



Village of Lac La Belle

Welcome

Agenda



Board of Trustees strongly supports entering into an Inter-Governmental Agreement to combine the Village of Lac La Belle and the Town of Oconomowoc into one municipal unit called the Village of Lac La Belle.

Purpose of this meeting:

- **Background and rationale for the recommendation**
- **Discuss alternatives considered**
- **Provide information on the impact**
- **Get resident feedback**
- **Discuss timing and next steps**

Village of Lac La Belle Goals and Priorities



Public Services for Village property owners

- ✓ Maintaining Village Roads, Sewer System and responsive government administration

Land Use consistent with our Smart Growth Plans

- ✓ Protecting Zoning, Land Use and Property Maintenance

Water Quality of the Lake

- ✓ Working with Lake Management District, OWPP and Tall Pines

Fiscal Management

- ✓ Control Village Levy and Borrowing

Village Board of Trustees is committed to these Goals!

Currents Status of Village Services



➤ **Inter-Governmental Agreements with the Town in place to provide:**

- Police - 7 x 24 x 365 coverage
- Public Works - 7 x 24 x 365 coverage
- Clerk /Treasurer duties with early voting and day to day office coverage

➤ **Other Contracted Services in Common with the Town:**

Village Engineer, Building Inspector, Assessor, Auditors and GFL Environmental Services

➤ **Services Shared with Neighboring Communities:**

Western Lakes Fire District, OASD and Lake Management District

❖ **Only remaining “Independent” Village Functions:**

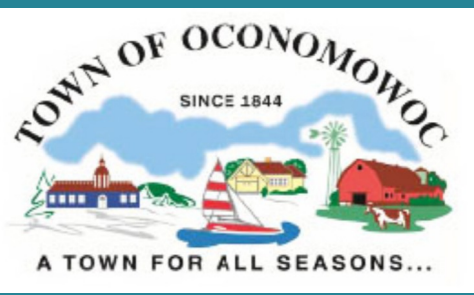
- ✓ Village Board, Commissions, and Committees
- ✓ Sewer Operations
- ✓ Village Attorney

Current and Future Challenges



- Providing timely, cost-effective, public safety and administrative services
- Cost and staffing of DPW road and sewer operations and maintenance
- Small population, demographics of Village residents, time commitment and involvement of residents for roles required by statute including Village Board, Commissions, Committees and Volunteering
- Finances-Controlling Costs, Limiting New Debt and paying down existing debt
- Current contracts with the Town are short term and renewal is not guaranteed; Town's growth is challenging their staff to meet expanding needs

Small communities across the State are facing the same issues



Combined Village of Lac La Belle

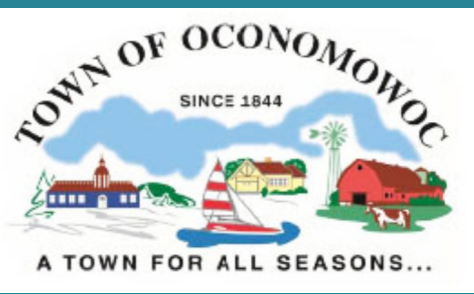


What would the “blended” community look like?

- Town and Village would become the “Village of Lac La Belle”
- There would be one Village Board for all 8,000+ residents
- There would be no changes to any current services
- Current VLLB zoning would be protected by contract (IGA)

Town would receive benefits of an Incorporated Municipality

- Ability to manage Zoning and Shoreline
- Protection from Annexations
- Combined Tax Base 6.7% larger



Options for the Future of the Village

- 1. Remain as we are today, hopefully renew current IGAs.**
 - 2. Go back to part-time independent operations**
 - 3. Combine with the Town of Oconomowoc**
- **The Board strongly supports combining with the Town to insure long term viability. The size of our community cannot efficiently and effectively provide the services required and the Town is motivated to combine.**

Board understands the unique character of the Village and is open to suggestions to help maintain this identity

Village Board focus is to keep the charm and character of VLLB

Commitments in the Inter-Governmental Agreement

Seats on commissions and committees

Plan Commission (2)

