

**2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY
Town of Wellington
Monroe County, Wisconsin**

TO: Wellington Town Board
FROM: Wellington Planning Commission
RE: 2020 Citizen Opinion Survey Results and Summary
DATE: May 1, 2020

This packet contains the following materials:

- **Survey Part I: Number of Surveys and Respondents**
- **Survey Part II: Emphasis on Issues, Numbers and Percentages**
- **Survey Part II: Ranking of Emphasis Issues with Elements**
- **Survey Part III: Summary of Respondent Comments by Question**
- **Survey Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions #1 - #6**

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***A special "Thanks!" to Mike for doing the calculations and transcriptions for the survey!**

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Survey Part I: Number of Surveys and Respondents

Introduction: Three hundred and twenty-six (326) surveys were mailed out on February 20, 2020 to the Town of Wellington's tax role. Each envelope contained the survey form and a self-addressed stamped envelope for returning the survey. Respondents were asked to return their surveys by March 16, 2020.

One hundred and seventeen (117) surveys were returned.

Not all the respondents addressed each issue nor did all the respondents include additional comments for the six open-ended questions.

The surveys were mailed only to taxpayers. Renters, as a result, may not have received a survey.

Among the respondents. Seventy-one (71) identified themselves as residents and forty-six (46) identified themselves as non-residents.

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Part II: Emphasis Issues, Numbers and Percentages

In Part II of the survey, respondents were asked the following question: As you think about the future of the Town of Wellington, how much emphasis do you believe the comprehensive plan should give to each of the following issues?

They were then asked to write the number 1, 2, 3 or 4 that best matches their opinion concerning each of 27 issues.

#1 = no emphasis #2 = little emphasis #3 = moderate emphasis #4 = a lot of emphasis

Their responses were tallied and the percentage of each number of responses, #1, #2, #3, or #4, were assigned a percentage of the total for that issue. The 27 emphasis issues, the number of responses, and the resulting percentages are list below.

1. Safe and affordable housing (106 responses)	20 = 19%	26 = 25%	37 = 35%	23 = 21%
2. Available rental housing (107 responses)	38 = 36%	37 = 35%	27 = 25%	5 = 4%
3. Population growth (111 responses)	22 = 20%	48 = 43%	30 = 27%	11 = 10%
4. Land fragmentation, housing density (109 responses)	14 = 13%	25 = 23%	34 = 31%	36 = 33%
5. Maintenance of property values (108 responses)	7 = 6%	19 = 18%	38 = 35%	44 = 41%
6. Town-maintained roads and bridges (110 responses)	0 = 0%	5 = 5%	18 = 16%	87 = 79%
7. Town-owned buildings and equipment (107 responses)	5 = 5%	20 = 19%	49 = 46%	33 = 30%
8. Towns natural areas (wetlands, wildlife habitat, streams...) (110 responses)	12 = 11%	21 = 19%	30 = 27%	47 = 43%
9. Surface water and ground water supplies (109 responses)	3 = 3%	9 = 8%	34 = 31%	63 = 58%
10. Breathable air and drinkable water (108 responses)	2 = 2%	8 = 7%	21 = 19%	77 = 72%
11. Town's productive land (farmlands, forestry, etc.) (108 responses)	4 = 4%	12 = 11%	35 = 32%	57 = 53%

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Summation for Part II: Emphasis on Issues, Ranking and Elements

Introduction: The twenty-seven (27) issues listed in Part II of the 2020 Survey were chosen to line up to the Elements we are expected to address in our Comprehensive Plan. While we asked the respondents to weigh these issues in the context of the comprehensive plan, it is also reasonable to think that their responses provide insight into how they value these issues. That is, how important or unimportant they view a particular issue and how, in their opinion, one issue might compare to another.

Determining Emphasis Scores: The 27 issues were ranked by adding the percentages of #3s and #4s received on each issue. This ranking indicates how much "Emphasis" the respondents wanted on a particular issue relative to the other issues listed.

The example below illustrates how an "Emphasis Score" for an issue was determined.

