



Annual Report 2008
Town of Rome
Tuesday April 14th, 2009
Rome Municipal Building

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

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**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
TOWN OFFICIALS AND DEPARTMENT HEADS**

Town Board Members

Diane Bannerman
Al Bilbao
Dave Repinski
Steve Scarbury
Phil McLaughlin, Chairman

Elected Officials

Town Clerk Terri Anderson
Town Treasurer Chris Methfessel

Plan Commission Members

Al Bilboa
Deena Griffin
Ron Jacobson
Jason Lauby
Phil McLaughlin
Vern Meyer
Ron Fregien, Chairman

Board of Appeals

Jerry Backus
Laurie Francis
Rob McGrath
Winn Powers
Skip Tenpas

Community Development Authority

Rick Antin
Mary Jo Dougherty
Bob Ebben
Larry Halverson
Lee McGuire
Phil McLaughlin
Don Fornasiere, Acting Chairman

Police and Fire Commission

Darlene Alexander
Greg Boening
Art Harvestine
Terry James
Mike Baker, Chairman

Department Heads

Assessor: Dave Lockrem
Building and Grounds: Tom Taylor
Building Inspector: Larry Gilles
Community Development Director: Heather Wessling
Fire Chief: John Frantz
Highway Superintendent: Kray Brown
Library Director: Lore Ponshock
Police Chief: Adam Grosz

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Chairman Phil McLaughlin's Summary

Before I get to the summary, I would like to thank the people of Rome for their support; I have no intention of disappointing you.

Some of the issues of 2008:

1. Camping was finally, and I feel fairly, addressed.
2. Numerous important changes to the Town's Zoning Ordinance were implemented.
3. The Public Fire Protection Charge (the charge that comes from the Water Utility) continues to be disturbing to all of us. Unfortunately, many still do not realize that the Town Board has absolutely no control over whether or not to collect that money; the Public Service Commission mandates that the money be collected. The only control the Town Board has is how and from whom to collect the money. This money goes to the Water Utility; absolutely none of this money goes to the Fire Department.
4. In conjunction with number 3 above, the Special Charge for fire protection also continues to be at least somewhat misunderstood. If placed on the levy, the people of Rome would pay for fire protection and emergency/medical service response based on property valuation. By paying an equal per parcel charge to fund the operations of the Fire Department, it is essentially like buying an insurance policy. If the Fire Department responds to a fire at your residence, you will not incur any charges. If the Fire Department responds a ta later date to a medical emergency at your residence, you will not incur any charges. The flat rate per parcel charge you paid covers you for the year. A huge advantage to the per parcel Special Charge for the Fire Department is that Plum Creek also pays the per parcel charge. Placing the funding to operate on the Fire Department on the levy will essentially excuse Plum Creek from contributing to the financial support of our Fire Department; this would only serve to disproportionately place the burden of funding the Fire Department operation on Rome property owners.
5. The proposed Town Building Project (facilities renovation and additions) is on hold after an economically down year. In April of 2008 at a Special Town Meeting, the citizens of Rome voted nearly 2:1 in favor of proceeding with a projected \$3.7 million renovation and additions project. At the approval and direction from the people, the Town Board hired an Architect/Engineering firm to develop construction plans. Then, the economy plunged, various material prices skyrocketed, and the actual cost of the project came in at \$5.5 million. While not obligated to do so, the Board went back to the people and asked for their approval to move ahead with the project; the people said no and state the poor economy as their reason. Some people said to me, "You were given approval in April to spend \$3.7 million, so move ahead with that dollar figure." My response was that if the people do not want us to spend \$5.5 million due to the economy, they do not want us to spend \$3.7 million either.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT**

Department Mission Statement

The department provides for fair and equitable property assessment and accurate and timely property information for all property owners in the Town of Rome. To accomplish this mission, the Assessor's Office uses assessment methods in accordance with the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual, Wisconsin State Statutes, specifically Chapter 70, and professionally accepted appraisal practices. All Staff in the Assessor's office are certified by the Wisconsin Department of Revenue.

Department Service Letter

2008 was a truly a turbulent year in many ways. We all watched the nightly news and read media articles with a voraciousness not seen before. We all had a hunger to find out what is going on with our economy, national elections, our retirement accounts, our mortgages, our jobs and our homes, just to name a few. The single most asked question when I talk to folks is "when and how will the Assessor's office react to all this bad news we're hearing about?" The quick answer is we'll move when the sales point the way. The reality is it's not an easy question to answer.

