

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
January, 2024

Our next meeting is Monday, January 8, 2024

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

Agenda

- Welcome remarks from Longfellow Neighborhood President – Brooke Mueller
- Marathon County District 2 Supervisor – Ann Lemmer (with Q & A)
- Wausau District 2 Alderperson – Michael Martens (with Q & A)
- Wausau Police Department – with Q & A

Dates to Remember

- January 1: **Happy New Year**
- January 8: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- January 15: Martin Luther King Day
- January 27: Winter Fest; 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM; 400 Block, City Square Office Center, 3rd Street
- February 2: Groundhog Day

Wausau Winter Market, Saturdays, 8:00 AM – Noon, Whitewater Music Hall, 130 1st Street
Marathon County Historical Society History Chats – Thursdays, 12:30 PM; livestream on Facebook and YouTube

Minutes from the December 4, 2023 Meeting

Michael had several items for the group:

- The City budget has been passed; tax bills will be mailed shortly.
- Michael discussed Wausau Water Works and Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). Wausau Water Works includes their PILOT amount in their expenses. The PILOT amount collected from Wausau Water Works goes into the general fund. Although the Public Service Commission (PSC) allows a maximum of \$2 million per year to be collected, the 2024 budget is based on \$1.59 million being collected. There have been suggestions/discussions to discontinue the PILOT program. A study for options to move away from PILOT while maintaining services is being done; hopefully it will be completed by August. Since the PSC sets the water rate (not the City), Wausau can't just lower the water rates.
- Wausau is trying to reduce the amount of salt used on roadways. Using salt is expensive and the run-off poses environmental problems for rivers and/or lakes in the area. Alternatives are brining (more efficient than salt and less harmful to the environment) and sanding (an engineered sand product, which includes partially crushed granite) are being used more often.

Ann had the following items for the group:

- The Marathon County budget has been passed. Ann explained that the County tax makes up about 20% of our City property tax bill. The County budget consists of 4 "balance funds";

some grew and some decreased. Since about half of the County Board Supervisors were new and the process is very complex, the budget process remains challenging.

- Ann shared that North Central Health care is scheduled to open a 28-day in-patient rehabilitation center.

Officer Shawn Meyer was able to join us this month.

- With his recent promotion to Patrol Lieutenant, he will no longer be our neighborhood liaison. Everyone congratulated him on his well-deserved promotion.
- Officer Meyer reminded the group that overnight parking rules are now in place. An attendee asked what to do if they notice someone isn't abiding by those rules; they should call the information in so an officer can follow up on the parking regulation concern.
- A resident also asked about parking on the grass. Officer Meyer told us we should contact the Inspections Department to report vehicles that are parked on the grass rather than on a hard surface as required by City ordinance.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 8, 2024
(The meeting will be a week later since the first Monday is New Year's Day)**

From My Desk to Yours . . . Brooke Mueller, President, Longfellow Neighborhood

Hi everyone! I hope everyone had a lovely Holiday! Our next meeting will be on Monday, January 8th. As always, you can reach out to me with questions, issues, concerns, or recommendations for upcoming meeting topics at longfellowN2N@gmail.com. See you at the meeting!

Michael Martens, Wausau District 2 Alderperson

This coming year tax increment district 6 is slated for closure. The district, formed in 2005, has paid off all its expenses associated with it a year earlier than planned, which is great news. When a TIF district is about to close, State law allows the city to extend the life of the district for one additional year and use the tax increment towards low-income housing projects. The district is producing about \$4 million in increment that will be used to help projects such as the West Side Battery apartments on Stewart and 1st Avenue and an eight-unit low-income complex on Sherman St. to fruition. I'll keep the neighborhood updated on these housing initiatives as they develop.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

Happy New Year everyone. Let's hope 2024 is full of peace, prosperity, and fellowship. I'd like to give an update on the Regional Forensic Science Center project (the morgue). In December, the board approved segregating needed funds within our budget to match state and federal grant awards. It is the goal of the Board to fund this facility without bonding. We already have over \$10M in commitments, so with the action made last month, we can go ahead and release the request for bids for construction now, which will enable us to begin work with the architect and construction manager as well as proceed with the purchase of long-lead time items to mitigate project delays.

This facility will be an asset to our area due to the fact that right now, if there is a need for a forensic autopsy (they are on the rise in Marathon County—mostly due to overdose deaths), we have to escort the decedent to either Dane, Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, or Brown County. Since this facility will be located on the NTC campus, staff travel time and cost will be reduced since we won't need the sheriff's office and our medical examiner to accompany the victim to those places; they can remain right here in our county. That also translates to faster crime solving. Additionally, there are educational and research opportunities for medical staff, law enforcement, legal professionals, and forensic pathologists. There are other bonuses as well. For instance, we will have the ability to transform lives through medical autopsies and by enabling tissue donation. It is estimated that this center will have a \$1.3M annual economic impact. Many surrounding counties are interested in contracting with us for services so they, too, can save on time and cost of these trips. Stay tuned as we move into 2024, because we hope to break ground either late

this year, or early next. Here is a video you can watch to get an idea of this project. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Q71MtIqD7M>.

NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY BUSINESSES

Acro Plumbing	904 Sumner Street	715-842-9425
Bull Falls Brewery	901 East Thomas	715-842-2337
Cveykus Law Office	301 Grand Avenue	715-842-5205
Distinctive Treasures (seasonal)	701 Prospect Avenue	715-842-7739
Global View Capital Advisors	215 Grand Avenue	715-298-0313
Herrle Health Services	215 Grand Avenue	715-846-3444
JAS Construction	josh@jasbuilds.com	715-432-5732
M & S, The Siding Specialists	818 Henrietta Street	715-842-7965
Olson Tire and Auto	601 Forest Street	715-845-8473
Incredible Bank	101 Grand Avenue	715-845-0900
Schmidt & Schmidt	123 Grand Avenue	715-845-9621
Townline Market	916 Townline Road	715-842-5201
True North Counseling & Wellness	207 Grand Avenue	715-370-8863

NEED TO KNOW NUMBERS

LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT:		
BROOKE MUELLER (longfellowN2N@gmail.com)		262-349-0605
NEIGHBORHOOD ALDERPERSON:		
MICHAEL MARTENS (michael.martens@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-845-4218
WAUSAU MAYOR:		
KATIE ROSENBERG (katie.rosenberg@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-261-6800
MARATHON COUNTY DISTRICT 2 SUPERVISOR:		
ANN LEMMBER (ann.lemmer@co.marathon.wi.us)		920-207-3105
SECRETARY/NEWSLETTER EDITOR:		
JOY FOYE		715-842-9197
POLICE DEPARTMENT:		
NON-EMERGENCIES		715-261-7800
NEIGHBORHOOD LIAISONS:		
OFFICER MICHAEL BEDISH (Michael.Bedish@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-261-7809
OFFICER MICHAEL GRUND (Michael.Grund@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-261-7998
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:		
TAMMY STRATZ (tammy.stratz@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-261-6682
INSPECTIONS DEPARTMENT:		
Uncut grass		715-261-6780
ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT:		
Unshoveled sidewalks		715-261-6740
STREET CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE:		
Missed by snow plows		715-261-6960
FIRE MARSHALS OFFICE:		
BRIAN STAHL (brian.stahl@ci.wausau.wi.us)		715-261-7900

