

# LONGFELLOW NEIGHBORHOOD



WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

July, 2023

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**Our next meeting is Monday, July 10, 2023**

Wausau Police Department Community Room, 6:30 PM

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### 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 – Q & A

### Dates to Remember

- July 4: **Happy 4th of July**  
Fireworks, 9:30 PM, shot from Wausau Municipal Airport (no access at airport)
- July 7-9: Taste N Glow Balloon Fest; 140914 Stettin Drive (\$5 admission); daily: balloon flights/glow; Friday/Saturday: food vendors, music, craft show/swap meet; Saturday only: car show, pancake breakfast (Saturday)
- July 10: **Longfellow Neighborhood Meeting**
- July 20: Wausau Night Market, 5:00-9:00 PM, Downtown Wausau
- July 29-  
July 30: Wausau Hmong Festival; Peoples Sports Complex
- August 1-6: Wisconsin Valley Fair; Marathon Park

*Concerts on the Square – Wednesdays, 400 Block; 6:00 - 8:00 PM (7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2)*

*Dining on the Street – 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, 5:00 – 9:00 PM (7/5, 7/12, 7/19, 7/26, 8/2)*

*Wausau Farmers Market – Wednesdays and Saturdays, 200 River Drive; 7:00 AM – Sold Out*

*Marathon County Historical Society History Chats – Thursdays at 12:30 PM; livestream on Facebook and YouTube*

### Minutes from the June 5, 2023 Meeting

Wausau Police Officer Michael Grund attended our meeting; no one had any questions for him.

Ann had the following items for the group:

- Ann shared the Marathon County Board of Supervisors is considering establishing a task force to study how TIFs (Tax Increment Financing Plan) and TID's (Tax Increment District) impact County tax revenues (is the County receiving what is promised in the TIF/TID, etc.). State laws regulate the use of TIFs and TIDs. The purpose of the task force would be to educate but not necessarily analyze the information provided. There is a County Board meeting with Mayor Rosenberg and 2 alderpersons on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Ann and Michael explained the general purpose and a TIF/TID works. A TID is established to improve an area through development (that wouldn't happen "but for" establishing a TIF/TID). A baseline assessed value is established for the area (for use in calculating taxes for the City, County, Wausau School District, Northcentral Technical College). The "increment" is the "expected value" of the area minus (-) the baseline value. An expiration date is set for the TIF/TID. Marathon County receives tax revenue based on the base amount (not the "expected value"). Wausau Center Mall was Wausau's first TID; TID #6 was the latest to be closed.

- Ann discussed the impact of a County-wide lack of childcare, affordable housing and transportation. The County has lost 3 employees due to a lack of childcare. (With pandemic financial resources expiring for childcare, a lack of replacement funding would result in a 30% decrease in the number of childcare facilities in the County.). A deadline of August 31 has been set to come up with a solution to meet residents needs in those areas. The County Board has discussed what role (if any) the County does/should have in those areas.

Michael shared the following information with the group.

- Bull Falls Brewery is closing, possibly as early as the end of June; Michael is currently not aware of a buyer for the Brewery. He shared the City must approve the liquidation of equipment; it is included on the agenda for a meeting tomorrow (6/6). The Brewery is part of a TID created specifically for them.
- Michael provided a review/update on PFAS in the City. The water treatment plant uses an ion exchange system (with resin) to remove the PFAS. The process traps PFAS (on a limited basis) and will need to be replaced around August 31 at a cost of about \$700,000. The City is hopeful the replaced filtration system will be effective until the granular activated charcoal filter (GAC) can be installed. The GAC is less expensive and reduces the amount of PFAS in the resin allowing the ion exchange system to last for 15-20 years. The PFAS filtered waste that is generated will have to be stored in vacuum containers until an effective disposal solution is found. The City of Wausau is litigating against PFAS manufacturers (lawyers are working on a contingency basis) to try to reduce some of the increased water cost to residents.

Our group also discussed several other items.

- The Forestry Department is doing an inventory of City trees on the boulevards so you may see 2 men measuring those trees.
- Officer Ben Price was recognized by a neighborhood family for assisting them when a family member passed away.
- Someone asked if the old J C Penney building could be used for unhoused residents. Although the City owns the building and it could potentially serve that purpose, staffing the facility (and funding the staffing) is an issue.

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023 (due to the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday)**

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

Hi everyone! Due to the 4th of July holiday, our next meeting will be on Monday July 10. As always, you can reach out to me with questions, issues, concerns, or recommendations for upcoming meeting topics at [longfellowN2N@gmail.com](mailto:longfellowN2N@gmail.com). See you at the meeting!

Michael Martens, Wausau District 2 Alderperson

Summer moves fast and you need to take advantage of it. Fortunately, there are many great events in the city happening including the continuing concerts on the square, chalk fest, taste and balloon glow, and happening in the neighborhood, the Hmong festival. All are excellent events and many of them funded with room tax dollars. Room tax comes from visitors staying in lodging within the city. Quality events attract visitors and visitors generate room tax. It's a win-win that we all benefit from with no impact to the local tax levy.

Ann Lemmer, Marathon County District 2 County Supervisor

A follow-up on our discussion regarding the Tax Increment Financing/Tax Increment Districts (TIF/TID) task force during last month's meeting: The County board did vote to approve the task force (I was a nay, in favor of engaging in a more holistic conversation with more municipalities and others involved). The nine-member task force will begin its work soon to dig deeper into the issue of the County's role in the Joint Review Board as it pertains to our vote guiding decisions in forming, modifying, and closing existing TIDs. The ultimate goal will be to offer recommendations going forward regarding who should be our County representative (currently it's our finance director), what criteria they should use to evaluate the decision when making a vote,

and suggest recommendations to our state legislature for possible changes in TIF and TID laws. I've decided to express interest in joining the task force so I can represent the Wausau community. Stay tuned!

**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
Meverden Chiropractic	215 Grand Avenue	715-848-4088
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 SHAWN MEYER (Shawn.meyer@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7934

OFFICER MICHAEL BEDISH (Michael.Bedish@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7809

OFFICER MICHAEL GRUND (Michael.Grund@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7998

**ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:**

ASHLEE BISHOP (ashlee.bishop@ci.wausau.wi.us) 715-261-7842

**2<sup>nd</sup> animal control officer?**

**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

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