



Grand Chute Town Supervisor #1 Voter Guide – 2023

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Question #1	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Please introduce yourself and explain why you are running for Grand Chute Town Supervisor #1. What are your qualifications and what is your motivation for wanting to serve?	My name is Tim Bantes, my wife Rhonda and I have been residents of Grand Chute for the past 17 years. Rhonda and I share nine children and ten grandchildren. I recently retired after a 38 year career in the fire and emergency services field, having the honor of serving as your Grand Chute Fire Chief for the last 15 years. I am seeking the honor of continued service to our community as a town supervisor, by employing the dedication, responsiveness, and integrity that has helped me serve our community for the last 15 years.	My name is Ron Wolff. My 45 years of business in Grand Chute with Lakeshore Cleaners, Inc, and with Willow Lane, LLC, enables me to understand how to operate successful organizations. That begins with understanding the needs of those whom I serve. As a Grand Chute Town Board Supervisor, my motivation is to serve our residents. Our residents have told me they want their voices heard, they want to be treated fairly and with respect, and they want their tax dollars used efficiently.
Question #2	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
How will the decision to move away from assessments to property taxes to finance road improvements impact the town's financial health in the next decade and beyond? How will this affect commercial property owners in Grand Chute?	In my opinion the previous road assessment policy was unfair and financially a big hit to the taxpayers' pocketbooks. I know this personally since I paid a road assessment. However, the proposed radical shift to have the taxpayers pay for all future road construction and improvements will have a very profound impact on debt borrowing for the town, which can then drive-up taxes for all Grand Chute taxpayers. This unlikely to be a sustainable option long term. As the taxes increase, commercial properties will undoubtedly reassess their brick and mortar properties, potentially decide to move to lower taxed areas. The current commercial areas our citizens use and many are employed by may move to different areas.	We have been able to save hundreds of thousands of dollars by involving residents early in the road design process. We have saved even more money by eliminating the practice of automatically urbanizing all roads regardless of need. This has enabled us to eliminate the use of financially dangerous special assessments without the need to raise our property taxes.

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Question #3	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Citizen input in the form of a referendum was not sought in the decision to eliminate assessments for road funding. Will you seek public input in future decisions regarding assessments for other municipal services such as water and sanitary sewer infrastructure and the type of road improvements being proposed?	I believe strongly in seeking out and listening to the voters of Grand Chute. Open and honest communications is the key to our community being safe, successful and sustainable. As a resident of Grand Chute, I have been disappointed that a majority of the Town Board members opposed having open, honest communication on a road assessment referendum. Like roads, future decisions on utilities and storm water management are very important and we must have public input in order to allow honest dialogue with the community members.	We have already utilized a resident task force and also sought input from larger businesses in determining that the fairest way to fund our infrastructure projects is through our property taxes.
Question #4	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Grand Chute faces a perpetual challenge with water management throughout the town. How would you address this issue?	Storm water management in the town is not easy. The town for the most part is flat and the soil composition is mostly clay. There are significant DNR regulations to follow on this subject as well. But I feel if we manage our community development land use cautiously and with focus on water management, we can work towards managing this challenge.	Stormwater management is a serious long-term problem that needs to be mutually addressed by our Town, Outagamie County and the DNR in an ongoing manner.
Question #5	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Ideally, how does the job of a town supervisor intersect with the professional staff and consultants such as McMahon Engineering?	The town has a very good management team. It is the job of the supervisors to gather information from the community members, and then communicate that information and expectations to the staff and consultants. This is then used to direct and approve policies, procedures, while developing planning goals for our town.	I've worked with McMahon for more than 30 years, primarily on stormwater detention facilities and roads. Through our McMahon/staff workshops we have learned that urbanization is not always the best practice for drainage issues. This is a high priority item.

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Question #6	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
What is your stance on sustainability and green infrastructure as it relates to improvements such as new fleet vehicles, street lighting, and building modifications?	Sustainability and green technology are and should continue to be an important part of how our community moves forward. I have past experience with in this area as we used many sustainable and green initiatives with the two fire stations, built in Grand Chute during my tenure. There are many ways to move forward positively on those initiatives in other areas of the town. This could include utilizing grants for LED lighting initiatives or bio filters for water management.	Anything that saves our Town money in the long run is very valuable.
Question #7	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Can you talk about the development of the Town center area and your strategic vision for Grand Chute in the next decade and beyond?	The Town center area is an opportunity for Grand Chute to establish identity. Our town has struggled to have its own identity, with some residents believing they live in Appleton, when they actually reside in Grand Chute. I believe that input from town residents on land use and community development will allow this to becoming a shining star for our town.	Our Town owns very valuable properties. These should be marketed promptly, with the proceeds to be used to start a sustainable Road Improvement Fund that will serve us into the foreseeable future.
Question #8	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
The Wisconsin Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of Delavan in their case over the “dark stores” issue. How could this ruling benefit Grand Chute taxpayers?	This ruling is positive for Grand Chute taxpayers., Grand Chute as you know is home to many commercial properties who have utilized this loophole to avoid paying their fair share of taxes. The end benefit for taxpayer is yet to be determined.	The Court ruling was beneficial to our Town because of our large amount of retail stores. However, we also need to recognize the financial pressures of many of our big-box retailers in today’s environment where on-line shopping has become so prevalent. We must take great care that we are not “throwing out the baby with the bathwater.”
Question #9	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
What creative and innovative ideas do you have for residents to	Creative and innovative ideas start with obtaining feedback from the residents of Grand Chute. I would work together with town management, consultants,	We are already experiencing better as a result of the tremendous work being done by our quality, accredited

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<i>Experience Better</i> in the Town of Grand Chute?	committees, and town commissions to develop a fiscally responsible, sustainable plan for Grand Chute.	police and fire departments. We need to continue to encourage and support them in their work.
Question #10	Tim Bantes	Ron Wolff
Why should Grand Chute voters choose you to serve on the Town Board?	As a 17-year resident of Grand Chute, it is my desire to draw upon my experience as a resident as well as a member of the local government to ensure a safe, fiscally responsible, and sustainable quality of life for current and future generations of Grand Chute citizens.	<p>If re-elected, I will continue to provide oversight for our financial projects and systems. We have already saved millions of dollars by examining various projects and practices. Areas our Board needs to look at as we move forward are: 1) our municipal services project contingency budgets, 2) the need for an independent review of all municipal project plans, 3) a review of upper management compensation, 4) and a review of all department budgets compared to our local market.</p> <p>A particular issue that needs to be resolved is our water loss of about \$1.0 million per year. We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to find the source of the problem, but have not been able to do so. This revenue loss must be resolved.</p>