1. Safe and affordable housing (88 total responses)

#1=20 responses (19%) #2=26 responses (25%) #3=37 responses (35%) #4=23 responses (21%)

Looking at the above issue, the #3 percentage was 35% and the #4 percentage of 21%. That would equal an "Emphasis Score" of 56%. In other words, 56% of the 106 respondents thought that a "moderate" or "a lot" of emphasis should be placed on **Safe and affordable housing** in our comprehensive plan.

The "Emphasis Scores" were then determined for each issue. The issues were then ranked from the "highest" Emphasis Score to "lowest" Emphasis Score. Any ties were broken by using the higher #4 percentage. If still tied, the higher #3 percentage was used.

The Elements to be addressed in our Comprehensive Plan that most closely align to each issue are also listed below each ranked issue.

Issues Grouped by Emphasis Score & Linked to Comprehensive Plan Element or Elements

90% or above:

Town maintained roads and bridges

3. Transportation

Emergency services (ambulance, fire, police, etc.)

4. Utilities / Community Facilities
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Breathable air and drinkable water

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
7. Land Use

80% to 89%

Surface Water and ground water supplies

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
7. Land Use

Agricultural-based economy

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

Town's productive lands (farmlands, forestry, etc.)

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

Sustainable agriculture and forestry practices

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

Cooperation with neighboring towns and villages (services, planning, etc.)

8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Resident's health, safety and general welfare

4. Utilities / Community Facilities
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Town's rural character and scenic landscapes

2. Housing
5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

70% to 79%

Town-provided services (garbage, recycling, cemetery, etc)

4. Utilities / Community Facilities
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Access to energy (electrical service, fuel supplies, wind towers, powerlines, etc.)

4. Utilities / Community Facilities
6. Economic Development
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Access to telecommunication (phone, internet, cell towers, etc.)

4. Utilities / Community Facilities
6. Economic Development

Natural disaster planning (severe weather, flooding, etc)

1. Issues and Opportunities

3. Transportation
6. Economic Development
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Maintenance of property values

6. Economic Development
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Town-owned buildings and equipment

8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Services for disabled and/or elderly resident

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Town's natural areas (wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, forests, etc.)

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

60 to 60%

Land fragmentation, housing density

2. Housing
5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

Local employment opportunities

6. Economic Development

50% to 59%

Safe and affordable housing

2. Housing

Services for disadvantageded families

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
8. Town Governance & Intergovernmental Cooperation

Small business development

6. Economic Development

40 to 49%

None of the Emphasis Issues ranked between 40 to 49%

30 to 39%

Population growth

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing
6. Economic Development

Recreational / tourism development

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development
7. Land Use

Large scale agricultural, industrial, and commercial development

5. Agricultural, Natural and Cultural Resources
6. Economic Development

20 to 29%

Available rental housing

1. Issues and Opportunities
2. Housing

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Survey Part III: Summary of Respondent Comments by Question

Introduction: This summary considers the six open ended questions asked in Part III of the 2020 Survey. Each question is followed by a brief summary of the comments made by respondents as well as a sampling of those comments. Separate documents include all of the comments for each of the six questions.

1 What do you want our town to be like?

Fifty-six percent of the responders to this question indicated they wanted the town to remain much like it is at present, i.e. a clean, mainly rural, agriculture-based township. Following are a sampling of the respondents' comments. (66 comments)

A safe healthy place to live and work, agriculture is very important but large factory farms deter from what our township should be.

A place where you can be proud to call home.

Rural, beautiful with clean water and air

Primarily a farming community

Just the way it is

Keep as a rural area

Clean and agricultural minded

As free as possible, as clean as possible, as friendly as possible, as humble possible

2 What do you believe are our town's strengths?

Fourteen comments or 27% directly addressed the excellent work done by our town board, our board chairman and the town patrolman. Other strengths (25% of responses) were the small farms, the rural environment as well as the natural beauty of the area. (52 comments)

Good management by the town chairman and board, excellent attempts at road maintenance

Neighborly residents, attractive landscape, mix of working and natural landscapes, reasonable taxes, decent roads and infrastructure

The current board is working in the best interests of the residents - a rural township is a nice place to live...

Clean air, clean water, agriculture

We have a good conscientious patrolman doing a grand job.

