

# Town of Dunn Proposed Budget

1990 ACTUAL	1991 BUDGETED	EST. YR END	1992 PROPOSED

268,109	279,396	279,396	293,366
16,967	16,000	18,800	20,000
1,090	1,000	937	1,000
4,644	4,000	4,260	4,000
2,418	0	2,688	1,800
<b>293,228</b>	<b>300,396</b>	<b>306,081</b>	<b>320,166</b>

196,593	210,000	210,525	200,567
6,573	6,500	6,565	11,250
19,040	37,372	36,200	0
56,907	63,230	63,230	69,553
0	0	0	2,250
6,985	6,900	7,017	7,000
980	980	914	900
0	0	0	10,000
<b>287,078</b>	<b>324,982</b>	<b>324,451</b>	<b>301,520</b>

2,630	2,600	2,600	2,600
1,000	900	900	900
100	100	100	100
50	50	40	40
150	150	145	150
442	442	442	442
701	300	600	750
16,913	12,000	15,000	15,000
189	100	100	100
8,221	6,000	4,100	5,000
<b>30,396</b>	<b>22,642</b>	<b>24,027</b>	<b>25,082</b>

0	0	0	0
14,313	0	0	0
<b>14,313</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

1,331	1,330	1,634	1,331
0	0	40,000	6,000
36,666	23,000	34,500	25,000
1,642	905	1,205	800
75	0	1,550	1,500
1,810	2,000	2,000	0
5,511	4,700	6,000	6,000
7,952	8,500	8,500	11,000
129	120	100	1,100
7,503	7,000	8,087	8,000
57,675	28,000	26,652	66,000
1,333	0	1,251	0
<b>121,627</b>	<b>75,555</b>	<b>131,479</b>	<b>126,731</b>
<b>746,642</b>	<b>723,575</b>	<b>786,038</b>	<b>773,499</b>

7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
0	0	10	100
995	1,000	800	2,000
227	150	100	500
1,866	1,000	1,000	750
951	500	200	500
956	2,000	2,000	2,000
1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
78	100	100	100
0	0	1,000	1,200
12,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
154	150	200	250
32,433	34,000	34,000	37,000
12,342	26,546	26,550	7,560
80	100	200	200
5,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
286	300	300	300
25,330	30,000	70,000	25,000
1,574	2,000	2,000	2,500
2,800	2,900	3,110	3,500
482	2,100	8,000	500
2,608	2,500	2,500	2,700
2,871	3,500	4,000	3,000
1,746	1,800	1,800	550
<b>5,771</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>8,000</b>	<b>11,000</b>

1992 BUDGET ACCT. NO.	1992 BUDGET DESCRIPTION	1990 ACTUAL	1991 BUDGETED	EST. YR END	1992 PROPOSED
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509	TOWN HALL MAINTENANCE - WAGES	0	0	600	1,000
510	PROPERTY AND LIABILITY INS.	15,843	16,000	16,556	18,000
512	EMPLOYEES BOND	400	500	500	500
518	LEGAL PUBLICATIONS	1,221	1,300	1,000	1,300
519	TAXES REFUNDED	736	0	0	0
520	SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENSE	11,469	12,000	13,100	15,000
524	RETIREMENT EXPENSE	14,615	16,000	16,000	17,000
525	HEALTH INSURANCE	5,576	6,000	7,600	8,500
540	CEMETERY EXPENSE	547	435	435	425
541	CEMETERY - WAGES	300	301	301	400
542	MISCELLANEOUS	557	500	500	500
550	TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	<b>170,014</b>	<b>201,382</b>	<b>252,162</b>	<b>193,535</b>

551	<b>PARKS &amp; ACTIVITY:</b>				
552	PARK COMMISSION - CLERICAL	107	50	50	100
553	PARKS ACTIVITY - WAGES	2,418	3,000	3,200	7,920
555	PARKS EXPENSE	8,951	7,500	7,500	5,550
570	TOTAL PARKS & ACTIVITY	<b>11,376</b>	<b>10,550</b>	<b>10,750</b>	<b>13,570</b>

