

# Town of Cedar Lake

## 2023 Year in Review

At the time of this writing, the town board had just finished preparing the proposed fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget for presentation to the electors and adoption during a special town meeting in November. During each of the past six years, our town's property tax levy has been maintained at the previous year's level or reduced. In FY 2022, with payments beginning in FY 2023, we assumed a five-year, \$100,000 payment per year, promissory note obligation for our share of the Birchwood Four Corners Emergency Services District's (BFCESD) new building. These funds were essentially reallocated from highway maintenance funds. A public hearing was held on October 27, 2023, to consider a \$200,000 tax levy increase for the purpose of road maintenance, however, a motion to adopt the increase failed. We will receive limited increases from other revenue sources in FY 2024, but road maintenance will remain at reduced funding levels while we also manage funds to replace the aging plow and patrol trucks. As a reminder, our property tax levy is one of four taxing jurisdictions (town, county, school district, community college) and the only taxing jurisdiction that the town controls.

**2023 accomplishments.** The Town Board continued to focus on essential objectives to: (1) control township spending; (2) sustain effective communication between the town board and constituents; and (3) ensure public safety, road maintenance, and quality of life activities remain top priorities.

**Controlled township spending.** The Town of Cedar Lake's FY 2024 property tax levy mil rate will remain close to our FY 2023 mil rate. This will be the 7th consecutive year in which the levy was either reduced, held at a previous year's level, or raised slightly.

**Sustained effective communication between the Town Board and Constituents.** The number of online users of our Town's website [www.townofcedarlake.org](http://www.townofcedarlake.org) continues to increase. Our FY 2023 website traffic averaged over 700 hits per month.

**Ensured public safety, road maintenance, and quality of life activities remained top priorities.** The board's positive rapport with the Barron County Sheriff's Department contributed to proactive safety measures.

**2024 Objectives.** Our 5-year Capital Improvement Plan objectives will continue in FY 2024.

**Volunteer and donation opportunities.** Please contact any town board member for additional information.

- The BFCESD Auxiliary is looking for volunteers to assist with support and fund-raising activities.
- The Parade Committee is looking for volunteers to assist during 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities.
- The cost of 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks has increased significantly. Please consider donating to this enjoyable annual event. Checks can be made out to "Cedar Lake Fireworks Fund" and sent to: Town Clerk, 2696 26-26 ¾ Ave, Mikana, WI 54857. Online donations can be made at <https://townofcedarlake.org/biggest-little-4th-of-july-parade/>

The Town Board hopes that you find this Year in Review informative, and we welcome your comments.

*Kenneth J. Leners*

Chairman, Town of Cedar Lake