Rural life style, Amish neighbors, family farms

Living in a rural atmosphere, raising our family in a farm community...

3 What do you believe are the towns weaknesses?

For any rural township, the costliest service it provides is road maintenance. Thirty-three (33%) of our town's citizens mentioned dissatisfaction with the current quality of the town's road maintenance and repairs. Another weakness (19%) was the number of junked vehicles and the township's lack of enforcement of our junked vehicle ordinance. (48 responses)

Poor roads

Lack of followup in violations of town ordinance

Many of our rural roads are in bad shape

Some places need to be cleaned up of junked vehicles, etc. and enforced

Poor roads - they are not maintained or replaced as needed

Communication to the town citizens, website is really out of date, very few mailings to keep citizens up to date

4 What are the challenges that you believe our town faces now and in the future?

Nineteen percent of the responses indicate a concern about the town's ability to maintain our infrastructure in the future and another sixteen percent wonder where will the funding come from as extreme weather events continue to damage our roads, culverts, and bridges. (58 responses)

Deteriorating roads and bridges

To be able to find the funds to repair our roads

The extensive rains and flooding have taken a toll on many roads

Probably having enough funding and resources/people to maintain everything...

Money, growth

Large scale farming practices

Land fragmentation/over population

5 What are the opportunities you see for our town now and in the future?

Our town's land owners see opportunities from solar panels and wind turbines to keeping the township mostly unchanged, quiet and peaceful. The greatest, single opportunity mentioned (15% of responses) was the opportunity to preserve and enhance our clean, beautiful and rural community we presently enjoy. (33 responses)

Hoping for a clean, safe environment for my family

Preservation of rural agriculture community

Opportunities for recreation and tourist development

Promotion of sustained agriculture. Opportunity to begin wise planning to balance all the needs, agriculture, recreation, etc.

I see opportunity to improve our life style by enjoying our rural heritage with less regulation

Much of our town is still quite beautiful so we have an opportunity to keep it that way

6 Do you have any other comments you would like to add?

Most of the additional comments reiterate concerns that people made in previous questions, i.e. town needs to do something about junky places, land fragmentation, improve communication to citizens and hold back on regulations. (31 responses)

Commend our patrolman, Matt and those that are serving our township. Hold down township regulations. State regulations will take too much of our rights too much regulations on land owners. I believe in regulations to keep people from infringing on others.

I wish for a more robust online place and information about our area for resources and information about our area

I don't like to see farms broken into small parcels

I see a lot of deterioration of our rural farms, torn down homes, yards that look like junkyard.....

Too much emphasis on turning it (the town) into a village or suburb with regulations and ordinances

I would like to see something in place to keep big cattle and hog operations out of the township

I am concerned about more gravel pits to large dairy (CAFO) operations starting up and polluting our air and water and making lots of noise

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #1: What do you want our town to be like?

- *Roads well maintained, friendly*
- *A safe, healthy place to live and work. Agriculture is very important but large factory farms deter from what our township should be. Need to encourage smaller family farms, possibly organic.*
- *Cleaner, respectable. People drive through now and say, "Wow look at that mess" or "do you live next to those junky homes"?*
- *A community of people who help each other and take care of our natural resources and environment.*
- *Good condition, good roads, well mowed*
- *A well run business*
- *Continue to maintain our roads as money becomes available. Perhaps a new municipal building*
- *Roads in good condition, healthy place to live, clean and fair looking*
- *It's good*
- *I want a safe place with available law enforcement and firemen available to answer calls quickly*
- *A place where you can be proud to call home*
- *Clean and nice looking*
- *Rural and quiet*
- *Progressive, clean and neat*
- *A clean safe place to live and raise a family, a township we can be proud of*
- *The cemetery to be kept up so residents can use it*
- *A community of farmers, working families and people of all ages, talents, and abilities who can share their knowledge, products, or services with other local people (or tourists) who are attracted to our small-town, rural life style and "slower paced", back-to-basics, love of nature(and God) way of life!*
- *Friendly - able to get along with neighbors*
- *Quiet rural area with good neighbors that can get along*
- *Communication to public*
- *As free as possible, as clean as possible, as friendly as possible, as humble as possible*
- *Abundant natural resources*
- *Clean, farmers to keep cattle off roads, safe roads, people to drive in our township and say how nice it would be to live here*
- *Rural, low population density, preservation of natural resources*
- *Just the way it is*
- *I am a resident of a neighboring township and I believe that we need cooperation between towns which could possibly mean sharing equipment, etc.*
- *Not zoned*
- *Rural, beautiful with clean water and air*
- *Positive, helpful*
- *Keep as rural area*
- *A good place for country people to live not without all the laws to suit the city people*