601	<b>PUBLIC SAFETY:</b>				
604	POLICE CHIEF SALARY	4,322	4,200	4,200	5,500
605	POLICE - CLERICAL	843	1,000	600	800
606	POLICE EXPENSES	1,874	9,500	8,000	2,000
616	FIRE PROTECTION - MCFARLAND	32,663	25,000	33,100	35,500
617	EMS - MCFARLAND	21,888	24,000	21,900	22,000
618	FIRE PROTECTION - OREGON	41,058	23,000	23,000	33,450
619	EMS - OREGON	19,575	19,600	20,000	20,000
620	FIRE PROTECTION - STOUGHTON	19,304	21,000	30,000	31,000
621	EMS - STOUGHTON	551	3,300	3,316	4,000
622	HAZMAT MUTUAL AID	0	115	98	115
630	BUILDING INSPECTOR SALARY	6,117	7,500	7,000	7,500
631	BUILDING INSPECTION EXPENSE	1,363	1,500	1,000	1,500
650	TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	<b>149,558</b>	<b>139,715</b>	<b>152,214</b>	<b>163,365</b>

651	<b>HEALTH &amp; SOCIAL SERVICES:</b>				
664	SENIOR CITIZENS - MCFARLAND	500	500	500	1,000
665	SENIOR CITIZENS - OREGON	11,644	13,000	13,000	15,368
666	SENIOR CITIZENS - STOUGHTON	4,560	4,500	4,500	4,500
690	TOTAL HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES	<b>16,704</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>20,868</b>

701	<b>PUBLIC WORKS:</b>				
706	HWY DEPT SALARIES	63,026	66,000	66,000	73,250
715	MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT OPERATION	6,375	8,000	8,000	8,000
716	MACHINERY & EQUIP REPAIR & MAINT.	8,548	10,000	10,000	10,000
718	GARAGE EXPENSE	5,393	11,500	11,500	11,500
724	STREET REPAIR & MAINTENANCE	54,372	85,000	80,000	79,500
726	BRIDGES & CULVERTS	223	300	4,000	6,000
730	SNOW & ICE CONTROL	10,794	13,000	13,000	13,000
734	TRAFFIC CONTROL - SIGNS	3,226	2,500	2,500	2,000
736	STREET LIGHTING	7,025	8,000	3,000	8,000
740	TREE & BRUSH CONTROL	206	200	100	200
742	LANDFILL - WAGES	13,779	14,200	14,200	14,900
746	LANDFILL EXPENSES	51,469	2,000	2,000	2,000
2	RECYCLING - EXPENSES	0	4,000	4,000	2,500
3	SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL - EXPENSES	0	9,000	6,000	10,000
750	TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	<b>224,441</b>	<b>233,700</b>	<b>229,300</b>	<b>240,850</b>

761	<b>DEBT SERVICE:</b>				
764	PRINCIPAL SHORT TERM DEBT	16,125	25,725	16,125	28,585
768	INTEREST SHORT TERM DEBT	5,315	11,065	3,593	7,165
780	TOTAL DEBT SERVICE	<b>21,440</b>	<b>36,790</b>	<b>19,718</b>	<b>35,750</b>

801	<b>CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:</b>				
804	STORM SEWER PROJECTS	839	25,000	0	25,000
806	SURFACE & RESURFACE ROADS	35,330	35,000	25,397	60,000
807	OFFICE EQUIPMENT	0	2,600	3,872	10,500
808	EQUIPMENT	58,279	28,000	26,652	66,000
812	LAND PURCHASES	52,644	0	7,400	0
840	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	<b>147,092</b>	<b>90,600</b>	<b>63,321</b>	<b>161,500</b>

