

The proposed state budget for the next two years has created numerous challenges for Wisconsin municipalities. Support for local roads (through state aids), the money that helps pay for fixing potholes and maintaining busy city streets, has been cut. The budget bill eliminates recycling grants, threatening that popular municipal service. It also substantially reduces transportation aid to communities. The shared revenue program dates back 100 years to 1911. Its implementation and funding have changed over time. However the program is seen as a means to improving the overall equity and efficiency in the state-local tax system, providing property tax relief, and equalizing tax base across jurisdictions. Shared revenues (and other intergovernmental aids) are a significant and vital part of the city's budget.

We all understand state fiscal challenges require shared sacrifice; however, the rhetoric surrounding the budget perpetuates the myth that city governments are bloated with excess and inefficiency. That is certainly not true of Mosinee. We have made dramatic cuts in recent years and dealt with previous state budgets that froze shared revenue. We have kept taxes in line. The size of the cut obviously affects the city's ability to provide current services at current levels.

I do not want to be an alarmist. I am merely presenting the reality of the situation. I expect that managing the city's finances over the next few years will be quite difficult. But I am also confident that the city of Mosinee will be capable of meeting the challenge. We are going to have to strap on the tool belts, and do what we can to make this community a better community, make good judgments, keep people here, and encourage people to come here. The hard truth is that cuts in shared revenues and state aids are certain.

I believe the city runs a pretty good business. We have in place a number of fiscal policies and procedures designed to limit spending to within our means and to provide stability over time. These policies include budgeting with a focus on revenues, maintaining adequate reserve funds, reviewing variances, implementing user charges, aligning revenues and expenses, and limiting debt.

Prior to initiating the budget process, we decide how much we can afford. And that sets the limit for budgeted expenses - operating, capital projects, and debt service. We have adopted an outcome-based approach to budgeting and management. It has been effective in keeping spending within our means. Additionally, I believe the city council and department heads to be rather frugal within that limit. In budgeting, we have also strived to match one-time revenues with one-time expenses and on-going revenues with on-going expenses. Such alignment helps to keep revenues and expenditures steady over time. And in a few cases we've been able to take advantage of one-time projects that will reduce on-going expenses.

Our focus in strategic planning has been to streamline and provide better services for our residents and businesses. Another major theme is to identify priorities among the services which the city provides, in order to make sure that precious tax dollars are used for the best value. Some actions will be purely reactionary, immediate measures to cope with cut revenues in a tight economy.

In the end, the whole matter of fiscal planning will be one of responsibly balancing taxes and city services during a time of economic distress. Looking to the future, the City of Mosinee needs to keep building partnerships with surrounding municipalities and Marathon County.

You can be assured that the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator and the city staff will be working together in the months ahead to deal with the anticipated decrease in state aid. If you believe that your state local income tax dollars would be best used on local services, I would strongly encourage you to contact our local state legislators and tell them that you would like state aids to local governments to be maintained at the highest level possible.

As Mayor, I am grateful to serve citizens who are constructive, generous, and willing to be involved in moving Mosinee forward. I feel blessed to work with a City Council and staff that works together without resentment or personal agendas, seeking only what is best for the community. I am thankful for the many organizations (civic, recreational, and religious) that serve our citizens, fulfilling my belief that government cannot do everything for everyone. I feel truly blessed by Mosinee's continued economic growth and development despite the national downturn in the economy. Most of all I am thankful for the opportunity to serve this community by working together with everyone involved to ensure that Mosinee's best days will always be ahead of us.

Al Erickson - Mayor

Storm Water Education

Did you know... water and pollutants going into the storm drains on our streets, empty directly into the Wisconsin River without being treated?

Did you know... 4 quarts of oil can form an 8 acre oil slick if dumped or spilled down a storm drain?

Did you know... when it rains, the water washes excess fertilizers, salt, dirt, pesticides and other pollutants into our rivers, causing algae blooms?

Did you know... pet waste contaminates our rivers, lakes and streams with unhealthy levels of bacteria making them unsafe for recreation?