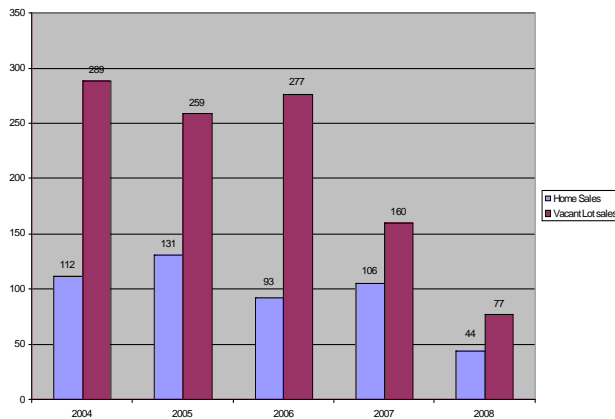
It requires that folks understand the assessment process, the statutory requirements, procedural policies set forth by the Department of Revenue and an understanding of how truly localized real estate markets are in this County. Real estate is not nor has it ever been one of those markets that one can draw meaningful conclusions from data collected from other locations. Every property valuation textbook I've read and years of appraisal experience have taught me that what happens here, locally is the best "compass" we have to indicate what direction our market is heading.

It is that local market that the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and I are looking at. The sales in 2008 are giving those who study the data indications of the relative "health" of our market. Just as a patient's vital signs guide a doctor's opinion of whether to release you or keep you over night for observation, so too does a sales analysis guide me. In the following sections, we will take a look at the numbers.

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT

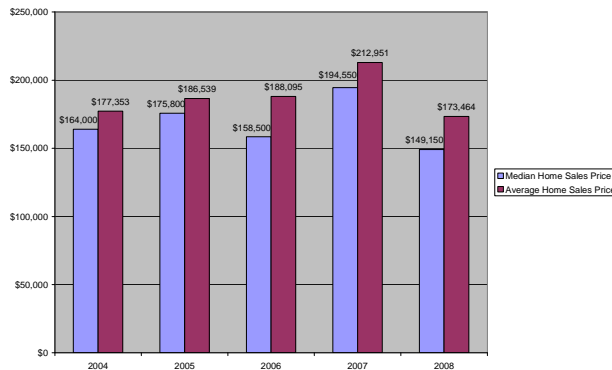
Performance Indicators and Analysis

Valid Sales Transactions



Valid Sales Transactions: The first chart shows a dramatic decrease in the number of sales transactions in 2008 (121 sales) when compared to previous years. This data is important as it sets the size of your sample data. The more data one has to work with, the higher the confidence level one has in the conclusions drawn from that data. While this first chart may appear rather ominous, let's look a bit deeper before we pronounce the local real estate market dead.

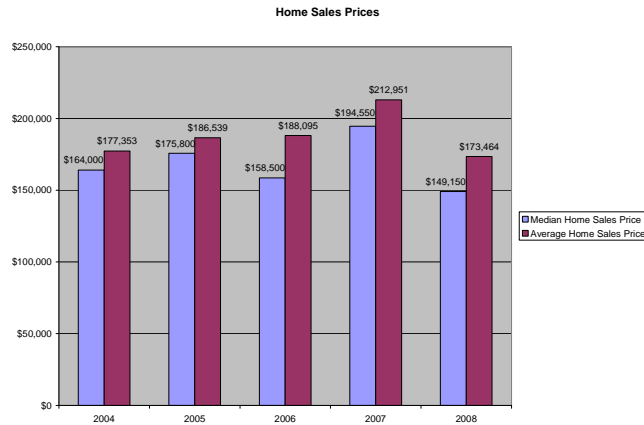
Home Sales Prices



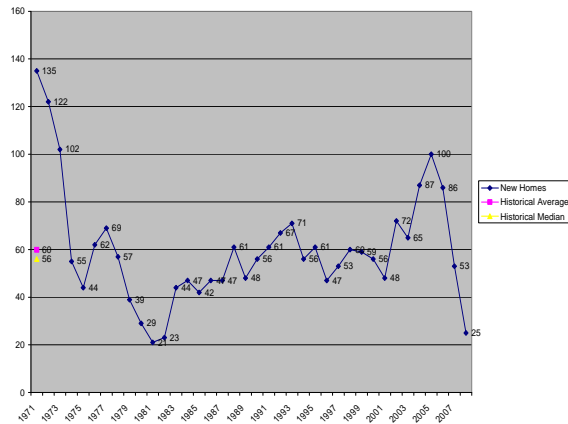
Home Sales Prices: The second chart compares both median & average home sales prices to previous years. You'll note a decrease from previous years. But frankly, not the "bubble bursting, market crashing" results one would expect given the media reports we've been feeding on. What are some possible causes of this decline? Certainly falling values could be a cause. Sales of property of differing value classes may also be a source. Think about it, the same homes don't sell each year. A couple more offshore homes and a few less waterfront homes sold in 2008 compared to previous years may statistically affect the median & average. This possibility would be further amplified in a case when you fewer sales – those 1 or 2 sales may have a more substantial impact on your results.