900	<b>GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>740,625</b>	<b>730,737</b>	<b>745,465</b>	<b>829,438</b>
901	<b>GRAND TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>746,642</b>	<b>723,575</b>	<b>786,038</b>	<b>773,499</b>
902	RECEIPTS OVER(UNDER) EXPENDITURES	6,026	(7,162)	40,573	(55,939)
903	CURRENT AVAILABLE FUNDS APPLIED	84	33,834	22,029	55,939
904	TAX LEVY REQUIRED	*****	*****	*****	*****
	EST. YEAR END UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS	199,908	239,226	239,226	180,662
	LONG TERM DEBT LIABILITY \$117,550				

## On the Road Again with Jim

by Jim Manson, Highway Foreman

The town road crew had a busier summer than usual this year. We had Lally Road and part of Dunnwood Way ground up and new blacktop put down for a total of a half mile. Then we shouldered those roads and a few other problem spots.

We used more than 500 tons of patch material to fix the roads that were seal coated. This year we seal coated about 12 miles of roads. That's the most seal coating we've ever done since I started working for the town in 1966.

Next year, we hope to seal coat at least another 10 miles of roads. Which roads we end up doing depends a lot on how things look in the spring and how the bids come in, but we are considering doing everything in Spartan Hills subdivision, Colladay Point, Barber Drive, Labrador Road, and part of Schneider Drive.

In the first part of July, we had a wind storm that did a lot of tree damage. We spent a month cleaning up and hauling brush to be burned, regrading washed-out shoulders, and hauling away the brush residents stacked up by the road. We still have some spots to finish cleaning up, mostly in places we can't get to until the ground is frozen.

We ran into some manpower problems in the spring. All the road patching needed to be done because of the usual spring break-up and all the preparatory work had to be done on the roads that

were going to be sealcoated, while at the same time all the grass in all the town parks took off on its spring growth spurt. We are recommending that some of the park mowing be contracted out next year to eliminate this problem.

Another problem that the road crew runs into frequently is that of cars, boats and trailers left in the road right-of-way when snow plowing starts. This past winter, we tangled with a couple of boat trailers — and the trailers didn't win — that were buried under the snow where we couldn't see them. Once the snow flies, we can't remember where everything was last time we were able to see it!

We're asking for a new truck in the budget, to be used with our existing plows, salter, and wings, to replace the '71 Ford. That poor old truck is 20 now, and that's the longest we've ever had a truck last for as long as I've been here.

After a week and a half of heavy rains this fall, it turned cold about a month too early. Winter must not be far behind! Drive carefully this winter and remember that the county roads are plowed more often and salted more thoroughly during a storm, so they are usually easier driving. Center and shoulder lines can make the road easier to see during a snowstorm, too.

## Police Chief's Report

by Chief Bob Berry

In previous newsletters, I have spoken about residences not being properly marked and difficult to find in emergency situations. Please take a little time to check the outside of your residence to assure that emergency vehicles can identify your house so your family can get emergency care, if needed, as soon as possible. We need to be able to read your house numbers; if they're obstructed or not there, it takes much more time to assess the situation and sometime this may be critical to you and yours. Fire numbers are available from the county land regulation department for a very small fee. Contact them if you need new numbers.

