



## IOWA COUNTY OFFICE OF PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

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# Annual Report for 2020

## Staff

Scott A. Godfrey.....Planning & Development Director/Land Information Officer  
*(Date of Hire – September, 26, 1994)*  
Ted D. Weier.....Sanitarian  
*(Date of Hire – August 21, 1995)*  
Shaun Wood.....GIS Coordinator  
*(Date of Hire – November 21, 2005)*

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## Mission of the Iowa County Office of Planning & Development

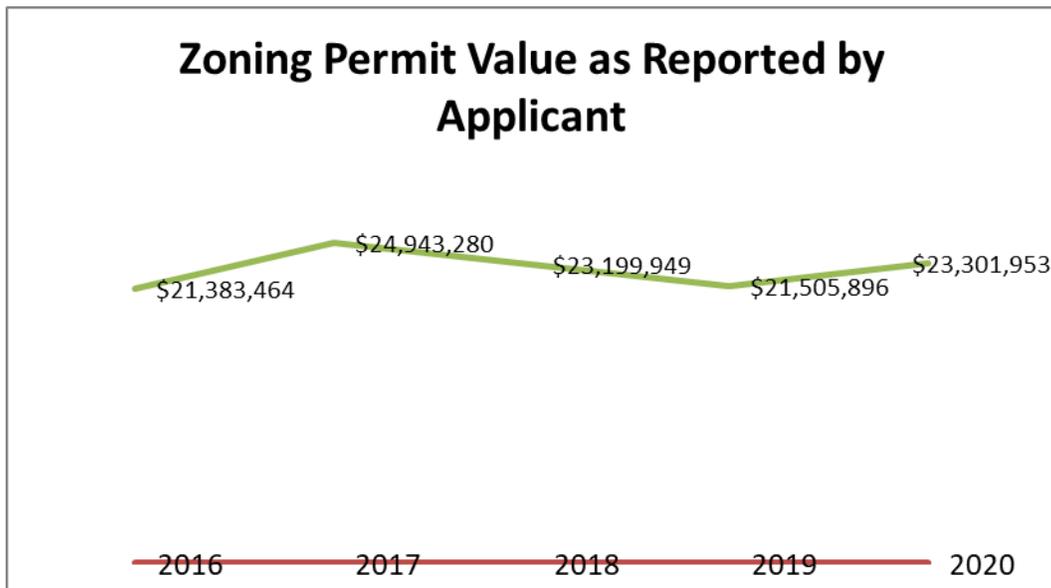
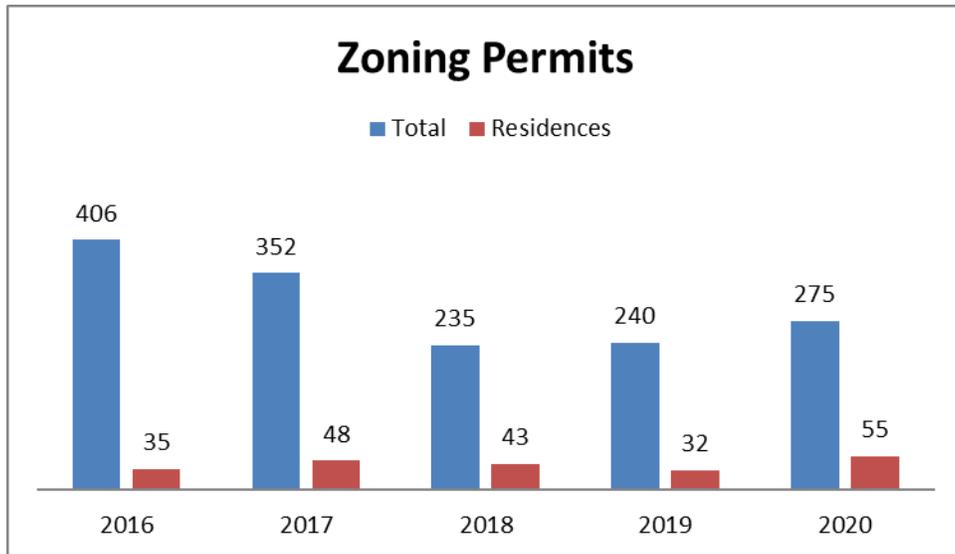
**Protect:** The Office of Planning & Development commits to protecting the health, safety and general welfare of Iowa County’s citizens and to protect the county’s natural resources through the equitable enforcement and administration of land use codes and ordinances.