- *I would like to be warm and peaceful*
- *Same as now*
- *I would like the scenic beauty of the area to be highly valued so that it would be a place people from away would want to retire or raise families-agriculture and forestry community*
- *Primarily a farming community*
- *Rural*
- *Small but growing*
- *Just what is currently is*
- *Great place to raise a family*
- *Like it right now*
- *Pretty much as is*
- *Overall I'm happy with our town*
- *Quiet, well maintained in general but spot specific road repairs*
- *Clean and agriculture minded*
- *A township vs a town, we want to keep it rural*
- *Rural farming community*
- *Just what it is*
- *Safe, clean, friendly place*
- *Rural farms steads/ farm land/ less Amish*
- *Small town atmosphere, keeping the balance between nature and development. I moved here because it's small and the nature is great*
- *Agriculture - not park land, minimize swamp land ie wetlands to minimize bad gasses un the air and mosquitoes*
- *Agriculture dominated rural economy integration of recreation and tourism. Not a city suburb. Need to look at subdividing small plots limits - maybe 305 acres like other townships*
- *A newsletter or note of pertinent information sent out occasionally?*
- *Nice, clean agriculture area where tourists like to drive through or ride bikes through*
- *Current version*
- *Small and rural*
- *Satisfied as it is*
- *Would like to see our township deal with all issues in a fair, humane, and kind way(not like Glendale township is currently doing)*
- *As is with better maintained roads*
- *Secure and comfortable*
- *Friendlier*
- *Clean with good roads*
- *I'm not sure how we compare to other townships. It's not something I hear very often or at all as far as complaints are concerns from inside or outside of the township so I would say the township must be doing something right.*
- *Unchanged*
- *Less horse manure on the roads*
- *Clean air, water, abundance of wildlife and the rural character of the town*
- *What do you want our town to be like?*
- *Rural in nature*
- *Stay rural, help farmers*

- *We don't want to see housing developments*
- *A present rural setting*
- *Clean up junky places - vehicles not running should be done away with. Nice to drive*
- *Through*
- *Nice natural landscape with nice roads and clean air and water. No political signs in*
- *front yard*
- *Family owned farms/ag land, rural look and feel*
- *Stay natural, no factory farming*
- *Rural, family oriented, agricultural, wooded*
- *I like that Wellington is a snapshot of Americana - it is so refreshing*
- *Neighborly, clean and well kept*
- *A beautiful, prosperous agricultural and recreation area*
- *Work for the people that live there, not the other way around*

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #2: What do you believe are our town's strengths?

- *AG lands, good lineman (patrolman?)*
- *A beautiful, productive area with clean water and air.*
- *The patrolman does a nice job.*
- *Immediate response when an issue is presented to our town board*
- *Community and neighbors*
- *Most roads are plowed out so people can get to work in early morning, a community dumpster is available and garbage pickup is provided*
- *A good place to live*
- *People*
- *Good board*
- *Maintenance and people willing to be on the town board, a progressive chairman who listens to concerns*
- *A good town board*
- *Good to have a cemetery can use it if they so need it*
- *Rural location. Longtime "invested" residents who have seen many changes, improvements, and past results or consequences. (longevity) Newer residents with outside views and new ideas (that have possible worked well in other areas) that offer fresh perspectives for consideration. (diversity)*
- *Neighbors helping neighbors and a good town board*
- *Good honest people with good values, that strive to work together*
- *Clean air, clean water, agriculture*
- *Everyone gets the benefit of having a town cleanup twice a year*
- *Low population, agriculture*
- *our people*
- *Living in a rural atmosphere, raising our family in a farm community, allowing local farmers to govern our township*
- *The access to the town shop is nice with the recycling location, united township*
- *Willing to work together*
- *Recycling near township building*
- *To need each other, help each other out*
- *Countryside, private*
- *Good management by town chairman and board, excellent attempts at road maintenance*
- *Open land and farms*
- *People who live here*
- *Small town, available property, good potential tourism*
- *Rural lifestyle, Amish neighbors, family farms*
- *Great people, hard working, willing to help each other*