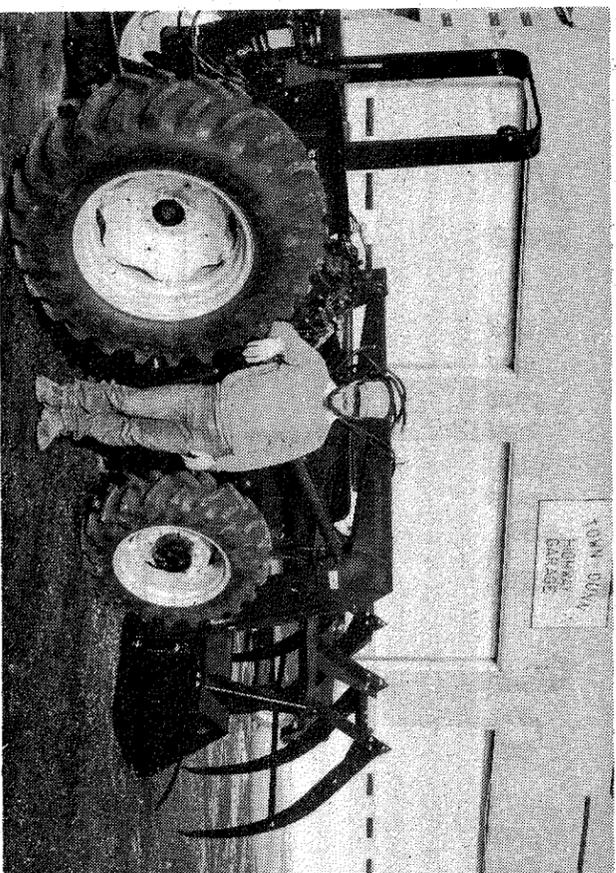
The recent winter-like weather has only been around for a few weeks, but the town has already received complaints of people plowing and shoveling their snow onto the street. This creates a traffic hazard and can cause vehicles to lose control when they

strike the frozen snow and ice. The town has an ordinance prohibiting moving snow onto the road.

The town has purchased two new police radios to aid communications with the road crew and with the Dane County Sheriff's 911 dispatcher. The old radios were 15 years old and they didn't have all the channels now being used. Also, replacement parts were getting to be extremely difficult to find.

In this fall's budget request, I am asking to hire one of the Dane County Sheriff's Deputies while I am on vacation and on a very limited basis in special circumstances. I feel we need additional night and weekend coverage. If you need the services of your police department, please contact the town hall.

We wish everyone a safe, happy and healthy 1992.



The town's new tractor was delivered September 5, and its been out grading shoulders already this fall. It also has grapple hooks for picking up brush from along the roadsides — it all has to be hauled up to the transfer site for burning. The old mower will also fit on it for roadside mowing. The old tractor is still around, although it's getting pretty shaky. It's going to have the backhoe left on it now and be used for that and as a loader.

## Business Office Update

by Roz Gausman, Town Clerk

This has been an unusual year in the clerk's office. Normal business has been interrupted by several projects, including the revaluation of property, grant applications for park projects, recycling grants and a federal disaster grant for costs related to cleaning up after the July 7th storm, and reports to be filed on the remediation of contaminated soil from an underground fuel storage tank at the town garage.

For the revaluation, the office staff had to schedule appointments and send out more than 300 certified letters. On the brighter side, we were successful in raising more than \$60,000 in revenues from grant applications.

We started reorganizing and updating the filing system, but that was put on hold during the extra projects mentioned above. The old filing system was using space-consuming legal-size files. We hope to complete that project after the busy tax season.

We are planning a facelift for the offices and entryway at the town hall. We will keep the wallpaper and friendly country look of the office, but we are

replacing the thread-bare carpet, which was installed in the mid '70s. A service window with a work counter will be installed this winter to help preserve the new carpeting by eliminating the constant stream of muddy or salty boots that come through the office. The service window will also help reduce the draft problem resulting from the office door opening right next to the outside door. Our goal in these changes is to better serve the residents and still maintain the friendly, community-office atmosphere of the business office.

## Dog owners must license pets

Dog owners are reminded that it is unlawful for a person in the town of Dunn to own, harbor or keep any dog without complying with Dunn Ordinance 79-1. This ordinance requires all dogs five months of age and older to be licensed. Dog licenses are available at the town hall Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Dog License Fees Likely to Rise

The state and county have increased the portion of the dog license fees that must be remitted to them, so the town's fees will be increasing, too. The town treasurer will be recommending that the fees be increased to \$4.50 for neutered or spayed dogs, \$9.00 for unneutered or unspayed dogs, \$38.00 for a kennel license to include 12 dogs, and \$3.75 for each additional dog in a kennel.