**Plan:** The Office of Planning & Development commits to providing professional planning techniques and services, including the integration of mapping with multiple layers of data (visit the GIS website), and to assist local jurisdictions in creating, supplementing and updating comprehensive plans that outline the vision, goals and values of Iowa County’s citizens.

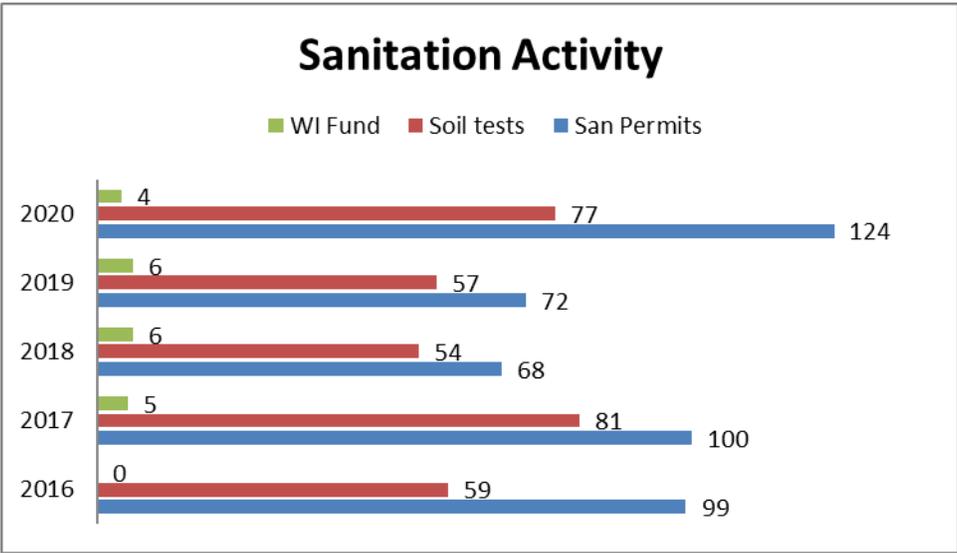
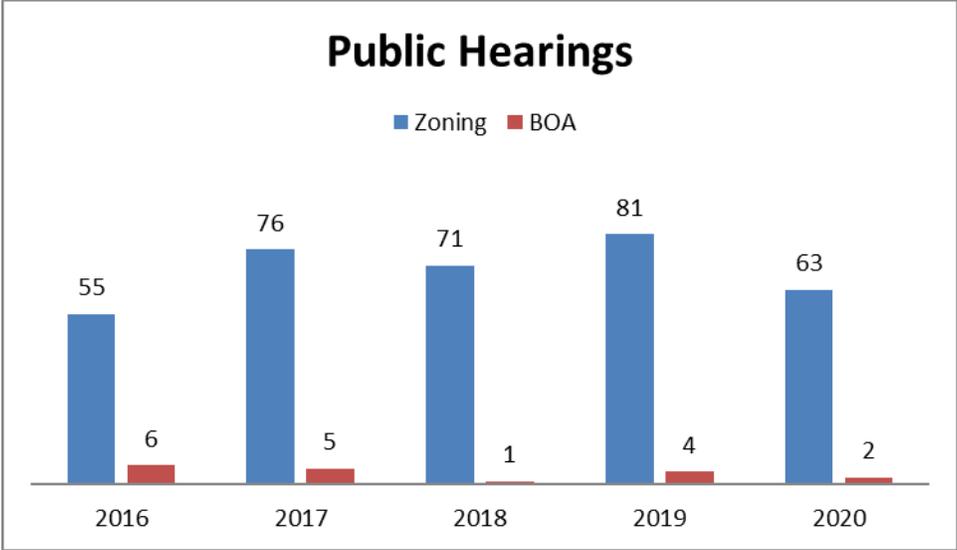
**Educate:** The Office of Planning & Development commits to providing opportunities for the public to become aware, understanding of and involved in solutions to all land use related issues that may impact Iowa County’s physical environment and the quality of life of its citizens.