- *Care of township roads for snow removal, maintenance and garbage pick up and recycle center*
- *Neighborly residents, attractive landscape, mix of working and natural landscapes, reasonable taxes, decent roads and infrastructure*
- *Natural beauty, low population, family farms, good school*
- *The geography*
- *Our natural beauty. This area is beautiful in all seasons*
- *Farm/ag, working together*
- *Small town*
- *Pretty good roads and maintenance, nice maintenance of vehicles and equipment*
- *A good patrolman. Roads are well taken care of in a timely manner and trash is picked up when expected*
- *Agriculture area, plows do pretty well in winter*
- *The people*
- *Freedom*
- *The current board is working in the best interests of the residents - a rural township is a nice place to live - the board supervises road repair, plowing, other services, necessary*
- *Board seems to listen to citizens concerns*
- *Good people, safe*
- *We have a good conscientious patrol man doing a grand job*
- *The people that live here*
- *The services it provides for recycling, garbage pick up and road maintenance. A very good job is done by some dedicated individuals*
- *Small farms, small community*
- *Snow removal, sand/salt, garbage pick up*
- *Town government, natural beauty and most good, honest people*
- *Quiet, abundant wildlife and other natural resources*
- *Quiet and rural*
- *Natural beauty*
- *Garbage pickup, spring and fall clean up*
- *Privacy of occupants, natural beauty and peace and quiet*
- *Reasonable town board, wise use of town funds*
- *Roads, better than county roads*
- *Natural areas managed by property owners, moderate board, reasonable use of town funds*
- *Wellington's strengths can be measures in many ways, lack of pollution, scenic beauty, family farms, caring neighbors*
- *Good chairman*
- *The natural beauty and good quality water. The Amish can add charm if they can be held to standards that protect our water and wildlife.*

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #3. What do you believe are our town's weaknesses?

- *Seems pretty good right now*
- *To keep large factory farms out of township. Factory farms cause ground water issues, manure, large amount of chemicals used on the land.*
- *Weak town board that doesn't enforce the town's ordinances. Read this out loud to the group and start counting the excuses.*
- *Don't be cheap*
- *ROADS*
- *Poor roads*
- *People*
- *Lack of high speed internet in many areas*
- *Some places need to be cleaned up of junked vehicles, etc. and enforced*
- *Could do a better job on cleaning out some of the junky places, cleaning out road ditches*
- *Procuring funding (availability) of money for improvements - roads, bridges, etc. Need more hours spent keeping roads clear when inclement weather is occurring. It's not like the old days when a blizzard shut everything down for a day or two.. Nowadays the world continues in spite of the snow. Stay out there in the trucks until it's done snowing... People still need back and forth to work, etc. Maybe an extra man and truck if needed during heaviest snows.*
- *Garbage pick-up - what's happening? Still twice a year?? Help??*
- *Keeping the roads maintained*
- *Roads*
- *Lack of communication regarding policies and regulation. Apathy regarding township wellness*
- *Lack of funding*
- *We have created ordinances and more ordinances but yet we don't enforce the ones we already have. Do we need to educate/train our full time employee BETTER so that we don't have to pay 3 or 4 more people?*
- *We have a small voice and may be bullied by large corporate interests*
- *Our road's repairs/ditches filling up*
- *Catering to city folks who come to rural areas and want to change farming practices because they just don't like the smell!*
- *Road maintenance/bridges*
- *Having to do what big government wants even if it isn't what we want. They federal and state set the rules that we have to follow*
- *Sometimes grass/weeds too high along roads, plowing in mailboxes*
- *Federal and state control-too much waste of finances*
- *Lack of follow up in violations of town ordinances*
- *Too many Amish residences that bring down neighboring property values*
- *Lack of professionals near*
- *No growth*