# 5% Increase in Levy Proposed in 1992

public charges and miscellaneous charge -- will remain about the same. This means a slight increase in the levy.

As is the case every year, leftover carry-over funds are being used to balance the budget and keep the levy as close to last year's as possible. The town likes to have about \$100,000 as carry-over funds. By the end of 1991 this is expected to increase to \$239,000. About \$56,000 of this will be used along with the levy to balance the budget. Another \$50,000 of it is proposed to be used to start a sinking fund for construction of a new town garage on an acre of land immediately east of the town hall and \$5,000 is proposed to begin a sinking fund for the development of Dunn Heritage Park, the town's first community park. This will leave about \$118,000 as carry-over money to cover the town's expenses until the 1992 intergovernmental money comes in.

## Income Details

If the budget is approved as shown on pages 4 and 5, \$293,366 will come from town residents as the levy. In addition to the levy, \$26,800 of income is expected as mobile home taxes, conservation land taxes and omitted taxes. In 1992, 40 percent of the income or \$301,520 is expected from intergovernmental sources. This includes state shared taxes, a recycling grant, road aids and, for the first time, \$10,000 in the form of a federal emergency grant. The emergency grant is for costs incurred during last July's wind storm.

About 3 percent of the town's income (\$25,082) comes from regulation and compliance fees such as liquor and dog licenses and court fines.

The remaining 16 percent of the income comes from "other charges" such as transfer site permits, donations, interest income and land rent. Donations include shared money from Dane County for attorney's fees in the Libby Landfill fight. Transfer site garbage passes are expected to raise an additional \$2,500 in 1992 because the town board will be proposing increasing the fee per bag of garbage to \$1 to help meet garbage collection costs.

## Spending Details

### General Government

Overall, general government spending is lower this year because the revaluation is complete and we will no longer be paying for the reassessments. Because 1992 is a presidential election year, election costs will rise

again. Salaries for elected officials will remain the same, but the board is proposing an increase for full time clerical and public works employees. Pay increases will be awarded based on performance and on an individual basis. Since the revaluation is complete, the contract with the assessor goes back to a maintenance level, as will data processing costs, which burgeoned last year. Now that the Libby Landfill battle is over, attorney's fees will also be dropping to more traditional levels.

In an effort to weatherize the town hall, the board is proposing replacing the windows and storms and installing a service window to the business office. This has added an additional \$5,000 to the hall's maintenance costs.

### Parks

Park maintenance and mowing has been the responsibility of the Public Works Department. This summer the department was short one man for four days of each week, usually at critical times, due to that person taking care of park mowing, which created a backlog of work. So, the town board is proposing hiring an outside firm instead of hiring another employee and purchasing another mower tractor for that employee. From estimates that have been received, the town board believes that subcontracting the park mowing will be a financially better move.

### Public Safety

The police department is proposing the addition of another part-time police officer to cover for Chief Berry on some week-ends and late evenings. Because Chief Berry works full time for the McFarland Police Department, he is asking that he have an assistant who can answer late-night calls in his place. This new person is a deputy with the Dane County Sheriff's Department.

For fire protection and emergency medical service, the budget includes the full amounts requested by each of the three districts serving Dunn. The large increase in the Oregon Fire District is the town's share for equipment improvements.

