

# Dunkirk still refining EMS contract

By Tristan McGough  
Special to the Reporter

For months Dunkirk supervisors have been negotiating with the city of Stoughton over its proposed EMS Contract and Monday's regular Dunkirk Board Meeting on Oct. 21, 2019, refined it further.

However, as Stoughton's Mayor Tim Swadley refines his own budget over the next month, preparing for an eventual public hearing sometime in November, there is still room for input, though Swadley has warned of tough financial decisions the community must face in his budget.

Dunkirk's three supervisors, Chair Norman Monsen, Ted Olson and Dan Jenks, are working out their own budget for 2020, and part of getting the Town's budget right is dependent upon getting the right numbers from the city.

Consequently, during its town board meeting, which began at 7 p.m. sharp, the contract with the city was one of the most important agenda items up for discussion, formally framed as "discussion and necessary action on 2020 Fire and EMS billing from the city of Stoughton and EMS contract."

Details of the billing statement occupied part of the board's attention, however, of most concern was the degree of input the town would have into future purchase decisions for, particularly, replacement fire vehicles and other high-cost items.

Monsen observed, "The fire department's total capital outlay is around \$400,000, which includes a new squad car. The

other things that make up the majority of expenses include \$80,000 for a brush rig truck, \$36,000 for a new command car and \$50,000 for air tanks."

Supervisor Olson is concerned that the contract will invoke the town's obligation to pay its fair share—which is just over 10 percent—without the town's consent to buy big ticket things, like replacement vehicles.

Supervisors noted the unlikelihood that the town will need a \$700,000 ladder truck to combat a possible fire, since it has no high rise buildings. The question of which residents under the contract (city and other jurisdictions) should pay for the fire ladder truck then surfaces.

Other things, such as Stoughton Fire Chief Scott Wegner's request to staff the department 24/7 with 12 full-time firefighters (which is not funded in the mayoral budget proposal), can be directly addressed at certain city meetings planned to confront budgetary matters over October in preparation for holding a duly noticed public hearing for a wider-forum on the city's proposed budget sometime in November.

Nonetheless, supervisors discussed the next step in Dunkirk's negotiation process with the city regarding the EMS contract, asking Clerk Melanie Huchthausen for how successful she's been in the past when asking for responses and/or revisions to the proposed agreement for emergency services.

Huchthausen responded in the positive, suggesting that she email the board's questions

or concerns and upon expected response, the town can go from there.

Supervisors wanted to know about three things: a hard date for Stoughton's budget passage, which fixes line-item costs; the rationale and an example of how the city would use a CPI formula in its budgeting approach; and at what point would the city give actual figures for what the town pays them compared to what the city's collected.

In other town business, the board announced it's holding its own budget working meeting on Monday, Oct. 28, as it hammers out Dunkirk's 2020 Budget before year's end.

Huchthausen was given permission to pursue an election security grant, which will help defray or altogether cover upgrades to the town's computer hardware, software and third-party IT maintenance agreements over three years. The clerk has until Nov. 15, 2019, to file the necessary application.

As with other municipalities, large corporations, small businesses and individuals, Dunkirk's rising health care costs and the insurance associated with them constitutes the most significant increase in any standard of living cost categories that occupy a single line-item on anticipated expenses.

Confronting the mounting healthcare charges, Dunkirk supervisors unanimously approved Resolution No. 10-19-04: Existing Employer Update Resolution regarding the Wisconsin Public Employer's Group Health Insurance Program.

# Highwood Hoots

By Carol Stai  
Special to the Reporter

Snow once again graced our lawns and trees making last Tuesday a picture photo and I could not resist snapping a few photos of the trees and will probably use them for the Christmas celebration in some way.

The Highwood Clubhouse is officially closed and all the Halloween decorations got put into containers and back in the attic. "Thanks" to those who took charge and that crossed off another item that had to be completed before the pipes get drained and anti-freeze gets put into the pipes so they don't freeze. The floors, garbage and all the dishes from the parties were completed on Sunday by Lorraine, Betty and myself. Now we just have to wait for spring.

After all the wind we have had, all the roads are covered with leaves and when they are wet, it gets pretty slippery, so drive careful on these roads. Everyone is getting sick of raking and there are still lots of oak leaves in the trees and sometimes they don't drop until spring. Our back lawn is like a blanket without any green showing, and we are going to try to get this drop of leaves taken care of today (Monday) and try to beat the next showers of rain and snow. I did see lots of snowmen made as the snow was wet and heavy.

The Kadlec Ranch Rescue Fundraiser with free snacks, door prizes, vendor booths that will be held at the Red Barn Tavern, 7530 N. Cty. Rd. M, Evansville, on Sunday, Dec. 1 from noon to 4 p.m. There will be Meat Raffles, Gift Basket Raffle and 50/50 Cash Raffle. If anyone wishes to make a donation, contact Angela at 608-332-1885 informing her and when to get your donation to Angela. They always have lots of really great baskets when doing a fundraiser.