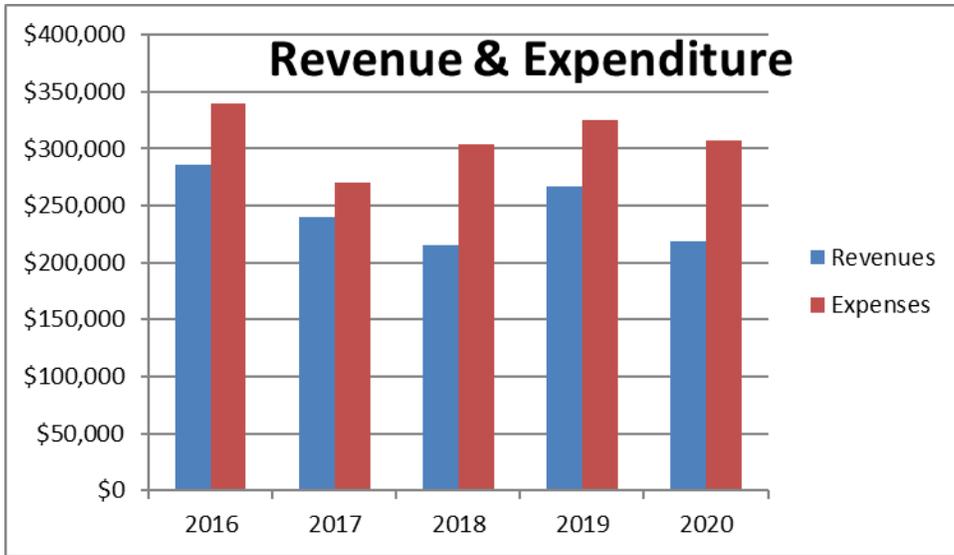
**Serve:** The Office of Planning & Development commits to maintaining a focus on serving the interests of the Iowa County citizenry through continual staff development and training with the goal of increasing competency, public trust and stewardship of the public trust.

## Five Year General Activity Comparisons

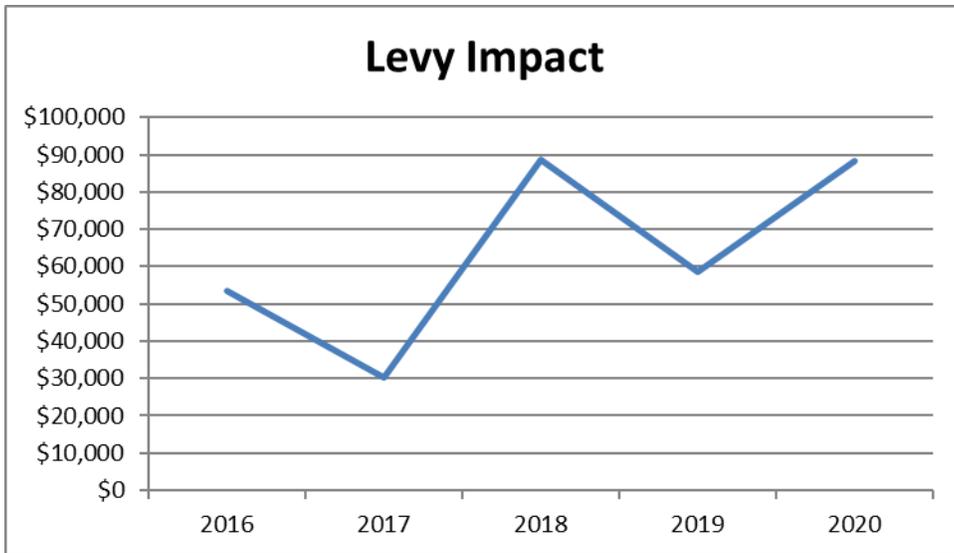


These are self-reported values provided by the applicant on the permit application.





This includes annual Land Information Program grants.