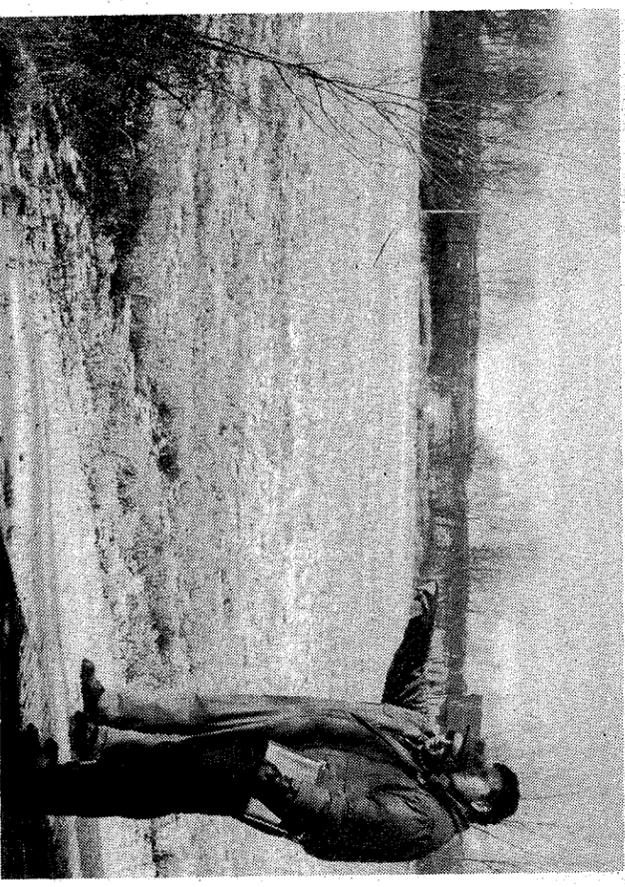
One additional cost that will become a benefit to Dunn residents in the form of reduced fire-insurance rates is the installation of five "dry" fire hydrants. Dry hydrants tap lakes or rivers, and must have a water pump hooked to them to function. The cost to town residents will average \$750 per hydrant, which is one-half of

the full installation cost. The remainder will be paid by the DNR. The exact locations are still undetermined.

### Health and Social Services

The sums budgeted are the amounts requested by the Stoughton and Oregon senior centers, plus \$1,000 for McFarland Senior Citizen and Volunteer Services Coordinator Programs.

Solid waste expenses are set high because the town is investing purchasing its own refuse dumpsters. This may be an option to renting dumpsters, but the town has yet to determine if owning the dumpster will mean a higher hauling price. Because of the possibility of it being difficult to find a hauler, this expense item may be dropped from the budget.



Highway Foreman Jim Manson points out known waterways at the Dunn Heritage Park to Warren Myer, the engineer hired to do a preliminary survey of the property to determine surface water flow paths. The town board will be asking residents to set aside \$5000 in a sinking fund for the park's development.

### Public Works

The proposed garage expenses are up for the second year in a row due to the removal of the old underground fuel tanks and the removal of contaminated soil around one of the tanks. (New aboveground tanks were installed in 1991.) In this line item is \$5,000 toward removal of the contaminated soil. That amount is the maximum dollar amount the town will have to pay, since state funding will cover costs above that amount.

Bridge and culvert repairs are up due to repairs needed on the Dyreson Road bridge over the Yahara River. Dane County has been contracted to paint the bridge. Work on the bridge began in the summer of 1991. Also included are funds to correct a drainage problem on Waubesa Avenue.

Recycling expenses are expected to be lower in 1992 because the town board is proposing to hire an outside firm to haul recyclables. For the past two years, the town has hauled some of the recyclables and collected income, but due to the depressed market for recyclables and the need for manpower in the town it is costing more than it is generating in funds.

