

Summary for 2018 Annual Report from Chair April16, 2019

Total Taxes Collected \$859,747.20

Approximately 52 % goes to local school district,	\$447,672.00
4.9 % for Midstate Technical College	\$42,493.26
30.7 % to Wood County and State of WI	\$264,089.94
12.2 % stays here	\$105,492

Town of Cary 2018 Revenue

General Property Tax of	105,492
Managed and Open Forest	1628
State Shared Revenue	19787
Local Transportation Aids	64,400
Managed Forest redemptions	0
Total	191307

Transportation aids are derived from the following formula  
(Miles of road) 33.64 x \$2389 (the state aid per mile) / 0.85 = \$94548. 19

That figure represents what we need to spend to get the full amount of aid.

The state uses two formulas to determine the aid. One is the average amount spent over the last three years, the other is the average over the last 6 years. The higher of the 2 averages is used to determine the aid package.

The increased road aid from the state comes at a cost. If we are to get the full amount of state road aid, we must spend enough to match the state formula. Cleaning ditches to promote drainage should be regular maintenance and the expense is allocated to highway expense.

We need to develop a long-range plan for the roadwork in our town, the state recommends a five year plan. The plan should include evaluating alternative road surface products. Chip sealing is a much less costly alternative to asphalt. The road base must still be improved, which will mean 5-6 inches of lift applied to the road bed before the chip seal process, but the seal will last nearly as long as asphalt and is much cheaper and will eliminate grading on that surface.

Our tax rate has remained nearly constant since 2008, when the decision to start a blacktopping program was made by the town residents. Meanwhile, our costs have been increasing. The money not spent on blacktop has gone for other things, such as remodeling the town hall, a new truck for plowing and road maintenance, construction of East Lane, improving our cash on hand for unexpected expenditures, establishing a machinery fund, and continuing to provide fire and ambulance service. In 2008 fire and ambulance cost was \$58177, in 2019 the cost is \$69328.

To maintain services and improve our roads it will be necessary to raise the tax rate. Additional costs we must prepare for, include replacing the Cruz Aire, and our Grader is 20 years old.

Raising our tax levy \$1.50 per thousand would provide the town with approximately \$60,000 per year. That amount should allow us to begin a chip seal program surfacing 1 mile every second or third year.

In 2018 we improved the turn-arounds at Dickson Lane, Johnson Rd, Steffek Rd, and Dabrowski Lane.

Culverts were replaced at Cary Hiles and Cty V, Turner and Cty B, North Johnson, Emelia Rd, and Yetter Rd.

Johnson Rd, rock was used to fill the ditch excavation performed by the beavers.

The town hall parking lot received a Halder granite lift.

North Johnson received Halder granite lift of approximately 1 inch to mix with last year's gravel application to help bind the gravel in place.

Lindsey Rd, gravel was added from Hwy V on the north end to past the bridge.

Yetter Rd, gravel was added on the north end from Hwy 73 south to the first curve.

Accola Rd, we began some ditch cleaning to allow for better drainage.

We ordered and began replacing all the road signs in our town.

Bridge inspections of our 4 bridges were completed by the county. Any bridge 20 ft long or longer must be inspected every 2 years and the report is filed with the Federal Government.

We used the disc to reclaim gravel from the edges of the roads and to control weed growth along the sides of the road surface. This is a process that will be done yearly and will take 2-3 years to eliminate much of the weed and grass that is trying to establish growth on the roads. It would help prevent weed growth into the driving lane if we all would use both lanes and not drive down the middle of our roads.

We purchased a carbide toothed blade for the grader which was effective at removing ice and snow from our roads, and for removing pot holes from the roads as well. Our first impression on the pot hole removal is, it did a really great job. Normally the pot holes reappear after a day or two but not after using this blade. The application of MgCl for dust control on our gravel roads usually makes the road bed so hard we cannot grade out any potholes during the summer dry period. It now appears we will be able to grade during dry periods, using the carbide teeth.

At the 2017 annual meeting, rate changes for the elected members were discussed and approved. Those changes have been implemented. Please review the Salary and Wage sheet for any questions.

Finally, it is essential that members of this town consider running for election to offices on the board. This was the last time many of the current board will run for office. Begin your contemplation by attending the regular meetings of your town board. No one is irreplaceable, and many of us are at an age where we have outlived most of our friends. Step up and step into public service at the most basic level. Here, on the town board, the decisions you make, do make a difference.