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT

Performance Indicators and Analysis



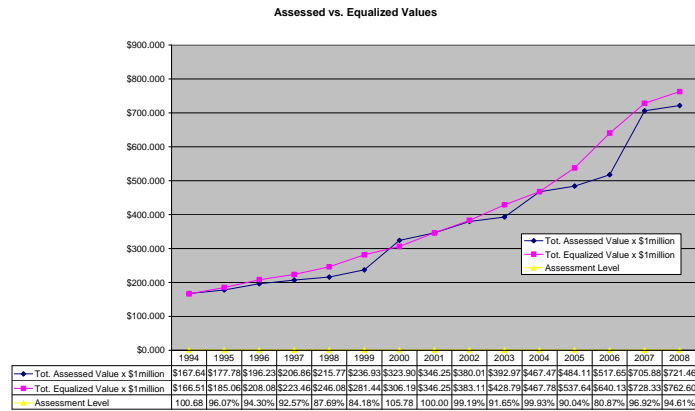
Home Starts: Chart 3 shows a continued decline from the peak in 2005. You'll also note the historical average and median home starts between 56 & 60 homes per year. The decline from 2007 to 2008 certainly reflects the economic uncertainty that has paralyzed most of us. Gone are most of the home starts for speculation we saw over the past few years.



Assessment Ratio: To use a baseball analogy, chart 1 (Sales Transaction) gave us the number of batters that got up to the plate. This 4th chart tells us whether they went down swinging or hit one out of the park. All 121 sales were compared to their assessed values. From that an average assessment level is determined. The data showed that on average we were assessing properties at about 93% of what they sold for. In fact if you look at the chart and draw a line across at .93, you see how the data gravitates around that level. You'll also notice how relatively tight the grouping still is. This demonstrates a good level of fairness. Typically the further away you get from a revaluation year, the more scattered the data gets. We are 2 years out from our last revaluation and still are showing good results.

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT

Performance Indicators and Analysis



Assessed vs. Equalized Values: Chart 5 shows a historical perspective. You'll note a "flattening" of the equalized value from 2007 to 2008.

Conclusions

So what will 2009 hold for us? From what I see in the data and what the initial reports of the Dept of Revenue's analysis of our data appear to show; our local market has continued to flatten or level off. It clearly does not show a dramatic across the board decline as some markets are experiencing. We will continue to watch all of our various property types and if we see pockets of substantial deviation from the norm, adjustment can be made to bring those types "back into the fold".

I hope that this "behind the scenes" look into one of the facets of my job has answered some question. It is more likely though that it has also raised a question or two. If so, I welcome the opportunity to walk anyone through this process in more detail.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
BUILDING AND GROUNDS DEPARTMENT**

Department Mission Statement

Building and Grounds is dedicated to insure our buildings are up to code, fixing and repairing our health and safety issues, and maintaining the function of our buildings. I will do my best to insure all items that I am directed by the Board to fix, repair, or replace shall be completed with quality workmanship and at as little cost to the Town as possible.

Department Service Letter

The past year for the building and grounds department continues to be challenging due to the uncertainties of the municipal building project. The question that still remains is what and how much money do we invest into the existing buildings for repairs? In the past things have been let go and many areas have come into disrepair. At the board's direction, I completed a list of all safety, health and dysfunctional items and continue to provide information to prioritize projects for improvement.

I am pleased to see that the Board is seeking a resolution to this problem and have been taking action to correct the problems. I feel that by maintaining our building and grounds it will increase the longevity and maintain the value and appearance of our buildings along with making it a safe place to work.

Department Description

The department consists of one full time and one limited part time person. We are responsible to keep the buildings and grounds neat, clean and functioning in a safe and healthy manner.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING,
AND BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Department Mission Statement

It is the focus of this department to build economic prosperity and improve the quality of life for residents and visitors. Alpine Village Business Park developed in order to plan for higher intensity use properties to be placed away from residential/recreational areas, to generate commercial tax/land sale revenues, and to add desired amenities to the Town. A mixed-use business park developed in the Town of Rome that initially was conceived to place clusters of businesses into one condensed area, away from the Lakes and residential areas. The business park was not conceived to grow Rome into an industrial or commercial area. The rationale behind the development was that if there was a planned place for businesses to grow, over time, it would eliminate scattering businesses throughout the Town. That objective is being met as businesses coming into the Town of Rome are more likely to develop in the Park.

The building and zoning department's mission is to regulate construction in the Town in order to provide safe and healthy housing. We also regulate commercial buildings along with the State of Wisconsin in order to ensure that structures are safe, sanitary and fit for occupation and intended use.

Department Service Letter

While remaining active on various community and economic boards, it is with the primary goal of meeting new contacts for Alpine Village Business Park and enhancing commercial development in our region that I focus my effort for the Town of Rome. I was active on the first Town building committee and represent Rome on regional resource committees, such as the Adams County Rural and Industrial Development Board. I attended two Wisconsin Economic Development Association conferences, completed community leadership training, finished training, and became a member of the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association. In order to improve knowledge gaps between the public and our Town government, a more consistent stream of information via the E-letter (updated monthly) continues. Changes to the website are done quarterly. Rome's website is www.romewi.com.

