

Ordinance No 12-1-10A

TOWN OF SARATOGA
WOOD COUNTY

ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING FIRE PROTECTION CHARGES

WHEREAS, 1983 Wisconsin Act 532 authorizes Towns to charge property owners a portion or all the costs of fire protection;

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest of the Town of Saratoga to charge the costs of such protection to property owners;

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town Board of Supervisors of the Town of Saratoga does ordain as follows:

Section 1 – State Authority

Pursuant to Section 60.55, 60.555 and 60.557 of Wisconsin Stats., the Town of Saratoga, Wood County, hereby establishes the following policy and procedure for payment of fire costs incurred by the Town of Saratoga.

Section 2 – Revocation of Previous Ordinances

Town of Saratoga Ordinance 12-3-08 shall be revoked upon the passage of this Ordinance.

Section 3 – Liability for Fire Protection Costs

- (A) The property owners of real estate within the Town of Saratoga for which fire protection is provided shall have the cost of fire protection paid by the Town of Saratoga through a special charge designated for that purpose.
- (B) Fire calls for (1) motor vehicles owned or operated by non-residents of the Town, and (2) any parcels in the township that are enrolled in the Department of Natural Resources Managed Forest Land, private forest crop, or equivalent program, and (3) properties of Town residents where fires have been caused by negligence or recklessness, shall be charged back to the responsible Town resident(s), non-resident(s), or Town landowner(s) according to the fee schedule in use at the time of loss as adopted by the Town Board.

Section 4 – Billing and Payment Procedure

The costs of any fire calls set forth in Section 3 (B) (2) and 3 (B) (3) above shall be billed by the Town Clerk to the property owner and paid to the Town Treasurer within 60 days of the date of the bill. The failure to pay the bill within 60 days will result in interest being charged at the rate of 1 (one) percent per month from the date of the bill. Those bills remaining outstanding, including interest, for more than 90 days as of November 1 of any year shall

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become a lien against the real estate from which fire protection was provided and shall be placed on the tax roll as a delinquent special charge pursuant to Section 66.60 of Wisconsin Statutes.

The costs of any fire calls set forth in Section 3 (B) (1) above shall be billed by the Town Clerk to the vehicle owner or operator and paid to the Town Treasurer within 60 days of the bill. The failure to pay the bill within 60 days will result in the bill being entered in the Wisconsin Department of Revenue's TRIP program, Wisconsin Statutes 71.93 and 71.935 authorizes the Wisconsin Department of Revenue to intercept taxpayer refunds, other refundable credits, and lottery prizes for certain state agency and local government debts; or it will be forwarded to a collection agency.

All bills will be examined by the town board, who will have authority to excuse certain bills, i.e. false alarms, prior to being submitted to the property owner for payment.

Section 5 – Separability of Provisions

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared invalid, such decisions shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.

Section 6 – Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon its publication as provided by law.

Adopted this 1st day of December, 2010, by the Town board of Supervisors of the Town of Saratoga, Wood County.

Terry Rickaby
Chairman

Douglas Passinneau
Supervisor

Ken Nelson
Supervisor

John Frank
Supervisor

Danny Forbes
Supervisor

Heidi Kawleski
Clerk

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