### Debt Service

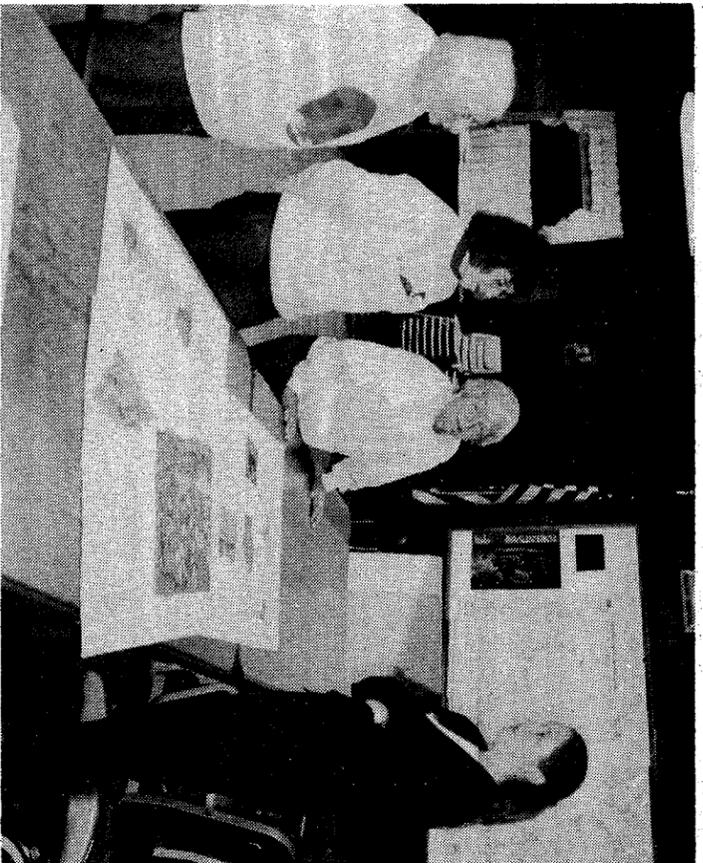
The increase in these figures reflect the new tractor mower the town purchased in 1991.

### Capital Expenditures

The Colladay Point wet prairie retention pond to control flooding of homes in that area was delayed in 1991. The project is back on-line for 1992. Prof. Peter Bosscher, who teaches civil engineering at the University of Wisconsin, is providing free engineering for the project through one of his classes. The \$25,000 budgeted is for one-half the expected construction cost. When the preliminary design is finished, the town will apply to the DNR for matching funds.

Also proposed is \$60,000 to resurface a portion of High Street and Morris Park Road and an as-yet-undetermined section of road. Highway Foreman Jim Manson would like to wait until spring to determine which one of a number of deteriorating roads will be in the most need.

Under office equipment, the town is proposing an improved voting system and a new computer and laser printer for the town hall.



### Design Presented for Cemetery Expansion

With the closing date in sight for purchase of two acres of land to expand and reopen the Dunn Burying Ground, the Cemetery Task Force met on October 30 to hear a presentation by Beth Brockish, a UW Landscape Architecture graduate whose senior thesis is on the expansion and design of the cemetery. Her design provides many options for plots, types of gravestones, plantings and walkways. The committee is meeting in November to discuss these options and develop recommendations for the board. Shown are (left to right): committee members Margaret Lalor, Pam Crapp, and Dorothy Berkan discussing the plans with Beth Brockish.

## Be Smart About Your Taxes: Read, Listen and Vote

continued from page 1

erty tax bill.

2. Vote in school board elections after you have read about or talked to the candidates. Vote also in school referendum. You should be informed about the needs and the cost of such proposals. Very few eligible voters participated in the last school referendum, which resulted in a levy increase.

3. Either find out on your own or call on your favorite Madison newspaper to accurately report what the proposed levy amount and the resulting increase or decrease is going to be for MATC and the Intermediate School District's levy. Find out who the representatives of these districts are, and call them if you question their proposed budgets. If you don't know what those proposals are, go back to the notion of insisting on proper coverage of these issues on the part of the news media in Dane County.

4. Participate in county board elections. Read about and/or talk to the candidates and determine who will best represent you. The Madison papers will cover these races, but the local papers will do a better job of tailoring the coverage to local concerns.