This is the impact NOT including Land Information Program grants to more accurately reflect the operational costs of the office. In recent years, the GIS/Land Records budget was combined with Planning/Code Enforcement.

# Project & Program Accomplishments

## Ordinance Revisions

- The sanitary ordinance was reviewed and updated.
- The subdivision/land division ordinance was revised to streamline review processes.
- The process began to review and revise the mobile tower siting ordinance (cell towers).
- The process began to review and revise the airport zoning ordinance.
- The wind system siting ordinance was reviewed for revision.

## Nonmetallic Mining

- One new mine was proposed in 2019 and ultimately approved in 2020.
- One new mine was proposed and is currently in litigation.
- Onsite inspections were made for each of the 27 permitted mines for the required annual reporting. This is an opportunity for staff to work with mine operators in determining active mining acres, reclamation status and anticipated expansions.
- There are currently 1415 acres permitted for mining in the county of which about 356 acres are actively being mined.

## Sanitation

- Of the 1540 private septic system maintenance notices sent for this year's cycle, 56 citations had to be issued with only 11 not dismissed prior to the court date. There are about 7,148 private systems in Iowa County.
- Inspections were made on the installation of 92 septic systems, of which 16 were hold-overs from last year.
- Staff presented in a regional workshop for continuing education for plumbers and soil testers.

## Complaints & Violations

- There were 31 new violation allegations investigated in 2020. Of these, 23 or 74% have been resolved by staff assisting property owners to achieve compliance versus issuing citations.
- An additional 13 violations were closed dating back to 2016.
- There are 14 open violation cases dating back to 2018, out of a total of 143 cases during the same timeframe. This is a 90.2% closure rate.

### GIS/Mapping

- 9,520 edits were made to the E-911 database (3,718 in 2019)
- 3,369 tax parcels were mapped (2,954 parcels mapped in 2019)
- Linked 2,394 zoning hearing files to the zoning layer of the GIS
- Linked 5,918 septic system files to the septic layer of the GIS
- Updated the Public Land Survey System and parcel layers with 160 contracted section corner coordinates.
- Administering 2 grants totaling \$104,488 for obtaining new orthophotos (aerial photos) and section corner coordinates

### Comprehensive Plan

- Staff worked with the towns of Arena, Brigham, and Pulaski in reviewing their respective comprehensive plans resulting in revisions to the Iowa County Comprehensive Plan.
- Work was completed to revise the county plan to include the City of Mineral Point extraterritorial zoning area (ETZ) as mapped Farmland Preservation Area which allows for eligibility of Farmland Preservation Program tax credits. This also involved revision of the Iowa County Farmland Preservation Plan and certification from DATCP.

### Other Accomplishments

- Ordered/processed/delivered 97 address signs
- Reviewed 41 certified survey maps
- Collaborated with the WDNR Water Management Specialist, WDNR Wardens, and Lower Wisconsin Riverway Executive Director on projects and violations with shared permitting jurisdictions.
- Staff served as the WI County Code Administrators Past President, on the WCA Agriculture, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee, on the DATCP Livestock Siting Facility Siting Board, and on the PSC Wind Siting Council.

### Organizations and Affiliations

- WI County Planning & Zoning Directors
- WI County Code Administrators
- WI Land Information Association
- WI Land Information Officer Network
- WI Chapter of the American Planning Association
- WI Counties Association Agriculture, Land Use and Environment Steering Committee
- Public Service Commission Wind Siting Council
- WI Association of Floodplain, Stormwater and Coastal Managers
- DATCP Livestock Facility Siting Review Board

***In conclusion...***

The global COVID-19 pandemic created the challenge of maintaining the expected level of service to the public, while keeping staff and the public as safe as possible. The majority of the time since March 2020 to present, the office has been staffed by myself with Ted and Shaun working remotely. To date, there have been significantly more customers express gratitude for the efforts taken by the County to protect health than not. All the while, our level of service has not decreased, largely thanks to the County's investment in technology.

Please feel free to find out more about what we do by contacting us or stopping in. We're always open to questions and suggestions.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott A. Godfrey, Director  
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