Here are 5 things you can do to reduce your stormwater impact:

1. Wash your car on the lawn or at a commercial car wash. All the soap, scum, and oily grit runs along the curb, then into the storm drain. The grass will absorb the water before it hits the street, and commercial car washes are required to treat their water.
2. Pick up pet waste; bag and trash or flush in the toilet. Animal waste can pose several water quality concerns. It is a potential source of nutrients and pathogens (disease-causing organisms), which can degrade water quality making it unsafe and undesirable for drinking, swimming, boating, and fishing.
3. Mulch grass clippings, and leave on the lawn or compost. These extra nutrients can reduce oxygen levels in water and potentially cause fish kills. You can get a compost bin and take a composting class during the spring sale. Contact UW-Extension for more information (261.1234). PS- Same goes with leaves in the fall, don't rake them into the street until the day before pick-up.
4. Target use of fertilizer and pesticides/herbicides to the lawn and garden. Use only what is recommended on the label. Take excess chemicals to the Hazardous Waste Collection Site. For more information, please contact the Marathon County Solid Waste & Recycling Information Line at (715) 446-3101 (press 2).
5. Consider ways to catch the rain water for use in your yard and gardens. You can set-up a rain barrel to collect rain from your gutters, and use in your gardens. To check out the rain barrel workshops; contact UW-Extension for more information at: <http://basineducation.uwex.edu/centralwis/stormwater.htm>.

You can also view more information on Storm water on our City website at:

http://www.mosinee.wi.us/public_works/Storm_Water.html

POLLING PLACE HOURS
Tuesday, April 5th
7:00a.m. to 8:00p.m.



Spring Election – April 5th

On Tuesday, April 5th, the City will hold a Spring Election. City residents will for vote for the Mayor and Alderpersons in Wards 1,3 and 5 among other county and state races.

Mayor - Alan E. Erickson – incumbent – no opposition.

Ward 1– Marge Rein –incumbent vs. Thornton Carlson

Ward 3– Robert Stephens- incumbent – no opposition.

Ward 5– Keith Biedermann- incumbent – no opposition.

Mayor and Alderperson terms are two year terms.

A copy of the ballot for each ward is available on our website at: www.mosinee.wi.us.

BRUSH PICKUP SERVICE

The City of Mosinee provides brush pickup service for City residents.

The brush must be cut into lengths less than 6' long and piled neatly.

Any brush that has roots attached will not be picked up.

Brush will not be picked up for residents that are clearing a lot. Brush and tree limbs are picked up the third week of each month.

To have your brush picked up, call 693-3840, before the 3rd Monday, leave your name, address, and location of the branches.

ACH Payments of Water & Sewer Bills

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.

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 mailed to City Hall – attn: Water and Sewer Utility – 225 Main Street, Mosinee, WI 54455.

SPRINKLER CREDIT



If you water your lawn with City water you may be able to save some money! When you sign up for the sprinkler credit, the City will compare your water and sewer usage during the summer and winter quarters. If your summer usage is higher, you will pay the average amount of your sewer usage from your winter quarters and

the full amount of any water used. For every 1,000 gallons of water used above your winter average, you save \$3.70 in sewer charges. The Water and Sewer Utility can provide you with a savings worksheet if you are interested in this option. The sprinkler credit has a one-time lifetime setup charge of \$50. For more information, please call or email City Hall – 693-2275 or clerks@mosinee.wi.us

EMERGENCY WATER/SEWER SERVICES

The flooding or back up of water or sanitary sewage into a home due to a broken water or sanitary sewer pipe is one of the most frustrating experiences that a homeowner will endure. This process is even more exasperating when the resident discovers that the City is not liable (nor will the insurance company pay) for damages to a resident's property due to a broken City water main, unless the City knew there was a problem with the main before the accident occurred and was negligent in correcting the known problem before the damage occurred.

Therefore, we strongly encourage homeowners to check with your insurance company and confirm that your homeowner's insurance policy includes coverage for damages resulting from all water and/or sewage related flooding.

Please follow the steps below if you experience a water or sewer emergency at your home.

If you have a Water or Sewer Emergency during the daytime, please call 693-2275 or 693-3840.

For after hours Water or Sewer emergencies please call 573-1758.

If you are unable to reach anyone or do not receive a response, call 693-2000 and have the Mosinee Police Department dispatch someone from the Utility to assist you.

Utility personnel will assess your situation and determine if the problem is in the City's main or the property owner's service lateral. If a water or sewer problem is determined to be in the City's main, Utility personnel will do whatever is necessary to rectify the situation as quickly as possible.

If there is property damage from water or sewer, please take pictures of the damages if you intend to file a claim with City. **Under City policy, Utility workers are not authorized to discuss whether the City will pay for damages, as the City's insurance carrier makes these decisions. You should also contact your Homeowner's Insurance carrier.**

REVALUATION, OPEN BOOK AND BOARD OF REVIEW SCHEDULED

The City of Mosinee has hired Accurate Appraisals to complete a Revaluation of Commercial and Residential properties in the City of Mosinee. A revaluation is an update of all real and personal property assessments in the City of Mosinee.