- *Roads, internet, property values*
- *Job opportunities, need to bring in more families*
- *Lack of planning, lack of diversity, lack of openness to differences, individual wants seem to outweigh community needs*
- *Not enough guard rails at dangerous areas, no posted speed limit, several roads need some work*
- *Many of our rural roads are in bad shape*
- *Too many Amish, Too much land fragmentation*
- *Communication to town citizens. Website is really out of date. Very little mailings to keep citizens up to date.*
- *Too much regulation/ordinances as if it was a village or suburb*
- *Lack of a good recycling plan. Maybe we don't have a good enough plan/market for these items? Why not push more? Why only one site to recycle(seven miles away and often full after making the trip only to discover - no room) TRASH - fine people who throw items in ditches and roadsides*
- *Garbage along roads*
- *Inability for businesses to stay open*
- *Improvements of any kind generally require money and that can be hard to come by*
- *Getting snow removed in a timely fashion (end up late for work to meet school bus for children) every time it snows. Need to get going earlier - NOT Delmars route, would be the other one*
- *Roads are awful*
- *Poor roads - they are not maintained or replaced as necessary*
- *Roads - lack of maintenance*
- *Poorly kept website, no plan commission minutes, confusion on \$10 fee for building permit and another place it's \$25. Hard to believe you would draw attention to website that is not being maintained*
- *Land fragmentation, Amish*
- *Ditch maintenance-mowing, trimming overhanging trees, trimming brush*
- *Lack of zoning, the wild west mentality, Too many junky places*
- *Aging population and decreasing agriculture*
- *Far from work, our people live here but work elsewhere*
- *Failure to have properties cleaned and maintained*
- *Roads*
- *Snow plowing, roads are never plowed early enough*
- *Road repairs - It there a time schedule for town roads to be repaired?*
- *Long distance that creates emergency services limited response times, maybe the lack of small businesses*
- *Probably need land use planning - not interested in zoning*
- *Strong land use planning short of the absolutes of zoning*
- *Income to maintain town expenses*
- *Decrease in tax base. Lack of planning and a tolerance for "anything goes." We are tired of looking at junk, landowners who don't maintain fences and don't control noxious weeds.*

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #4: What are the challenges that you believe our town faces in the future?

- *Deteriorating roads and bridges*
- *To keep large factory farms out of township. Factory farms cause ground water issues, manure, large amount of chemicals used on the land.*
- *Future decline in land values will not be planned for*
- *Financial funding*
- *Road maintenance*
- *Trying to do the best with government (rules or radicals?)*
- *Shrinking young families*
- *Population growth. Road repairs, cleaning up these junky places with cars and junk visible from the road*
- *To be able to find the funds to repair our roads*
- *Money, growth*
- *Roads and infrastructure expenses*
- *Infrastructure*
- *The loss of crop land to housing development and acreage subdivided*
- *Taxes, state and federal aid*
- *That the cemetery keeps its upkeep and people respect it*
- *Adding "Allowable use" and possible "restrictions" on future development within the township without becoming too regulatory and invasive of peoples choices and lifestyle. Finding the balance between "regulation", "suggestion", and "choice".*
- *Keeping up the roads. Money available from the state*
- *The extensive rains and flooding have taken a toll on many town roads. Fire and EMS contracts will continue to rise*
- *Zoning*
- *A divided political faction, a divided spending priority*
- *More extreme weather events due to climate change, flooding*
- *Sustaining the dairy industry*
- *Tax cuts, School enrollment numbers are down, the social and economic infrastructure of our township*
- *Urban encroachment, farm land and forest destruction for development*
- *Cost of repairs - like always*
- *To be steadfast to who and what we are! Farmers and individuals who respect what farmers face and do to survive*
- *Probably having enough funding and resources/people to maintain everything - roads, bridges, snowplow*
- *Being able to stay in control. I think state and federal will want to control us more.*
- *Too much government regulation*
- *Large scale farming practices*
- *Paying for the services we require*
- *Residential growth*
- *Loss of the family farm*