Next year some community goals to consider and are not limited to the following:

- Plan for a Children's Playground/Equipment (Design a space in Town of Rome)
- Support Improvements to the Municipal Complex (Next Steps)
- Continue Alpine Village Development (Community Recruitment Efforts)
- Research Ways to Improve Lake Quality/Environment/Parks Committee
- Plan for Recreational Expansion (Dyracuse Park)

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING,
AND BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Department Description

The Community Development, Building and Zoning Department is made of two department heads, a part time seasonal secretary and a part time seasonal zoning inspector, and meets, organizes and works with a Plan Commission, a Community Development Authority and a Board of Appeals. Community Development work is work that enhances any project or activity in the Town where the community would like to see it grow or improve. The successful farmer's market is one example of growth in 2008. Another example is the visitor maps that were distributed to local lodging establishments used with the room tax dollars Rome collects. And, within Community Development, the E-letter, web-site, public information distribution and relations with the region are enhanced in order to improve quality of life here.

The committees meet routinely and it is the department's job to ensure that the meetings reflect changes or proposals that are meaningful to be added, changed or deleted from our zoning ordinance, so as to ensure that we are keeping up with the needs of the community. The Plan Commission met 15 times last year and the Community Development Authority met 5 times. I met with various groups to help grow a farmer's market in the Town of Rome, to ensure that the Department of Transportation honored its plan to follow through on the Intersection Project that the Plan Commission recommended and the Town Board approved last year.

Zoning protects our areas to be used in the way our community envisions the uses and structures to be compatible with our way of life. Zoning rules ensure that our quality of life remains and that growth and change do not take away what we've already worked so hard to build.

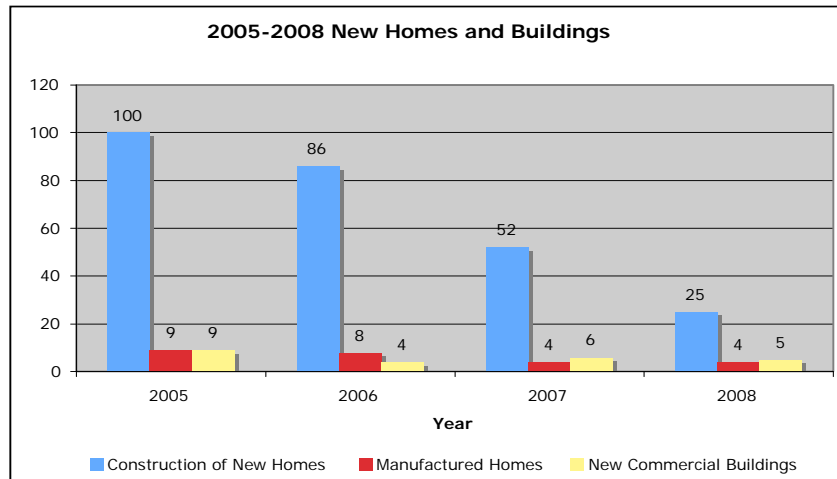
The Zoning Department answered more than 200 calls responding to possible zoning violations within the Town. The department resolved more than 150 zoning violations that were recorded in 2008, the rest are still ongoing. We permitted approximately 210 zoning permits, 25 of which were new homes.

According to the building inspector, the average new home in 2007 was approximately \$180,000, whereas in 2008 it was approximately \$200,000 per home construction value. We had 5 new commercial buildings permitted in the Town last year, with a total estimated value of \$1,329,700. We also had about 28 people install temporary electric services on their lots for camping, etc.

The total estimated construction value added to the Town in 2008 was \$ 8,587,685, which includes all the minor construction activity permitted last year. This total is a 29% decrease in new construction as compared to the 2007 total.

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, PLANNING AND ZONING, AND BUILDING INSPECTOR

Building Inspector Performance Indicators



Performance Indicators for Alpine Village Business Park

Cash Flow Alpine Village Business Park

Year	¹ Land Sale Revenue	Land Sale Credits	Tax Revenue Existing Business	³ Net Town Revenue
2004	125,459	(50,313)	0	\$ 75,146
2005	118,288	(63,800)	0	\$ 54,488
2006	765,139	(481,749)	5,530	\$288,920
2007	128,254	(32,959)	7,593	\$102,888
2008	21,250	0	32,708	\$ 53,958
TOTAL	\$1,158,390	(628,821)	\$45,831	\$575,400

NOTES:

1. Numbers in bold are Actuals provided by Community Development Director and only include the sold properties beginning new developments in Alpine Village Business Park.
2. Net Land Sale Revenue to the Town to Date (end of 2008) is \$529,569.
3. Tax Revenue Generated is Town of Rome's portion only.
4. Net Town Revenue is the Total Amount to the end of 2008 that Alpine Village Business Park has generated minus the land sale credits.

