

VILLAGE OF WHITING

3600 Water Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481

(715) 341-2742

www.villageofwhiting.org

OFFICE HOURS: M-F 9:00-3:30

SPRING 2022



From the Office of Village President:

What may be changing in Whiting: At the February 8, 2022 Whiting Village Board meeting, the Board passed a resolution requesting the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) authorize a change in the location of Whiting property taxpayer's Public Fire Protection (PFP) charge. After the change, the PFP charge will appear on each customer's quarterly utility bill. This is referred to as a Direct Charge. At the same time, these PFP charges would be removed from the Municipal Tax Levy, which is referred to as a Municipal Charge. Therefore, under this change, the charge for PFP would no longer be included in the taxpayer's annual property tax bill.

What is the thinking behind the change: The Whiting Utilities Committee, Whiting Finance Committee, our water department staff, and your Whiting Board of Trustees have spent considerable time in fact-finding and discussion leading up to this change. They've determined this move is logical and will be more efficient. The PFP charge represents 21% of our Village's annual budget. Removing the PFP charge from the tax levy is expected to give the Village more fiscal management flexibility in the future. This should help us better face the challenges of meeting the needs of our citizens in the coming years.

This new system will also bring about greater equity in paying for Public Fire Protection in the Village. Currently, any properties in our community that are exempt from paying property taxes also do not pay for PFP (since it's now collected as part of the tax levy). After the new payment method is implemented, ALL metered properties in Whiting will pay a Public Fire Protection charge since it will be part of the quarterly water/sewer bill.

Just exactly what is Public Fire Protection: Each Whiting property taxpayer currently pays a PFP charge. This PFP charge is required by state law and is regulated by the PSC. In reality, we could call this a "public fire protection water charge" since it has nothing to do with operating a fire department. This is money that goes solely to the Whiting Water Utility and ensures that our water system is equipped with the pumps, storage facilities, water mains, and hydrants to deliver the significant water volume and pressure needed during fire-fighting and still supply daily water needs to our customers.

What's next: We are using the services of our present auditing firm to help prepare and submit Whiting's application for this change to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin. After their initial review and the mandatory water rate case study, a public hearing will be held before the Commission renders their decision on the Village's request. If approved by the PSC, Whiting taxpayers will eventually begin seeing the PFP charge on their quarterly water/sewer bill.

All Whiting taxpayers will be mailed a public hearing notice, detailing the date and agenda for this PSC hearing. In addition, you'll be receiving updates in the quarterly Village newsletter. In the meantime, if you have questions about this upcoming change in PFP charge collection, please contact me at 715-630-5899.

Paul Stroik
President, Village of Whiting

THANK YOU Nic Schmeiser for your many years of service as our Director of Public Works and Utilities. Nic has been with us since 2009. We wish Nic well at his new job.

We are happy to announce the promotion of **Jake Wilcox** to Director of Public Works and Utilities.

IMPORTANT ELECTION INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON OUR DROP BOX:

- **ABSENTEE BALLOTS CAN NO LONGER BE DROPPED OFF IN A DROP BOX**, SO WE WILL BE SEALING OUR DROP BOX DURING ELECTION PERIODS TO AVOID ANY CONFUSION. PLEASE MAIL ABSENTEE BALLOTS BACK EARLY OR DROP OFF INSIDE THE OFFICE DURING BUSINESS HOURS (M-F 9-3:30) TO MAKE SURE YOUR ABSENTEE BALLOT IS COUNTED. THE NEXT ELECTION IS APRIL 5 SO THE DROP BOX WILL BE CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 6. WE APOLOGIZE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.
- Due to redistricting in 2021, residents east of Post Rd are in County Supervisory District 17. Everyone else (including Minnesota and Vivian Lane) are in District 9. County Board of Supervisor races will be on the April 5th ballot.

Reassessment Scheduled for 2022

All property with and without buildings located in the Village of Whiting will be reassessed in 2022. Those results will be reflected on your December 2022 tax bills. The last time the reassessment process took place was in 2014.

For most property owners, the reassessment will not require admittance into the property of buildings by the assessor. A small portion of properties will need an inspection. The assessor will notify those property owners ahead of time if needed.

Reassessment generally increases the property value but the mill rate decreases. This doesn't necessarily mean that your property taxes will be going up. In fact, unless there are budgetary needs that require increases to the tax levy, most property owners will see little change in their property tax bill.

All of this can be a bit confusing. It is my goal to conduct a fair and equitable process. If you have questions concerning the assessment, you can contact me any time.

Thank You! Jeremy Kurtzweil, Assessor for Village of Whiting (715) 486-9019

OTHER MISCELLANEOUS VILLAGE NEWS:

- The **2021 Consumer Confidence report** is available on the home page of the village website. Paper copies are also available at the office. <https://villageofwhiting.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2021-Consumer-Confidence-Report-Final.pdf>
- The **compost site** is opening April 11th. Please bring enclosed blue card with you when you drop items off. The card lists dates, hours and acceptable items. Please refer to the card or call the office if you have any questions.
- Along with warmer weather, comes building projects. A building permit is required for most indoor and outdoor projects. **Please call the building inspector before doing any projects:**
Ethan Meddaugh: emeddaugh@ploverwi.gov or Eric Krug: ekrug@ploverwi.gov 715-345-5312
- Thank you for recycling old Christmas lights. We collected nearly 2 large garbage bags full. We will also continue collecting used candles throughout the year for the workers at ODC in Marshfield.

Village Contacts

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IN CASE OF UTILITY EMERGENCY OUTSIDE OF OFFICE HOURS PLEASE CALL 715-572-9434

Full directory available online at www.villageofwhiting.org