

2020 Chairman's Annual Report

What a year to say the least... With a year under our belt dealing with COVID-19, it looks like we are about to turn the page and move on to a better 2021. Just to recap some things that went on in 2020...

First and foremost, the COVID-19 Pandemic started around mid-March and consumed most of our 2020 and has followed us into 2021. There were a lot of uncertainties and we had to prepare for how COVID-19 would affect the Township.

1. First on the list was the safety and health of our employees. Once the State announced their mandates, Town Hall was promptly shut down, meetings were scheduled virtually, Shelby Youth Baseball and Softball seasons were cancelled, shelters and parks were closed, trainings for the Fire Department were limited, Boundary Agreement negotiations stalled, and overall, we all had to learn how to run our Township with the new restrictions and guidelines.

Our new Administrator, Christina Peterson as a full year on board here and was thrown into a whirlwind with all the COVID-19 changes to our practices and procedures. The Town staff has managed to stay successfully and safely working full time to keep the Town running and to have a successful year of Elections. Because of all the work put into keeping the Town on track, there was not a lot of time for our Administrator to learn about Shelby. Barring any further complications in 2021, she will be able to acquire knowledge about Shelby that will be helpful for her position as Administrator. We are in good hands and I am looking forward to 2021 being somewhat back to normal. We are grateful to the office staff, road crew, Police Department and Fire Department. I cannot say enough about their work and dedication to Shelby. Thank you again to the staff!

I would also like to thank Jeff Brudos for his willingness to serve as Interim Administrator and to help Christina and the staff with Town issues that have come up over the year. Going forward in 2021 he will spend a very limited amount of time making sure that any questions the staff has get answered while allowing Christina to adjust to a normal routine.

2. Improvements to Mormon Coulee Park are moving along and will hopefully be completed by mid-Summer, barring no flood issues. Hats off and a big thank you to the Lion's club for their continued support and fund raising for the shelter and other projects in the park.

3. Terry Wright has been through a full year as Road Supervisor and adjusting very well. He is doing a remarkable job with his budget and all the challenges that have come his way while working as our Road Supervisor. Due to flood issues and budget restraints, we are a few years behind on road projects that were initially planned, but Terry Wright is doing a great job working with FEMA and stretching his budget to get as many projects done as possible each year.

4. Speaking of FEMA... we are still waiting for funds to be sent to us totaling about \$484,965.00. These funds are already earmarked to pay back roads and a loan and the surplus fund.

5. Work and talks about the flooding on Old Highway 35 was slowed because of COVID-19. Talks will resume in 2021 with the railroad and the Department of Transportation.

6. New fire equipment was brought into service with the price tag of about \$575,000.00.

7. Boundary negotiations came to a standstill with most of the discussion on the sewer agreement. The City has a copy of our last draft and we have not received it back. With the new Mayor and Council Members we expect a short waiting period before they give a response.

8. Congratulations to Officer Sharon Neitzke on her retirement after 23 years of service to the Town of Shelby and a thank you to her as well!

9. We received a COVID-19 grant from the State of Wisconsin for \$77,000.00. The funds were used to cover expenses related to COVID-19 including our digital sign.

In general, 2020 was a challenging year for everyone. With the dedication of the staff and all the board members we were able to guide the Town through the pandemic.

Goals for 2021 and Coming Years

Our Fire Station is nearly 60 years old and has served us well but is in dire need of repair. It is outdated and does not have adequate space for our trucks, equipment, and training rooms. Any discussions on solutions or improvements would be greatly appreciated.

Some of our roads are in desperate need of repairs. Ideally, we want to be back on track from when we were set behind because of the floods.

We will be having serious discussions on water and sewer extensions and current needs. Discussions and solutions should be guided by finding the best monetary and geographical options that serve the residents in the best way and is the fairest option for all those residents who pay into the Sanitary District #2. This is going to be incredibly challenging, but to move forward on this means a better Shelby for all who live here.