Indicator Trends Analysis

Two development agreements promising a new hotel project and a small retail complex were put on hold in Alpine Village Business Park. The developers still own that land, however, they have not moved forward with their projects. Contacts for the park have also gone down. As the economy resurges, we are working to enhance some modest advertising efforts as to try to stimulate growth in sales for 2009. The value of Alpine Village Business Park did increase from 2007 to 2008, by approximately 2 million dollars. This was due to two factors: two businesses, Alpine Foods and Trade Show Logistics added new buildings to their properties, one parcel sold, and Key Savings Bank was assessed at full value in 2008.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Rome Fire Department is to provide the highest quality proactive and reactive fire and EMS service of a modern nature. This service shall include but not be limited to public education, inspections, fire prevention, EMS, assistance to law enforcement, training and fire suppression. These services will be provided via the most cost effective method.

Department Service Letter

The Fire Department has prepared the following report so that you may review its activities for the calendar year ending December 31, 2008. We would like to start by thanking everyone for the cooperation and support that we have received throughout the past year, without which we would not continue to provide the quality of service that you expect of us. We have taken on the enormous responsibility of providing emergency medical, fire protection, specialized rescue, hazardous material and many types of activities for our fellow residents. This would not be possible without the assistance and understanding of the Town Board, local business, associations and clubs who make our jobs easier and our projects less difficult to accomplish.

We will continue to strive to provide the highest quality of service to the residents of not only our township but also to our neighboring communities through continued training and education of our members. The Fire Department stands ready with 40 members dedicated to serve our neighbors and friends for now and into the future.

One of our major goals this past year was the construction of an addition to our fire training facility at the transfer site. The construction of the "splash wall" was accomplished without any tax dollars. Through the fund raising efforts of the members of the Fire Department and the generosity of the citizens of Rome we were able to construct this training tool. This addition cost approximately \$20,000 and again no tax dollars were used! This facility has been used numerous times for training our firefighters, our neighboring fire departments, and students from Mid-State Technical College.

We continue to expand our medical services with more members becoming certified as Emergency Medical Technician – Basic.

This next year we will continue to face the challenges that are presented to us. We have set several goals that we believe will have a positive effect on the operations of the fire department and the services we provide.

Yours in fire safety and respectfully submitted,

John H. Frantz
Fire Chief

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 FIRE DEPARTMENT

Department Description

The Town of Rome Fire Department consists of 39 paid on call members and one full-time Fire Chief. There are two fire stations in town. Station #1 is located at the Town Hall and station #2 is located on Apache Ave west of 15th Ave. Besides the Town of Rome the department also protects part of the Town of Saratoga by contract.

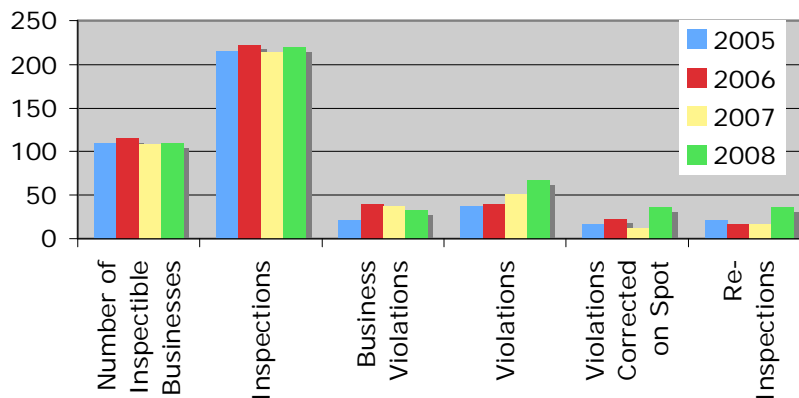
Station # 2 houses a Pumper and water tender. There are six members assigned to this station. Also located at Station # 2 is the physical fitness area for the firefighters and police officers. We are in the process of equipping station 2 as a back up emergency operations center. Station # 1 houses a Pumper, Water Tender, Rescue Truck and Brush Truck. Training, fire prevention, public education, and dispatch all are handled at this facility.

Located in the storage building at the municipal complex are a Pumper, Water Tender, two boats, wild land trailer, hazardous materials/specialized equipment trailer, two six wheel ATVs, and a utility vehicle.

Members of the department are trained in firefighting, emergency medical response, hazardous materials, water and ice rescue, and confined space rescue.