Birthdays coming are Val Houk of Fort Atkinson on Nov. 9; Dan Biomgen of Stoughton and Bill Doerr, Hillside Rd. On

Nov. 11; cousin, Kirsten Julin of Las Angeles, Calif., Lisa Hendron of DeKalb, Ill. and Derek Rousch on Nov. 12. Anniversary wishes to Pete and Sheila Seitz and Bill and Lynn Skau on Nov. 12. Wishing everyone a great celebration.

Now all the Christmas Kraft shows start with many great handmade items to consider what might work for someone in your family. I can imagine that the Christmas decorations outside of homes will be creating an array of colorful decorations that will be seen for quite a distance. A few times I have put lights on the bushes on our rock wall and did see them coming home on Highwood Drive, so they do show when no leaves are in the way. I love decorating for the different holidays. But Christmas is always harder to get everything put away after Christmas, especially when snow and ice cover everything making it difficult to get the lights off the branches not to mention it's usually very cold.

We are having Thanksgiving at our house and some have to work, others have to make the rounds to parents and other family. I know that we will probably be having nine or ten for the sit down meal, but then the rest of the family floats in and are hungry again, especially those who are really growing fast. We always have leftovers for the second so-called sitting so no one leaves hungry but full.

For the elderly people in Highwood, if you need help with your leaves and cleaning eaves out, give me a call as I'm sure I know of the younger generation who would be willing to help an elderly person with this job or any others.

Time to head home to the leaves! Doesn't that sound like fun, but not sure of a fire, depends on the wind but our backyard is pretty protected. Happy Raking.

Q: Why did the teddy bear say no to dessert?

A: Because it was stuffed!

## SALUTING OUR AREA FARMERS

We will be saluting our farmers and agribusinesses in the Nov. 20 paper.

This annual special section discusses the year with features, news items and other stories regarding the harvest and our hard working farm families.

Agriculture is a very important industry for our area.

If your business would like to be included please call 884-3367.



## Some roadways closed under I-39/90 next week

Submitted by  
Steven Theisen  
WisDOT Communications  
Manager

Motorists should plan ahead and use alternate routes during these closures.

As part of the ongoing I-39/90 Expansion Project, the following traffic impacts are scheduled for next week in Rock County.

Newville Road under I-

39/90, south of the Rock River bridges, will be closed starting Monday morning, Nov. 4, until Thursday evening, Nov. 7.

Crews will remove bridge formwork from the I-39/90 southbound bridge and complete grading operations.

Motorists must use alternate local routes during these closures.

The work operations and road closures are weather de-

pendent and subject to change.

The public is encouraged to stay informed and register for project email updates on the I-39/90 Project website, www.i39-90.wi.gov, and follow the I-39/90 Project Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WisconsinI3990Project.

Alerts and updates provided via these sites are not intended for use while driving. When driving, your focus should always be on driving.

Make Christmas even more magical for your little ones with a

# Personalized Letter from Santa

FOR ONLY \$6.75

Each letter is customized so order one for each child in the family. All letters are printed on Holiday stationery and will be postmarked North Pole, Alaska

Please fill out the form below (1 form per child) and send with your payment to:

**Santa Letter**  
c/o Edgerton Reporter  
21 N. Henry St., Edgerton, WI 53534

Orders and payment must be received by December 1. Letters will be mailed on or before December 13, 2019.

Child's First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Boy or Girl \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

First Name of Sibling/Siblings \_\_\_\_\_  
(PLEASE SPECIFY IF BOY OR GIRL)

Name and Type of Pet \_\_\_\_\_

Snack child likes to leave for Santa \_\_\_\_\_

Toy child wants \_\_\_\_\_

Something Child has accomplished during last year \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by (NAME) \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to child \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Edgerton Reporter**  
21 N. Henry St., Edgerton, WI 53534 (608) 884-3367 e-mail info@edgertonreporter.com

## Edgerton, Wisconsin Veterans Memorial

Thanking all those who have generously donated so far!

**TOTAL IN FUND**  
\$85,000.00

**GOAL**  
\$155,000

Now is a great time to donate to our Veterans.

Please go to [www.EdgertonVeterans.org](http://www.EdgertonVeterans.org) to check out memorial items for sponsorship!

Edgerton, Wis. Veterans Memorial Contacts

**MEMORIAL PAVERS**  
Lisa Pennington • 608-480-0595 • edgertonvfwmemorial@gmail.com

**BENCHES**  
Sam Wilcox • 608-774-6731 • sswilcox@centurytel.net

**GRANITE MEMORIALS**  
Dan Rosenbaum • 608-921-3691 • rnranch1978@gmail.com

Ad donated by The Edgerton Reporter