

ORDINANCE NO. 01-2019

Forest County Road Naming and Uniform Addressing

WHEREAS, the Zoning Committee has determined that it is necessary and desirable that Forest County adopt an ordinance to have a uniform system of naming roads and providing addresses to certain real estate within Forest County.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE FOREST COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS as follows:

I. PURPOSE

To promote the orderly and logical identification of buildings and naming of roads within the Towns of Forest County and to facilitate the location of residences and businesses by emergency service providers, mail, delivery services, utilities, travelers and others dependent on addresses. To this end, a uniform system of naming roads and numbering of buildings or building sites, as authorized by §59.94(4)(4m) is hereby adopted for use in the Towns of Forest County.

II. JURISDICTION

The County will be the lead coordinator in administering this ordinance. The Towns will cooperate with the County in the implementation of this system defined below.

III. ASSIGNMENTS OF ROADS

1. All public roads will be named.
2. All new private roads or easements serving more than three (3) residences or parcels are to be named if the county determines it is necessary to better locate properties or it is needed to allow from proper implementation of the addressing system.
3. Existing public or private roads serving more than Three (3) residences or parcels are to be named if the County determines it is necessary to better locate properties or it is needed to allow for proper implementation of the addressing system.
4. Landowners and easement holder(s) of record of a new or existing private road shall submit a proposed road name to the Town that has been agreed upon by the majority of landowners and easement holder(s) of record. Renaming of an existing private road shall be approved by the County at a public hearing. The Town will act on the road name and submit it to the County. If the landowners and easement holder(s) do not submit a name, the Town will act on behalf of the landowners.
5. Road names will be supported by an official action by the respective agencies and submitted to the County.
6. Duplication of road names within the County will not be permitted unless approved by the County.
7. New roads that run continuously from one town into another town within the County will bear the same name.
8. Road prefix and suffix must be consistent with the County's approved list.
9. The County will prepare and maintain a Master Road Name List of all road names in the County and such list shall be consistent with the names of the 911 Master Street Address Guide.
10. Existing non-continuous roads with duplicate names in the same postal zip code area and/or telephone exchange will be renamed if requested by the County. The Town(s) will decide which road or if both road names will be changed and submit the road name to the County for approval.
11. The assignment of road names to private road in no way obligates the Town or County to maintain said private road or indicates the private road is suitable for access by emergency vehicles.

IV. ROAD NAME SIGNAGE

1. Road signs for new roads will be the responsibility of each Town; signs will be erected at all intersections and will bear the name of both intersecting roads.
2. Road signs will be of a uniform pattern and color, mounted on a suitable post and erected at a uniform height throughout the Town.
3. Towns may continue to use their current sign specifications. The County will approve the adoption of new sign specifications.
4. Towns are responsible for maintaining the signs and ensuring the signs are clearly visible. The Town will be responsible for the replacement of damaged, faded or missing signs.
5. Towns are responsible for the cost of signs or in the case of new roads may recover the cost of the signage from the developer of the road in the case of a private road or easement, from the landowner(s) or users of said road.
6. The exact spelling, prefix, and suffix of a road as listed in the County's Master List will be lettered on the sign. Standard abbreviations are acceptable.
7. Landowners are prohibited from placing signs resembling a road sign within the right-of-way of a road or easement.

V. ADDRESS SYSTEM

1. Addresses will be assigned based upon the existing address grid of the County. The system is generally defined as:
 - a. The starting origin is at the southeast corner of the County and is assigned 100 northerly and 100 westerly.
 - b. The northerly and westerly grid follows the section lines.
 - c. The direction of numbers to be assigned is based on the predominant direction of the entire stretch of road.
 - d. There are 400 numbers allocated per section mile. The odd numbers are on the southerly and westerly side of roads, even numbers on the northerly and easterly side.
2. Each property will be assigned an address based on where the driveway to the building/dwelling intersects the named road.
3. On properties where there is more than one driveway, the Town will decide if each driveway will be assigned an address.