Accurate Appraisals is a State certified assessor whose duties are to discover, list and value all taxable real property in the city, in a uniform and equitable manner.

The City of Mosinee is required by Wisconsin State Statutes to maintain property assessments within 10% of fair market value at least once in a 5 year period. The State of Wisconsin has notified the City of Mosinee that to comply with State Statutes a revaluation must be completed by the end of 2011.

All property owners will be notified if there is a change in the assessed value of their property.

What if I don't agree with my assessment? You can schedule a meeting with the assessor during our "Open Book" sessions. During these informal sessions, the assessor will explain how your assessment was made, let you view the property record for your property, and explain what factors were considered in determining a value for your property and show you comparable house values. Open book sessions have been scheduled on July 26th from Noon to 7:00p.m. and July 27th from 9:00a.m. to 3:00p.m. You will need to schedule an appointment on one of days listed above to meet with the assessor. Please contact City Hall to schedule a time that will work best for you.

What if, after this informal meeting, I still disagree with the assessment? You can arrange to appear before the Board of Review. The Board of Review is the quasi-judicial (court like) body for the City of Mosinee. The Board may adjust assessments when they have been proven incorrect by sworn oral testimony from the property owner.

The 2011 Board of Review is scheduled to meet on August 16th from 5:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. To present your case to the Board, you will be required to complete an objection form which must be completed in full. You will then be scheduled for a hearing where you will present your case regarding the assessed value of your property. Forms may be obtained from City Hall.

If you have any further questions regarding this revaluation, please contact City Clerk/Treasurer Bruce Jamroz @ 715-693-2275 or by email at: clerks@mosinee.wi.us

Mayor Alan Erickson 801 16 th Street 715-693-6812	Aldersperson: Marge Rein - Ward 1 201 2 nd Street 715-693-1199	Aldersperson: Tom Kipp - Ward 2 802 7 th Street 715-693-6793	Aldersperson: Robert Stephens - Ward 3 615 Oak Park Cir. 715-297-0053	Aldersperson: Tom Helbach - Ward 4 911 9 th Street 715-693-3072	Aldersperson: Keith Biedermann - Ward 5 209 Willow Street 715-693-6916	Aldersperson: Doug Mielke - Ward 6 1026 Old Hwy 51 715-693-2609
---	---	---	---	--	--	---

Bike Rodeo Scheduled for Friday, June 17th

The Mosinee Police Department, in conjunction with Security Health, Mosinee Fire and Ambulance Departments and the Mosinee Area Optimist Club, will again hold a Bike Rodeo from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM on June 17th. The Bike Rodeo is held at the Mosinee Recreation Center, 701 11th ST in Mosinee. All Children in grades K through 6th are welcomed to attend.

Participants will learn about bicycle safety, then put their skills and knowledge to the test on our competency course. Lunch will be provided at no cost. The first 125 participants will receive a free bicycle helmet, along with other gifts, from Security Health. All participants will be eligible to win some great prizes, including a new bike. Participants will also have the opportunity to compete in a bike decorating contest.

Bike registrations, are required by City Ordinance, will be available at a cost of \$2.00 per bike. If you are unable to attend this event, you may register your bike at the Mosinee Police Department inside City Hall located at 225 Main Street.

Little Bulls Falls LogJam Festival

Brought to you by the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Mosinee

Volunteers Making a Difference! Thanks for all you do!

The volunteers at Little Bull Falls LogJam Festival who contribute their time and talent make a significant difference to our success. When you volunteer at Little Bull Falls LogJam Festival, whether it be as festival worker or with your favorite community service organization, you become part of the community. No amount of time is ever too small – we need you!

How To Get Involved

Volunteer Interest Forms are now online at www.logjamfestival.org. Update your profile and decide how you'd like to be involved with the festival – work with grounds set-up and breakdown, help with an event or lead an activity. You will receive a follow-up phone call or email from one of the following people: An event chair will call you if you've selected an activity or event; a festival coordinator will call you if you're interested in assisting with festival grounds activities; or a volunteer coordinator will call to discuss your availability and get you started. If you want to learn more about a particular volunteer area, please call (693-4330) or email the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce. We'll be happy to help you sort through the options.

Festival Chair – Al Erickson
Vice Chair – Tammy Campo
Utilities Chair – Jeff Gates

There are many program activities under each of the event chairs that are run by volunteers.

