

November 2023

Dear Mosinee Resident:

I am pleased to bring you this monthly update from City Hall and the Mayor's office. In my prior monthly update, I highlighted some of the important aspects of our 2024 budget planning process. That process has proceeded over the past month with three budget workshops. The budget workshops are an opportunity for the City Council to hear from department heads and staff and consider anticipated revenues, expenses and capital projects. Ultimately, the City Council must decide on a preliminary budget to publish in the Mosinee Times in advance of passing a final budget. This occurred following the October 30th budget workshop.

The City was very fortunate to receive in excess of a \$100,000 increase to general state aid. However, the City suffered approximately a \$50,000 decrease in intergovernmental revenues from a combination of transportation aid and expenditure restraint aid. The reduction in transportation aid comes from an adjustment to the multi-year formula used to calculate the City's aid. The reduction in expenditure restraint aid comes from an expansion of the program which allowed more communities throughout the state to participate. Thus, we take the good with the bad, and overall we are pleased to have a net gain in intergovernmental revenue this year.

In addition, personnel costs are simply on the rise. This certainly is not abnormal for communities throughout the state. In Mosinee, I am pleased to report, however, that our increases largely come from recent investments in increased public safety. As I have previously mentioned, the City and Mosinee School District partnered in a plan to add two additional school resource officers. Further, the City chose to add one additional on street officer. The salary and equipment costs associated with the school resource officers will be funded by the school district during the time the officers spend in the school. During non-school times, those officers are available to assist with cutting down on overtime from an already stretched force.

Aside from personnel increases and less than anticipated intergovernmental revenues, the City is anticipating addressing several overdue street projects and equipment needs at the public works department. However, to address these needs and defer tax levy implications in 2024, the City is anticipating adding those expenses to a larger street bonding for the Main Street to Rangeline Road reconstruction project. In working with the City's financial advisors we anticipate the initial debt service payments will not occur until 2025. In the meantime, the City is exploring several options for increasing our general fund cash position, including, among other things, early closure of our business park tax increment finance district. The district is nearing the end of its statutory period and has more than served its purpose with its equalized value approximately tripling since inception.

In all, while this has not been an easy budget process, as always we have endeavored to be good stewards of taxpayer dollars by focusing on basic public safety and long term infrastructure needs in addition to general city services. We have also leveraged ways to spread out costs while considering sources of revenue to lower the demand on future tax levies. As I remind residents, the City is one of several tax entities on the property tax bill. We are still awaiting the tax levies of other entities and will take those into account before passing a final budget at the end of November. My goal has always been to ensure that basic City services are addressed with as minimal an impact as possible to our community's taxpayers. I look forward to providing you with a final budget summary in my update next month.

Mayor Brent Jacobson



City of Mosinee

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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 @ City Hall, 225 Main Street. For more information please call City Hall or HFH @ 715-848-5042.

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 600 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.

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.



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Automated Collection – Refuse and Recycling Carts – Information

In an effort to keep our communities clean and create more efficient collection routes, the City of Mosinee utilizes automated trash and recycle collection using carts. The lidded carts keep materials dry and from blowing out on windy days. The carts are also designed to easily roll to the street, road or alley. Further, the automated collection system increases the level of safety for route drivers.

Can I place my recyclables in plastic bags? **NO, DO NOT place recyclables in plastic bags or put bags-of-bags in your cart.** The City of Mosinee has a recycling box inside City hall for plastic bags.

What should I do if my trash and recycling materials don't fit in my cart?

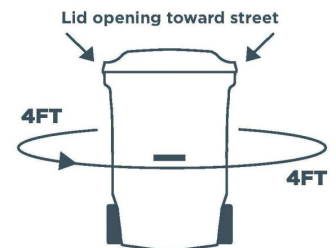
Save them for your next collection day, Ask a neighbor if they have extra room in their cart for your trash or recycle, or call Harter's to rent an additional trash or recycle cart for a yearly fee. Trash and recycling materials that are not inside your cart will not be picked up.

Can I take my carts with me if I move? No. Each cart should stay with the property. These carts are the property of Harter's.

What do I do if my cart is damaged? For cart repair or rental of additional cart; please call (715) 446-5400 or **(888)804-8556**. **Harters Contact Info:** Direct: (715) 446-5400, Toll Free: (888) 804-8556, Fax: (715) 446-5410, Email: arfoxvalley@harters.net, Web: www.hartersfvd.com **OR CONTACT CITY HALL AT 715-693-2275**

How do I set my cart out on collection day? Place your cart curbside before 6:30 am the day of collection, with the cart's handle facing your house and the lid opening toward the street. All solid waste **MUST** be bagged. Make sure there is at least four feet between the recycling and trash carts, and any other objects, such as a parked car or mailbox. Note, if your carts were set out late, you must wait until your next scheduled pick-up.

What if there is a snow bank? In the case of snow, if your cart will not fit in your driveway opening, then you will need to clear an opening in the snow bank where the cart can be properly placed. Carts cannot be placed on top of the snow bank or in the road. Improperly placed carts will not be collected.



What if I have Large Items that don't fit in my cart?

Large Household items will be collected on every other week at the expense of the resident. Pricing for these large household items are as follows Furniture (i.e. couch, table, dresser, bed frame, mattress, box spring, bike, push mower(no gas/oil), toilet, sink), Electronics (i.e.... stereo, printer, monitor, CPU tower) or Non-Freon Appliances (i.e. stove, microwave, washer, dryer, compactor, dishwasher, humidifier, water heater, water conditioner) will be \$40.00 per item and Freon Appliances (i.e. refrigerator, dehumidifier, freezer) and TV's will be \$60.00 per item. Residents are to call Harter's at (715) 446-5400 or **(888)804-8556** to schedule their large item pick up, payment is required before pick-up. The cut off will be 2:00 p.m. the day prior to pick-up day.

How do Holiday's affect my pick-up?

Holiday collection will be delayed one day, if the Holiday is on a weekday before your pick up day. Holidays are New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.