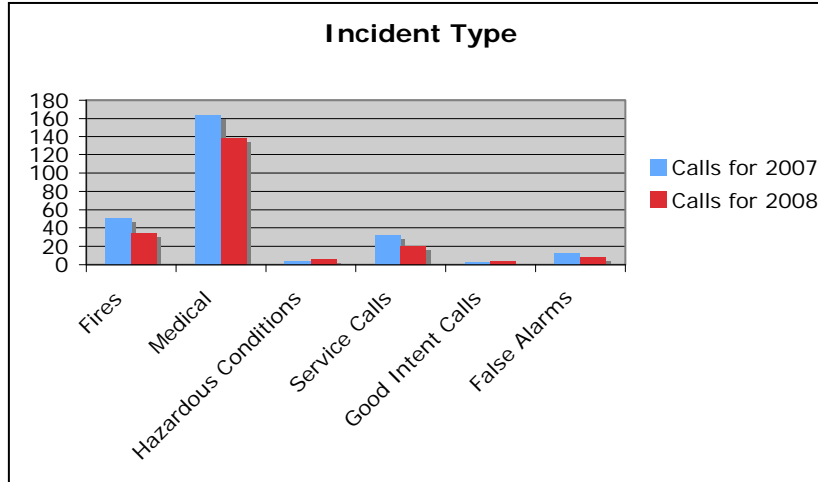
Performance Indicators

Fire Inspections 2005-2008



**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Performance Indicators



Budget

Description	2008	2009
Admin. Wages	\$ 62,279.00	\$ 64,500.00
POC Wages	\$ 180,000.00	\$ 180,000.00
Benefits	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 75,000.00
Training	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Operations	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
Uniforms	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Fuel	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Building	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 9,000.00
Outlay	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 61,411.97
Grant	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Amb Contract	\$ 30,840.00	\$ 31,440.00
Amb Serv.	\$ 600.00	\$ -
2% dues	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Equip Sales	\$ 900.00	\$ -
Local Grant	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Inprov.	\$ -	\$ 50,000.00
Fire Princ/Int	\$ 92,878.00	\$ 97,221.49
	\$ 565,497.00	\$ 668,573.46
	\$ -	\$ -
SPECIAL CHARGE	\$ 516,597.00	\$ 440,357.50
DNR GRANT	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
CARRY OVER	\$ 15,900.00	\$ 179,639.10
SARATOGA	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 23,613.23
2% DUES	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 14,963.63
	\$ 565,497.00	\$ 668,573.46

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
HIGHWAY/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Department Mission Statement

The Highway/Public Works Department in our mission is to improve the quality of life for the Town's residents through responsive, efficient and effective delivery of service through maintenance and snow removal.

Department Service Letter

Maintenance of roads is a priority in the town. With almost \$5,000,000 vested in our roads, it is imperative the utmost care is accomplished to protect our asset. How we protect and maintain our assets are by replacing, repairing, or simply prevention.

Solid Waste facility has seen some changes in 2008. The town strives to better our lives by assisting the public in reducing the costs of waste disposal by recycling. The town implemented a change in wood disposal through a contractor in chipping all wood products. This reduced the amount that was charged for entering into the land fill, thus reducing our cost of tippage and continuing on our recycling theme.

The town also acquired in conjunction with the Adams County Landfill a second compactor saving on the amount of trips per container, thus saving again trip fees associated with the disposal.

Another great thing for the residents and the local area was a team that is called "Choose To Reuse". This program allowed residents to bring in their unwanted items and allowed the local area to take home something the resident either wanted or needed. This program was a hit and will continue in the future. They are always looking for help. Please contact this group and see if you can make a difference.

Dyracuse Park had another good season. Dyracuse is still ranked in the top three for recreation of ATV's and off-road bikes in Wisconsin and is still the only facility of its kind in the State of Wisconsin. Come out and enjoy or simply come to admire this one of a kind area.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
HIGHWAY/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Department Description

Seal coating consists of crack filling and hole patching prior to sealing and is a main work activity in our department. Materials used were a slag material approximately 3/8" in size using an emulsion material to adhere the slag to the road.

Crack sealing is done annually to help keep our roads in good shape. This type of maintenance prevents water and other materials to infiltrate into the sub-base washing or eliminating the most crucial part of the roads infrastructure.

Road way replacement is used when a road has ended its life span are problems that cause the pavement to fail beyond general maintenance. The town uses the process of full depth pulverizing and replacement of asphalt. This process allows the insurance of a strong base, a smooth surface, and provides good drainage of the road system.

The Solid Waste/Recycling Center provides recycling for the residents of the Town. I would like to thank everyone in regards to recycling. The amount of recycling vs. refuge is about the same. Hopefully in the future we as a Town can reduce the amount of waste and recycle more. This is a goal that must be taken seriously to reduce the fees associated with the waste disposal.

Composting has been a big hit for the Town. Compost after a period of 1-2 years makes a very good soil. The Town has experimented with this and has done very well.

Performance Indicators

The Town sealcoated, crack filled, paved, and maintained 150.79 miles of roads.

Seal coating:	11.517 miles cost \$147,689.30.
Crack filling/sealing:	Approx. 23 miles at a cost of \$22,000
Paving:	1.62 miles at a cost of \$147,689.30
Sinkholes/Patching:	\$20,000

Other Town miscellaneous maintenance costs are approximately \$12,000 covering approximately 90-miles of the Town.

