



## City Hall Happenings

### PROPOSED LEVY & 2022 BUDGET

The City Council will review 2022 budgets and levy at its regular meeting on December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend. The levy can be lowered, but not increased, after adopting the proposed levy. A 5% levy increase has been proposed by the City Council. Once the preliminary levy is set, it can go down, but not up.

<b>2022 Proposed Levy</b> <i>(General Fund)</i>	\$457,256	GO Bond (2017 Street)	\$56,224	Total Levy	\$513,480
<b>2021 Levy</b>	\$432,806	GO Bondt	\$56,224	Total Levy Additional Revenue	\$489,030 \$24,450

**2022 Proposed City Tax Rate** **33%**

**2021 City Tax Rate** **32.15%**

**Truth-in-Taxation** hearing is December 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. prior to the regular city council meeting. The Council may leave the preliminary levy the same or reduce the levy. Budgets for *General Fund*, *Fire Fund*, and *Water Fund* will be approved.

### SMART ROOM

With a grant from the Blandin Foundation for increased broadband capabilities, Otter Tail County, along with the City of Ottertail, will offer a “smart room” in Ottertail City Hall very soon. The Smart Room will be available to all citizens to access virtual meetings, find job opportunities/interviews, do reseach for business/school ,and remote work ON the web. Users will need to make an appointment during regular City Hall hours for this service.

### REMINDER: ZONING PERMITS REQUIRED

Zoning permits are required for structures, land alterations, driveway bituminous or concrete, signs or fences. **Applications are online or you can stop in and pick one up from city staff.** Any changes to outside dimensions, all new structures, land alterations and driveway blacktopping require a permit. Those projects within 1,000 ft. of shoreland are restricted to no more than 25% impervious surface. Non-shoreland is 30%. **Any commercial changes/improvements/signs require a zoning permit.**

**Zoning Permit Reminder:** If you aren't sure if you need a permit or not, call city staff. Elaine, Amanda, and Justin are ready to advise you on your application!  
**\$300 After the Fact fine.**

## Water Department

### ONLINE BILL PAY

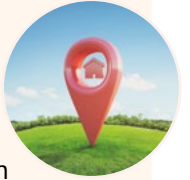
Online bill pay: [www.ub-pay.com](http://www.ub-pay.com)  
 Code: *OttertailMN571*

Go to [www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com) and click the *UB Pay* button (*small fee required*). Want your bill by email only? Please call City Hall and talk to Amanda or email your request to [otcity@arvig.net](mailto:otcity@arvig.net).

**Shut-Off Policy:** Water users with accounts over 60 days old are subject to water shut-off. Payments are due on the last day of the month. To avoid forgetting and late charges of \$10.00 try signing up for automatic drafts. Call City Hall and talk to Amanda for details. staff at City Hall at (218) 367-2250.

## THE BIG BUILD

Are you looking to build your dream home soon? The City, in cooperation with Otter Tail County CDA, is offering up to \$15,000 (depending upon market value) in property tax abatements for new homes built in the next five years. Go to Otter Tail County's website or **call City Hall at (218) 367-2250 to find out how to apply.**

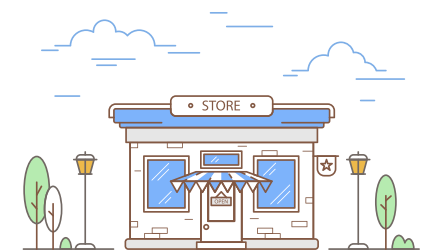


The Big Build Program applications will no longer be accepted after December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Currently we have five lots eligible for this program: three located on *Arvilla Drive*, and one located on *Maple Avenue*. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) is available in *Happy Acres Development* and are available for the \$1.00 program.

### \$1 DOLLAR BUILDING SITES

The City of Ottertail is offering building sites for \$1.00! There are some requirements when applying, but incentives, along with possible tax abatements, make this deal *too good to be true!* If you're thinking about building in Ottertail, call City Hall for details at (218) 367-2250, or check the city's website at [www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com) for an information packet and application.



### BUSINESSES: DEFERRED LOANS AVAILABLE

Are you looking to do some upgrading to your building? The City has deferred loans up to a \$3,000 match available, and you can add that to a grant from Otter Tail County Partnership Growth program depending on the value of your project. Applications are required. Inquire at City Hall at (218) 367-2250.

# CALENDAR

## CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

2021-22	October 21 <sup>st</sup>	MEETINGS ARE AT 6 P.M. ON 3 <sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF MONTH
	November 18 <sup>th</sup>	
	December 16 <sup>th</sup> (T-n-T meeting)	
	January 20 <sup>th</sup>	

If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact City Hall the Monday before the meeting and provide your topic. All others concerns are placed under Public Forum. Email: [info@cityofottertail.com](mailto:info@cityofottertail.com)

[www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com)

## HOLIDAYS OBSERVED

**Thanksgiving**  
Thursday & Friday,  
November 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>

**Christmas Day Observed**  
Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>

**New Years Day Observed**  
Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>

THE CITY OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED.

City of Ottertail's Newsletter is a quarterly publication. For contact and other information, visit our website at: [www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Halloween Trunk or Treat**  
Sunday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

**OtterDazzle**  
Saturday, December 4<sup>th</sup>

 Find us on Facebook

Search for "City of Ottertail" on Facebook.



239 Hwy 78 N • PO Box 245 • Ottertail, MN 56571  
CITY OF OTTERTAIL  
**OTTERTAIL**

Presorted Standard  
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Permit No. 210

## WINTER SNOW REMOVAL PROCESS

Snow removal from the streets and roads is ordered when the depth of the snow is 2" or more. Please consider that when there is a lot of snow or ice, it may take time before the contractor gets to your street. We ask for your patience as we go through the winter months.

Please be aware it is against state law to push snow across a public street or road to clear snow from your driveway. Pushing snow across road right-of-way is a violation of MN Statute 160.2715 and is subject to misdemeanor charge.

It is the responsibility of abutting property owners on a public sidewalk to keep it in good condition, free from debris, snow and ice for the safety of pedestrians.

Thank you to residents that help with safety by clearing your nearby fire hydrants so that in case of fire the hydrant is able to be reached easily by emergency personnel.



## RECYCLING BINS



The Otter Tail County Solid Waste Recycle program moved their recycling bins to Maple Avenue near the water tower. There has been some abuse to this service. Please NO GARBAGE, NO FURNITURE, OR TRASH. Please keep this area clean – it is close to downtown. If you abuse it, you will lose it. There also is report of abusive dumping in the city park trash cans. Please be kind.

## NO BRUSH PILE

The City of Ottertail does not maintain a brush pile for trees, leaves or other yard waste. This material should be hauled to the transfer stations located at Henning, Battle Lake, or New York Mills. Past practice of dumping south of the demo derby site will not be tolerated. Shingles and other household material need to be hauled to the transfer stations also. Violators will be charged.

## EMERGENCY WEATHER AND 911 SERVICE NOTIFICATION SERVICE



**Smart911**<sup>TM</sup>

If you haven't already, please self-register for **Smart911**, Otter Tail County's *Emergency Weather and 911 Service Notification Service*, and encourage your neighbor to do the same. Registration is available at our website, [www.cityofottertail.com](http://www.cityofottertail.com). Call City Hall at (218) 367-2250 for more information or to receive assistance with registering.

ALL OTTER TAIL COUNTY RESIDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REGISTER.

## EMERGENCY WEATHER AND 911 SERVICE NOTIFICATION SERVICE