Board of Review

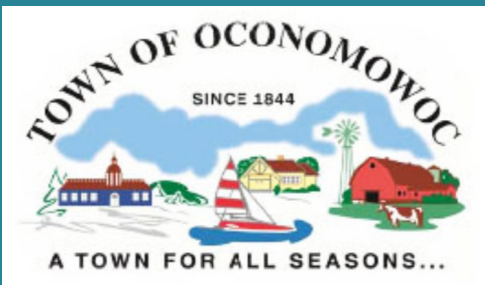
Police Commission

Sewer Commission

Board of Appeals

Shoreline Committee

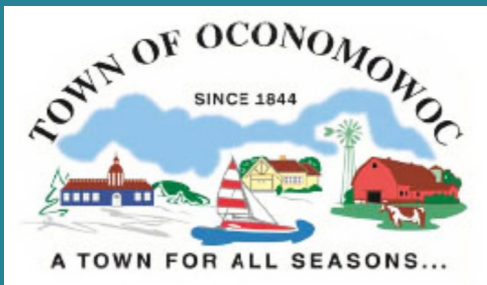
Establishing an “ad hoc” **Transition Committee** led by VLLB



Village Board focus is to keep the charm and character of VLLB

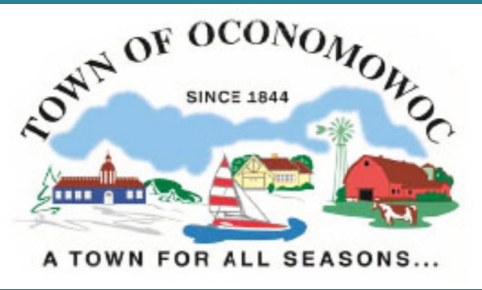
Other Potential Ideas:

- Designate ourselves and within the agreement that current Village boundaries will be identified as the “Village of Lac La Belle Historic District” to differentiate us from the rest of the combined municipality, include in all communications, events and with entrance street signage.
- Create a VLLB Historic District “ad hoc” advisory board that would focus on the relationship with the new Village of Lac La Belle government and monitor quality of services provided .
- Continue the (VLLB Historic District) 4th of July Fireworks and Parade .
- Keep the (VLLB Historic District) Resident Directory.



Other Suggestions?





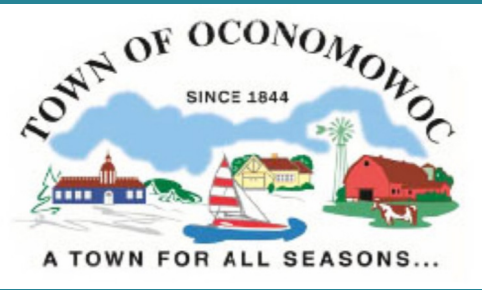
“Expanded” Village of Lac La Belle



Benefits to VLLB residents of a combination

- More residents to serve in required state statue governmental positions
 - Town has over 8,000 residents
- Guarantees long term government administration and public services
- Financial benefits of combining:
 - Our 2024 mill rate would have dropped from \$4.045 to \$2.245
 - Reduction in share of County and OASD levies
 - Political “Clout” of a much larger community

Secures the future of the Village of Lac La Belle



Next Steps



- Limited precedent for this Inter-Governmental Agreement
 - Recent decision by the Court of Appeals
- Continue communication with State and County agencies
- Village Boards have the authority to approve the IGA
 - Both Village Board and Town Board are in strong support
 - Meet timeline established for review and approval
 - Joint public hearing on the IGA is planned for November 13th
 - Effective date targeted to be January 1, 2025
 - State strongly advocates for change on the beginning of a calendar year

Both boards believe this Agreement is in best long-term interest of their community

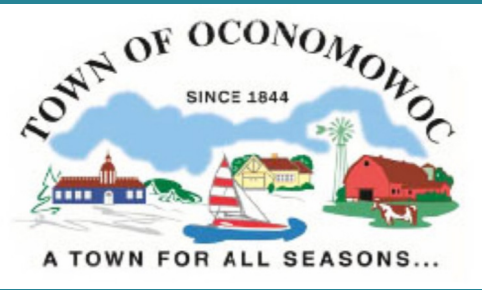
Change

"CHANGE IS THE LAW OF LIFE AND THOSE WHO LOOK ONLY TO THE PAST OR PRESENT ARE CERTAIN TO MISS THE FUTURE." — John F. Kennedy

We understand change is not easy, but it is inevitable.

We are either moving forward or falling behind.

Let's control this change, before we have no choice.



Comments and Questions