Winter Season: Starting November of 2007- March 2008. The town services were needed 27 times. We spent 340 hrs of snow removal, ice and sanding/salting operation at a cost of approximately \$98,000.

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
HIGHWAY/PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT**

Highway Budget Items

Highway Operations - \$354,000

Road Maintenance - \$425,000

Highway Outlay/ Capital Improvements – \$33,500

Dyracuse Park Indicators and Revenue

Dyracuse Park Visitors Recorded for 2008

Daily Passes 3224

Season Passes 1046

We also had 12 Park Rental Agreements totaling 144 visitors

Actual Revenue Generated

Daily Passes \$32,240.00

Family Season Passes 6,900.00

Single Season Passes 1,500.00

Rentals 1,800.00

Total Revenue \$42,440.00

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
LIBRARY**

Library Hours

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Tuesday & Thursday 10 – 7:00 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. –2:00pm
Phone: 715-325-8990; Fax: 715-325-8993
Email: romelib@wctc.net Website: www.romepubliclibrary.org

Department Description

- The library has available 51 magazine subscriptions, 4 newspapers subscriptions.
- The library has 5 public computer stations connected to a high-speed DSL internet access through WCTC.
- WI-FI Hot Spot (Wireless Internet Access) 24 hours a day every day.
- 24/7 reference service “Ask Away” a free reference service can be accessed over the Internet on a public or private personal computer.

- The library receives interlibrary loan delivery from Madison Central Library and some 65 public libraries in a 7 county area of the South Central Library System three times per week.
- Summer Reading Program for school age youth June – July.
- Outreach library school visits with Pine-land Elementary School. Co-sponsor reading programs and library visits for young readers. Outreach to Humke Elementary Childcare Center (3 & 4 yr. old). Began a new partnership with Nekoosa Summer Schools for Summer Library Program.
- Library Book club – 14 members strong that meet monthly at the library; provide books to 4 area book clubs on a monthly basis
- Provide location for AARP Free Tax Preparation Service
- Offered 22 free computer classes
- New adult programs: Deb Gruenloh – Travelogue to China; Thomas Jefferson’s Desk – Judge Zappen; Stimulus Package Seminar – AARP; TeensRead Summer Library Program; Author Visit – Steve Raap; Plant Exchange – Wood Co. Master Gardeners; Lake’s Artists – four local painters displayed their works at the library.
- **Visit our webpage www.romepubliclibrary.org for updated information on news and events.**

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
LIBRARY**

Performance Indicators

	2007	2008
1. Library cardholders (2,336 Rome Residents).....	2,992	2,714
2. Computer Usage by library patrons.....	5,665	5,307
3. Wireless Internet usage.....	1,218	606
4. Library materials available to borrow.....	18,106	19,003
5. Library materials borrowed from other system libraries.....	1,155	846
6. Library sponsored individual reading programs.....	107	86
7. Children that attended library reading programs.....	1,025	1,305
8. Adults that attended library programs.....	190	203
9. Total people attended library reading programs.....	1,215	1,508
10. Hours volunteers have contributed.....	454	779
11. Children's and family VHS/DVD titles for loan.....	1,200	1,333
12. Books on cassette tape and CD for loan.....	866	864
13. Total number of library materials borrowed	29,825	26,594
14. Of the 29,845 items borrowed, 5,547 were children's items (19%) and 24,278 adult items.		

**TOWN OF ROME
ANNUAL REPORT 2008
POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Department Mission Statement

The mission of the Town of Rome Police Department is to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors through effective crime reduction, preservation of the peace, and responsiveness to social changes in the community. We strive to focus on proactive policing and crime prevention.

Knowing law enforcement officers must maintain a high standard of conduct, the officers of the Town of Rome Police Department will strive to uphold the highest ethical ideals in both their professional and private lives. We will take an active role in establishing and maintaining a professional image of law enforcement in all our contacts with the public we serve through honesty and integrity.

Department Service Letter

I would like to thank you for taking the time to review the following pages which summarize the activities of the Rome Police Department in 2008.

This report contains information about the structure, skills, and specialized service offered by the Rome Police Department. Many assume a small town law enforcement agency has little to offer the citizens of a community. As you page through this report please consider how you or a loved one may someday need the expertise and specialized training offered by the Rome Police Department.

I am confident we have some of the best-trained, dedicated officers in Central Wisconsin. I am also confident that these professionals will be here to serve you in your time of need and will strive to continue to improve law enforcement services in the Town of Rome.

I speak on behalf of all the officers of the Rome Police Department when I say that we are proud to serve this community now and into the future. As always I welcome any questions or concerns anyone may have about the police department and look forward to serving you in 2009.