5. Many of our town residents are also in a sanitary dis-

trict. There are four districts in the town and some of them levy (there's that word again) or have a combination of levy and charges that exceed what you pay in town taxes. The town board's responsibility is limited to the appointment of the commissioners of each district. If you have concerns, attend your district meetings or have a neighborhood representative do so. Citizen participation has resulted in some major changes in one of the districts, but we could use more citizen involvement. Make sure you let us know if you have concerns about the operation of your sanitary district.

This is not an endorsement of a tax revolt. Revolts are just that — a reaction to things gone too far. The result is too often detrimental to everyone concerned. A better path is that of an informed and active public. Annual budgets and levies must be monitored by the citizens affected by the costs and services of governmental operations. If we participate on an on-going basis, there will be no need for tax revolts. It is up to us to make certain our elected officials are accountable to the people they represent. After all, you are paying the bills. There is no better investment than spending a few hours each year to be an

## Community Park Survey Shows Enthusiasm

Dunn's first community park, 28 acres between Tower and Jordan Roads, was officially named Dunn Heritage Park this spring. In June, the parks commission sent out a survey asking all town residents for ideas on developing the park. Out of just over 2,000 surveys sent out, 187 were returned. That's a fantastic response and it shows that town residents want to participate in planning the park. In fact, 59 of the respondents indicated a willingness to donate time to work on the park.

Those interested in keeping up-to-date with the park's development are welcome to attend the parks commission meetings. The first hour of each meeting will be dedicated to the Dunn Heritage

Park. Currently no plan has been finalized, but several preliminary steps are being taken:

1. The town has hired engineer Warren Myer to shoot elevations and determine surface water flow patterns.

2. The parks commission is seeking assistance from Doris Rusch and Scot Stewart, wildlife managers with the DNR, on fish and animal habitat considerations.

3. The commission will be interviewing park planners. They hope to have a preliminary plan developed by next March to be followed by public meetings and a public hearing on the design. If all goes well, they will be applying for grants to assist in the park's development.

Options	DUNN HERITAGE PARK SURVEY RESULTS			
	(most)			(least)
Landscaping	83	29	23	10
Picnic area	54	36	28	16
Gills	26	12	27	29
Prairie/woodland	76	21	30	15
Parking	63	23	20	21
Nature trails	68	30	30	22
Playground equip.	48	25	25	23
Pavilion	74	26	23	17
Soccer field	8	10	10	19
Nature center	27	16	21	25
Softball	19	17	21	12
Additional suggestions:				(responses)
Lake access, canoe, boats, pier, canoe racks				24
Beach or wading pool				21
Native landscaping				16
Volleyball nets (sand)				13
Tennis courts				10
Cross-country ski trails				7
Running and bicycle paths				6
Softball, volleyball, rugby, soccer summer leagues				6
Community building and heritage building				6
Handicap access				5
No boat launch				3
Birchhouses, bike racks				2 each
Shade trees, fishing piers, swimming pool, ice skating rink				1 each
Additional concerns: Pavilion will attract teenagers; should be a place for quiet reflection, bring back to 1820 character; give an explanation of native plant life and history of early settlers; don't make it another family reunion place; develop totally for children; keep as wild as possible; keep nice and simple; recruit help to cut costs; leave as is; mark areas plainly; reduce speed on Mahoney Road; no motorized vehicles; pets allowed.				

informed voter.

The property tax system is in need of a total overhaul. It is a regressive tax to start with and strikes directly at what most of us regard as a major source of stability in our lives — owning our own home. A regressive tax means that if we improve our home, we pay more in taxes. If we simply maintain our home in good condition, we pay more than those who let their houses deteriorate. If you happen to own a type of property that is selling at inflated prices, you pay more. That

last example applied to farm land a few years ago and to lake property this year. For those on fixed incomes, these swings in value, and the tax burden that follows, can hamper their ability to remain in their own home. Property tax reform has been talked about for years. The system is established under state law and administered by state agencies. The key is to make state officials aware of the problems resulting from the current property tax system. Let's work together to bring about a much needed change.