Mark your calendars:
August 12,13,14, 2011

Event Chairs

Donna Brod, Rose Boron (Food Vendors)
Rebecca Bahr (Demonstrations & Contests)
Gary Anderson (Rendezvous, Encampments)
Bobby Walker (Art Fair, Children's Activities)
Ron Shnowske (Adult Beverage)
Sue Moran, Nancy Dahlke (Historic Events)
Al Erickson (Entertainment, Promotion)
Darrell Sather, Chrissy Weinbauer (Main Event)
Susie Durst (Parking Management)

The 2011 Little Bull Falls LogJam Festival hosted by the Mosinee Area Chamber of Commerce and the City of Mosinee will offer a weekend packed with activities and fun for all ages, with the focus on historic and nature education. Over the course of the weekend, thousands of residents and guests will take advantage of the opportunity to come together in celebration of our great heritage and to partake in the festivities. Visitors will find many fun and engaging activities to enjoy while they learn about the diversity and creativity of the people who settled along the northern Wisconsin River. The celebration has been a tremendous success, thanks to our many volunteers and the generosity of our sponsors. It is our belief that visitors and demonstrators alike come away from the festival with a better understanding of themselves, their neighbors, and their communities.

My sincere appreciation goes to the LogJam Festival Committee for all their hard work and dedication over the past 6 years. The committee is made up of 14 residents and representatives from local businesses and organizations, and their task is to plan, coordinate and implement the celebration activities. They have done an outstanding job and the success of the celebration is proof of their hard work.

It is also important to mention the numerous other volunteers who donate their time and skills over the weekend of the event. These people operate booths, serve as event workers, entertainers and many other positions too numerous to mention. The assistance that these individuals provide is critical to the success of the event.

Little Bull Falls LogJam Committee

Did you know...

City Water and Sewer customers may make monthly payments on their water and sewer bills? Call or stop by City Hall and have us calculate a monthly average for you so you can pre-pay your water and sewer bill. Many customers find this a great way to make their quarterly bills more manageable.

YARD WASTE- DISPOSAL SITE

The City of Mosinee Yard Waste site is open. The Yard Waste site is located @ 202 Fremont Street next to our Waste Water Treatment Plant. **Please only use this site for dropping off:** Leaves, Grass Clippings, Hedge Trimmings, Garden Refuse, etc.

Please do not drop off: : Brush, Tree limbs, Christmas trees, Stumps, or any other garbage at this site.

SPRING WATERMAIN FLUSHING SCHEDULE

The City of Mosinee Water Utility will be flushing water mains beginning the week of April 11th, 2011 per the following schedule:

The areas listed below will be flushed during the hours of **7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**

- **Monday, April 11th:** All areas east of I39.
- **Tuesday, April 12th:** South of STH 153 between I39 and the Wisconsin River.
- **Wednesday, April 13th:** North of STH 153 between I39 and the Wisconsin River.
- **Thursday, April 14th:** 12th Street to Rangeline Road and north of Western Avenue.
- **Monday, April 18th:** All areas south of Western Avenue between Rangeline Road and Fremont Street.
- **Tuesday, April 19th thru Friday, April 22nd:** 11th Street to Water Street.

Some temporary discoloration of water may be expected. To help avoid problems, draw a supply of drinking water before flushing and use as little water as possible during the hours of flushing, especially for laundry purposes. Some homeowners may also experience low water pressure during the flushing process.

In the area of 11th Street to Water Street, a more aggressive flushing procedure is planned which will increase the amount of time necessary to complete the flushing process. **This schedule is a guide only – weather and unforeseen problems may cause changes to this schedule.**

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Mosinee Public Works Dept. at 693-3840.

How Can I Prevent Problems With My Sewer Line?

Follow these Do's and Don'ts to prevent problems with your sewer line:

Do's: Place paper towels, feminine products, disposable diapers, dental floss, hypodermic needles, plastics, and other personal hygiene products in a wastebasket. Dispose as garbage. Use sink and shower drain strainers. Collect grease and fats in a heat resistant container, cool, and dispose of it in your garbage with solid waste. Choose the most appropriate method of disposal for food scraps: composting; in the garbage for solid waste disposal; or down the sink by grinding with a garbage disposal unit.

Don'ts: Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket for garbage, medications, or chemicals! Don't plant tree's or large shrubs near sewer lines where roots can penetrate and create a dense mat of "root balls." Don't pour grease, fats, or oils from cooking down the drain. Grease in drains collects and hardens into a plug. Don't connect French drains, roof gutters, sump pumps and other flood control systems to your sanitary sewer. These types of connections are illegal.