Respectfully,

Chief Adam Grosz

TOWN OF ROME ANNUAL REPORT 2008 POLICE DEPARTMENT

Department Description

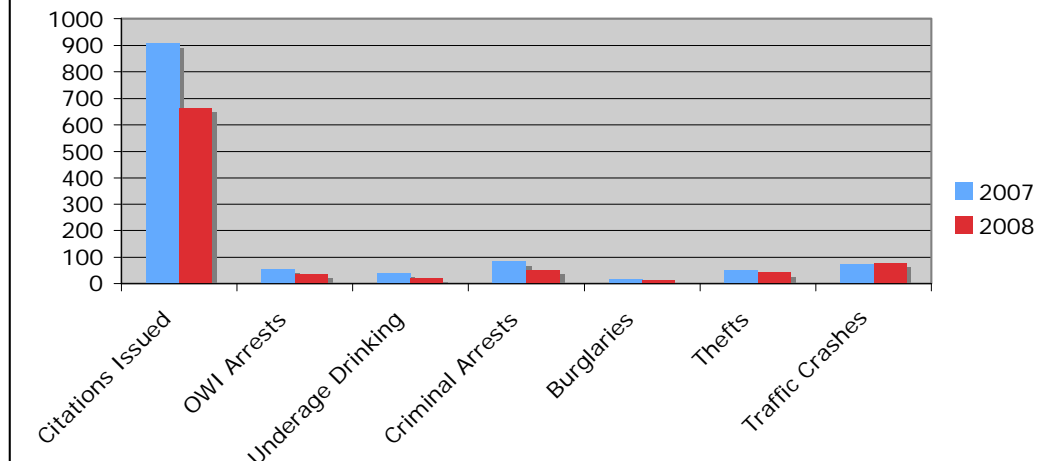
The Rome Police Department continues to employ seven (7) full-time police officers who patrol the Town of Rome 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. All full-time officers have maintained a minimum of twenty-four (24) hours of in-service training to maintain their status as sworn police officers in Wisconsin. It is not uncommon for our officers to participate in well over 100 hours of training in a calendar year. In addition, all full-time officers are certified as Medical First-responders. The majority of officers in the department are also certified instructors in areas such as Firearms, Defense and Arrest Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operations, and Vehicle Contacts.

In 2008 two veteran officers left our department to become Police Chiefs in other Central Wisconsin Communities. While it is unfortunate to have these officers leave the Rome Police Department, I believe we can all be proud that other communities have identified the well-trained, professional officers the Rome Police Department employs, and have chosen two of those officers to now lead their police departments into the future.

In 2008 the Rome Police Department continued the boat patrol program to enforce boating regulations on the Town's three lakes. Seasonally employed officers patrolled Rome's lakes throughout the summer, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day Weekend. Officers did the best they could to patrol each lake in Rome equally throughout busy weekends. The officers recorded 537 patrol hours on Rome's lakes and issued 84 citations. The presence of officers on the lakes has continued to reduce the number of boating related complaints received by our department. With the number of residents and visitors using Rome Lakes constantly increasing, we will continue our seasonal boat patrol in the summer of 2009.

Performance Indicator Chart

Police Incidents



**TOWN OF ROME
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Indicator Trends Analysis

In 2008 Rome Police Officers responded to and handled 1,265 calls for service and issued 664 Citations. Officers investigated eleven (11) burglaries in 2008, which is a 42% reduction over 2007. We also saw an 18% reduction in reported thefts and a 38% decrease in Criminal Damage to Property complaints with twenty-four (24) reported incidents in 2008. The recognition that the Rome Police Department patrols our community diligently 24-hours a day sends a message that we will not tolerate criminal activity. I am pleased that while our population continues to increase, the level of reported property crime in Rome continues to fall each year.

As a result of the continued increase in the level of traffic travelling in and through our community Rome Police Officers investigated forty-four (44) traffic crashes resulting in personal injury and/or significant property damage. This is an increase of approximately 25% over 2007. The Rome Police Department will work hard in the future to attempt to reduce the number of injuries on our highways. We will continue to participate in safe driving campaigns such as Click It or Ticket, and other Department of Transportation sponsored activities in 2009.

Budget

In 2008 the total budget for the Police Department was set at \$797,702.93. I am pleased to announce that our final budget figure for 2008 came in at \$764,708.57, or \$32,994.00 under budget. A breakdown of 2008 expenditures is listed below:

Police Chiefs Wages - \$54,081.90
Administrative Assistant Wages – \$37,249.66
Officer Fulltime Wages - \$310,767.83
Seasonal Officer Wages - \$13,738.76 (\$10,538.35 Reimbursed by WIDNR)
Police Benefits - \$207,034.15
Police Operations - \$35,839.90
Dive Team Operations - \$194.40
Crime Prevention - \$1578.15
Police Fuel – \$27,341.28
Police Uniforms - \$6,625.87
Police Training - \$8,358.68
Police Building - \$2,194.58
Police Capital Improvement - \$33,876.67
Interest/Principal - \$25,826.74