November 24th - 6:00p.m. to 10:00p.m.

For the complete open skate schedule please visit: www.mosineehockey.com and click on the Open Skate tab. If you have additional questions please call City Hall at 715-693-2275.

AUTO-PAY YOUR WATER/SEWER BILL

Customers of the Mosinee Water and Sewer Utility have the option to have their water and sewer bills directly deducted from their checking or savings accounts on the due date of each billing. We currently have over 400 customers using this option.

Customers will still receive a bill from the Utility, but it will be marked for Direct Payment. The ACH – Payment Authorization form is available on our website at www.mosinee.wi.us or at City Hall.

Completed forms can be dropped off or mailed to: City Hall – attn: Water and Sewer Utility – 225 Main Street, Mosinee, WI 54455.