

TOWN OF ALBION

the math and interjected, “We get about 45 cents per square foot to maintain a road, whether it’s gravel or not.”

The Town of Albion complements the fluctuating but approximate amount of \$121,839 contributed by the State to come in around \$225,000 to \$250,000 for town road maintenance as a line item on the town’s annual budget.

Venske told the assembly

that this quarter-million dollars earmarked for town road maintenance... “includes fixing potholes, chip sealing, laying down gravel on existing gravel roads and shoulders, resurfacing hard surface roadways, and new road construction.

“We have to do all that,” the Chair spoke, “on what we allocate for town roads each year. So, there isn’t much wiggle-room and we’re trying to save

the town some money.”

Resident Steve Behm had pressed for the rationale and upon understanding it, he reiterated, “In other words, the town is losing money on roads.”

Venske responded, “Every town is losing money on roads!”

With new construction costs ever on the rise, Albion and most other Wisconsin town-

ships are suffering under the failure of the State legislature to address the road funding crisis with any viable, long-term solutions. Though stop-gap funding is afoot, it falls dreadfully short of the threshold required to adequately maintain town roads in Wisconsin. The matter is further complicated by the DOT’s penchant for diverting road funds to large-scale interstate and state construction or reconstruction projects, short-changing townships in the process.

Though the Board’s logic had been laid out, stake-holding residents continued to complain about every and any road issue relevant to their particular road, however remote from the issue at hand, which was, of course, the vacating of parts of six specific gravel roadways.

Nonetheless, Steve Behm was one of several who wanted the board to clarify their legal right to vacate these roadways.

Attorney Matthew Roethe of Roethe Pope Roethe LLP was present to explain the relevant law upon which the Board’s action was based, namely Wis. Stats. Sec. 66.1003(4).

In brief, any town board has the right to vacate all or a portion of a town road, provided there is no more than one resident living along its length with driveway access, and such discontinuance would not leave the resident landlocked.

In all six cases under the Board’s consideration, the two fundamental conditions for vacating were met.

That didn’t stop stakeholder after stakeholder verbalizing their dissatisfaction with the Board’s actions, regardless of statute cited or right vested. In each instance, the Board pa-



Helen Olstad lived at 1041 Bliven Road for over 55 years and she offered a brief history lesson on town roads to supervisors.

Photo by Tristan McGough

tiently listened. However, what most concerned opponents was that the whole matter “seemed to be a done deal,” with everything set for the Board voting to approve the proposal that Tuesday evening.

But what gave certain supervisors cause for pause was when Gary Trulson of 727 Oak Drive pressed for the money that the township would allegedly save if it vacated the 1.53 total miles proposed for discontinuance.

“You don’t start a project like this,” Trulson asserted, “without knowing the specifics of why you’re doing it. If you don’t know what you’re going to save, then how can you decide what to do?”

It was enough to finally make Supervisor Staff ‘cry

uncle,’ and she asked if the road discontinuance could be done “piecemeal, or was it all or nothing.”

From there it was a swift decline from the Board’s apparent collective adamant position, as supervisors looked for ways to accommodate stakeholders as well as the road budget.

After a good deal of back and forth (not to mention a couple of motions being defeated in the process), Albion supervisors were told by Roethe that they must make a decision tonight, “Yea, Nay or to Table.”

In the end, Staff made a motion to deny the resolution and Supervisors Jeff Lehnerr and Pat Tesar supported her, thereby defeating a controversial proposal that will, in all likelihood, resurface in the future.



Two of the “Hometown Heroes” on display at Edgerton Hospital. Kay Lange (left) was nominated by Rose Bice. Katie Vance-Whitten (right) was nominated by Rita Fox.

Photos by Rita Fox

Edgerton Hospital Foundation displaying ‘Hometown Heroes’

Adapted from release by Sunny Bowditch Edgerton Hospital

The Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation announced a new fundraiser, “Who is the Hero in Your Life?” The community is encouraged to submit photos and three-sentence descriptions of their personal heroes.

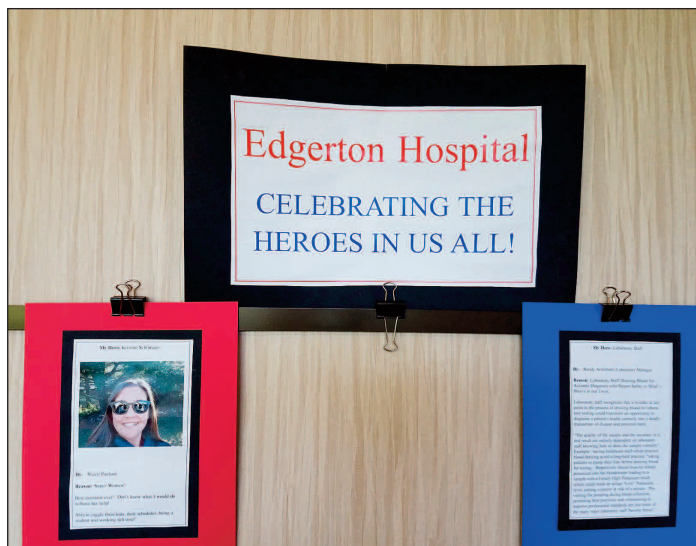
For \$10/photo, the Foundation is creating a display in the hospital’s main hallway during the month of August. Photos, descriptions and checks made payable to Edgerton Hospital Capital Foundation can be dropped off at the front desk, 11101 N. Sherman Rd., Edgerton. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward completing the goal for 3D mammography.

At Edgerton Hospital, we have many heroes—from passionate caregivers, to donors, all the way to the group of

women who started the hospital so long ago, the Service Star Legion. We want to hear about the hero in your life.

For more information or to

download an entry form, visit www.edgertonhospital.com/foundation/heroes/. Or for questions, call Sherri at 608-884-1650.



The ‘Hometown Heroes’ display will be featured at Edgerton Hospital this month.

Photo by Rita Fox

Dental Assistants Needed!

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Our special edition, saluting Chilimania’s 30th annual event, will be published Sept. 4.

To include your message of congratulations, please call Diane at 884-3367.

*Deadline is Friday, Aug. 30

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