4. Assignment of 'sub' numbers or letters shall not be permitted without the approval of the County.
5. In unique situations where addressing will not conform to the system above, the County shall have the authority to coordinate the addressing in such a manner so the stated purpose of this ordinance is maintained.

VI. ASSIGNMENT OF ADDRESSES

1. The County will provide a standardized application form and instructions for completion to be used by all applicants.
2. The applicant will obtain the application form from the County Zoning Office.
3. The applicant will complete the application form and return it to the County or their designee along with any fee required by the County.
4. A property owner will have 30 days in which to apply for a fire number after applying for any permits.
5. The County shall evaluate the application and make an address assignment consistent with the County address system taking into consideration existing addresses.
6. The County or Town will instruct the applicant to place a temporary sign with the assigned number until the permanent sign is placed.
7. The County will not issue a number in Towns where a driveway permit is required from the Town, Department of Transportation or County Highway Dept. unless the application indicates the permit has been issued.
8. The County will forward the address assigned to the Zoning Dept., Emergency Management Dept., post office, Real Property Listing Dept. and the applicant within 30 working days of assignment.
9. Incorrect assignment of an address due to incomplete or incorrect information on the application form or an error on the part of the person issuing the address will be corrected immediately.
10. If the location of an existing driveway access point changes, the present address number may remain unless the County determines the change disrupts the orderly and uniform sequence of the addressing system. If the location of the driveway access point is moved to a different roadway, the property shall be required to be re-addressed.
11. The County will evaluate existing addresses that are discovered to have been incorrectly assigned and a determination will be made if the

situation needs to be corrected. The landowner(s) affected will be required to change their address to correct the situation.

12. The Town will provide the County with the name, address and phone number of the Town's contact person for coordination within the Town.

VII. ADDRESS SIGNAGE

1. Address signs will be of uniform pattern and color, mounted on a suitable post and erected at a uniform height throughout the Town.
2. The County will provide a minimum sign and post specification when requested by the Town.
3. Towns may continue to use their current sign and post specifications. The County may approve adoption of new signage specifications.
4. The Town or their designee will be responsible for the physical placement of the address sign within 30 days of the address assignment.
5. The sign shall be placed at the intersection of the driveway with the named road public or private and clearly visible from the road.
6. The property owner is responsible for maintaining sign visibility and upkeep of the sign.
7. The cost of replacement of damaged, missing or deteriorating signs will be covered by the County fee. Physical replacements will be the responsibility of the Town.
8. Address signs in Towns using the urban style addressing system must be placed on building fronts either above or next to the main entrance so it can be easily readable from the road in which it is addressed without the aid of magnification, except eyewear. If this location is not easily readable or visible from the road, an alternative location to display the address must be made, with guidance from the Town the site is located. Recommended height of 4 inches.

VIII. MAPS

1. The Town or their designee shall provide the general location of a new road.
2. The County will verify the alignment of the new road and annually update the base map of the County.

3. Special requests from Towns to the County for map creation will be handled on an individual basis and the County may charge for these requests.

IX. FEES

The County will charge the applicant or landowner reasonable and necessary fees for placement of addresses, cost of the sign, cost of the post or cost of a replacement sign or post. Such fee will be set by an official action of the County Board.

X. PENALTIES

Any person owning a parcel required to be addressed under this ordinance or who neglects or fails to obtain a proper number and display it in a manner as to be visible from the roadway shall forfeit not less than \$250.00 nor more than \$500.00.

XI. ENFORCEMENT

Any Law Enforcement Officer or the Zoning Administrator is authorized to issue citations for a violation under this ordinance.

XII. SEVERABILITY

Should any portion of this ordinance conflict with the Wisconsin State Statutes or Administrative Codes, only provisions of the ordinance in conflict are affected and the remainder of this ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

XIII. EFFECTIVE DATE

That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force and effect upon its adoption and publication pursuant to law.

Original Adoption date June 18th, 2019

Revised October 18, 2022