City Proceeds With Regional Wastewater Treatment Upgrade Project

In order for the City to comply with our existing Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources wastewater treatment plant discharge permit, the City must either significantly upgrade our existing treatment plant or utilize an alternative wastewater treatment system. The City's present Wastewater Treatment Facility is located on the east end of Fremont Street between Dessert Park and Chuck's Boat Landing. The current Wastewater Treatment Plant was constructed in 1972 and there have been several improvements made to the facility since that time.

After a thorough review of the alternatives, the City Council has determined that pumping the City's wastewater to the Rib Mountain Metropolitan Sewerage District's (RMMSD) regional treatment facility is the optimal long-term solution for the City to provide a safe and reliable wastewater treatment system to our residents and businesses for the next 20 years and beyond.

Therefore, in lieu of completing necessary major renovations to the City's existing Wastewater Treatment Facility located on Fremont Street, the City has recently filed a petition for annexation into the RMMSD for the purpose of obtaining services for the future treatment of the City's wastewater. This regional wastewater treatment facility currently serves the Rib Mountain Sanitary District, the Village of Rothschild, the Village of Weston and the Village of Kronenwetter.

By joining the RMMSD, the City will be able to equally share (with the existing District members) wastewater treatment operational costs and also the costs of any wastewater treatment facility improvements that are required in the future to meet new federal/state regulations.

In order for the RMMSD to provide treatment of the City's wastewater, the City will be installing new sewer forcemains (and related pumping stations) from our existing treatment plant north along the Old Highway 51 corridor to the District's collection system which can be accessed at a site near the intersection of I-39 and Business Highway 51 in the Village of Rothschild. At the City's request, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation did install a new wastewater forcemain on the Wisconsin River bridges and also within the roundabout intersection area, during the State's recent road construction projects within those two areas.

At the present time, the City is anticipating beginning construction of the forcemain project in the middle of this summer and the project should be completed within approximately six months. Upon completion of the forcemain project, all the wastewater generated within the City will be pumped to the RMMSD for treatment and disposal; and the existing City treatment facility will be decommissioned and removed from service.

The estimated cost for constructing the force main system is \$6,131,000 and the City will also need to pay a capitalization fee of \$3,407,000 to the RMMSD for their existing facilities that have been previously financed by the current member communities. Therefore, the total estimated cost to the City for the RMMSD wastewater connection project is \$9,538,000.

Unfortunately, the significant cost of the wastewater forcemain project will have a considerable effect on the City's sewer utility rates. The City has submitted an Application for Federal Assistance for the project to the United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development (USDA-RD) and we have been advised by USDA-RD that they are anticipating that the City will receive a 40-year loan commitment and also a federal grant to assist with the project cost. We anticipate receiving project financing confirmation from the USDA-RD, as soon as the federal government's budget for the current fiscal year is approved.

The City will provide an update pertaining to the status of regional wastewater treatment project and also the related anticipated sewer utility rate increase, as soon as we receive the project financing commitment from the USDA-RD.

If you have any questions or need additional information pertaining to the regional wastewater treatment project, please contact City Administrator Jeff Gates at City Hall or by e-mail at cityadmn@mosinee.wi.us.

SPRING CLEANUP SCHEDULED

The annual Spring Cleanup is scheduled for April 27th thru April 30th. **All items must be dropped off at the City Garage, 1101 Main St.**

- **Wednesday, April 27th thru Friday, April 29th – 7:00a.m. to 7:00p.m.**
- **Saturday, April 30th – 7:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.**

This collection program is for **City Residents only! No commercial/industrial items will be accepted.**

Items that will be accepted include: Couches, chairs, beds, windows, boards, carpeting, building materials, water heaters, microwaves, washers, dryers, bicycles and rimless tires. Call the number below if you are unsure about an item.

The following items will also be accepted on Saturday – (These items will also be accepted Wednesday thru Friday if paid in advance at City Hall)

For each item dropped off, you will be charged \$10:Refrigerators, welders, fluorescent lights, humidifiers, and dehumidifiers, freezers, air conditioners, television sets, water coolers, ice machines, computer printers, computer processing units(keyboards-CPU's-monitors), L.P. tanks.

Items that will not be accepted include: Leaves, brush, yard waste, newspapers, plastics, hazardous materials, paint, household garbage and recyclables.

If you have any questions regarding Spring Cleanup, please contact Kevin Breit at 693-3840 or by email at publicworks@mosinee.wi.us



PRRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
WAUSAU, WI
PERMIT NO. 150

City of Mosinee
225 Main Street
Mosinee, WI 54455