# Town of River Falls Government



The unit of government established to provide services in rural areas is called a **town.** Wisconsin's town government is unique. Ours is the only state outside New England to have a town government--neighboring states have township governments. Under town government, there is an annual town meeting at which town residents can directly influence the policy of their town government by voting on the issues, including tax levies and the purchase of land.

The Town of River Falls was organized in 1854 as Greenwood Township, in honor of Clark Green and Captain Joseph Wood, who had arrived in 1853. The name was changed in 1858 because a town so named existed elsewhere in the state. The good prairie soils and proximity to the forest and rivers attracted early settlers.



They grew wheat, shipping 19,800 bushels of it down the Mississippi from Prescott in 1860. Later, dairying became the primary type of farming in the Town of River Falls. The decisions and discussions having an effect on town business take place at board meetings or in the various town committees. All meetings take place at the Town Hall, W9015 770th Ave., unless otherwise stated. The board appoints committee members. Volunteers are welcome as openings occur. Notice of meeting times and dates appears in the River Falls Journal. Copies of town ordinances are available on the Town Website (www.riverfallstown.com) or from the Town Clerk (715-425-1117).

# **Town Board**

(5 people, a chairperson and 4 supervisors, meet 1st and 3rd Monday, each month, 8:00 p.m.) Town Board members are elected during the spring election to two year terms. The Town Clerk and Town Treasurer are also two year elected positions. It is the Town Board's responsibility to carry out the decisions made at annual meetings as well as to oversee town property, finances, highways, and all other public

services the Town provides. The board has the power to make rules and regulations by adopting ordinances and policies for the benefit of its citizens.



## **Plan Commission**

(7 members, including 2 town board members, meet 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6:30 p.m.) Has powers and duties to make and adopt a master plan for the town. Shall also make recommendations to the town board for final approval on such matters as building permits, certified survey maps, subdivisions, business permits, and any new ordinances having to do with land use.



## **Parks & Recreation Committee**

(7 members, including one town board member, meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month, except during the winter months)

Has charge of all parks and recreational facilities within the town. The committee members may improve and maintain facilities and establish rules for their use.

# **Cemetery Committee**

(8 members including two town board members, meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, except during the winter months)

Overseas the maintenance and operation of the Glass Valley and Mount Zion Cemeteries; and any other cemeteries that the Town is deemed responsible for via provisions of the Wisconsin State Statutes.

## **Facilities Committee**

(5 members, including two town board members, meet first Thursday of each month)

Responsible for studying long term land, building, and capital equipment needs of the Town.

## **Roads Committee**

(5 members, including 3 town board members, a town citizen member, and the Highway Dept. Supervisor)
Responsible for studying road maintenance/equipment needs and funding sources.

# **Board of Appeals**

(5 members, 2 alternates, meets as needed)

Meet to hear and decide appeals where it is alleged there is error on the part of the town board or town official. May grant special exceptions to ordinances.

# **Extraterritorial Zoning Committee**

(3 members appointed by town board, 3 appointed by City of River Falls mayor, 2 alternates. Meets as needed.)

Formulates policy on activities planned or taking place in the ETZ, considers new zoning ordinances, updates Master Plan.

# Comprehensive Plan Review Committee

(4 members including 1 town board member)
Responsible for completing periodic updates to the Town of River Falls
Comprehensive Plan.

#### River Falls Town Board (2019-2021)

Chairman: Diana G. Smith, 715-425-5478 Supervisor I: John Galgowski, 715-425-7093 Supervisor II: Siri Smith 715-425-1339 Supervisor III: Joe Mahoney, 715-425-0220 Supervisor IV: Brad Mogen, 1-651-303-9028 Town Clerk: Susan Freiermuth, 715-425-1117 Town Treasurer: Rita Kozak, 715-425-8554



#### Plan Commission

Diana Smith – Chair; Siri Smith, Roy Lund, John Oliver, Mary Foster, Patrick Singel, Kurt Leichtle

#### Parks & Recreation Committee

Garrett Gill - Chair; Mary Foster, Brad LaBadie, John Galgowski, Greg Elliott, Diana Smith

#### **Cemetery Committee**

Jerome Rodewald – Chair; Diana Smith, Peggy & Scott Jensen, Elizabeth Terlinden, Al Pechacek, Brad Mogen

#### **Future Facilities Planning Committee**

Brad Mogen – Chair; Diana Smith, Peter Stern, Jerome Rodewald, Roy Lund, Terry Kusilek

#### **Roads Committee**

Diana Smith – Chair; Brian Weber, Brad Mogen, Joe Mahoney, Terry Kusilek

# **Board of Appeals**

Sheila Schils – Chair; Mike Yde, Mike Cobian, Paul Moe, Alternate: Shana Colburn

#### **Extraterritorial Zoning Committee**

Diana Smith, Brad Mogen, Wayne Svoboda, John Kuscinski, Brian Baschnagel

#### **Comprehensive Plan Review Committee**

Siri Smith- Chair; David Matthews, Maureen Ash, Kurt Leichtle, Diana Smith