- *Size and lack of state funding*
- *Lack of growth, increased taxes*
- *Keeping quality roads without raising taxes significantly*
- *Too much recreational land not taxed as such. People who only come to visit and don't live here*
- *Road upkeep, same challenges as anywhere else with the changing of the times*
- *Common planning will be increasingly important, climate challenges and how to respond, consensus building will be needed and where will the leadership needed to shape consensus come from*
- *Funding for general maintenance and climate change (not much can be done except trying to keep up with repair issues)*
- *The loss of the next generation due to the lack of jobs, poor housing, not having a decent income to raise a family on farms. Weather related challenges ie. floods, tornadoes, heavy snow*
- *Land fragmentation/ over population*
- *Growth vs keeping it small feeling*
- *Road upkeep and road repair*
- *Outside /city influence and Amish populations*
- *Keeping good people on the payroll. It seems to be harder and harder to get people to step up.*
- *To maintain infrastructure*
- *Flooding*
- *Traffic, roads, flood control, school, building up keep*
- *Increasing number of absentee landowners*
- *Amish - roads - always tearing roads up and always horse manure all over road - usually unavoidable not to drive through. Amish daily walking cattle twice daily 1/2 mile down road middle of road - shit all over the place*
- *State funding (or lack thereof)*
- *Sharing police with neighboring towns*
- *Funding for services and roads*
- *I am not a politician but the survey appears to be a politician's wish list. It was possibly requested by a bureaucrat in Madison. Our town I believe has limited resources and except for the tax money the town receives I would question where the funding for this wish list is going to come from. I would like to see the town board budget posted on the website so we can see where we are at now with the budget and what if any additional taxes will be added to our property taxes for the future reference and what they will be for.*
- *Too many city people building houses too close together which makes no sense to move back into a cluster of houses. They should have stayed in the city. The Amish moving in*
- *There will always be pressure by some to forfeit the future for short term gain. The town must work hard to preserve what we have! Climate change will continue to be a major challenge with flooding, severe weather, damage to infrastructure and associated costs*
- *Retiring productive residents*
- *Low Ag prices*
- *Environmental, taxes*

- *Emergency services available, ambulance, adequate road repairs*
- *The high cost of town maintenance, lack of work for residents*
- *Maintaining rural atmosphere - ag land diversified with more than one crop (soybeans, corn, etc.)*
- *Over developing*
- *Larger agriculture operations owned outside the town acting for profit but with little concern for the land - such as all land in corn, maintaining a responsive town board, roads*
- *Keeping the beauty and at the same time maintaining the population/income*
- *Increase in properties that look like dumps. We need to support Ag and Tourism otherwise the tax base declines. School enrollment declines due to poorly funded schools. The momentum is to move out while the Amish move in.*

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #5: What are the opportunities you see for our town now and in the future?

- *Opportunities are great as long as we keep the state out of our business*
- *To attract smaller sized family farms.*
- *Hoping for a clean and safe environment for my family.*
- *Economic AG growth.*
- *Keep up the good work*
- *A clean and safe place to live and build homes*
- *The ability to grow the tax base*
- *As people don't go to church they can have a cemetery where they can bury their relatives*
- *When driving through Wellington there appears to be a number of vacant, old, unused, and just plain empty houses. Considering the number of homeless people in Monroe county, it is a shame to see them empty. Is there anything the township could give, possible tax breaks or zoning or other incentive to encourage the owners to repair to usable condition or remove the structures entirely and replace them with safe, affordable housing which would attract more residents that would become tax-paying community members?*
- *Keeping it (the township) beautiful*
- *I see opportunity to improve our life style by enjoying our rural heritage with less regulation*
- *To emphasize park lands and natural areas*
- *Solar power(panels), wind mills (for power), mining(for better roads*
- *Preservation of rural agriculture community*
- *To keep our freedom to work and raise a family as we have been doing for years*
- *Growth as more people want in country living*
- *Don't want to see big hog and dairy operations*
- *More cellphone/internet options*
- *Tourism*
- *I wonder if we could encourage some small manufacturing business to locate here*
- *Rural atmosphere*
- *Depends on what state government does*
- *Come together to find ways to fix/solve our issues*
- *Area residents are good people who generally will do the right thing. Unfortunately forming a consensus as to what the right thing might be is an issue*
- *Keeping the town quiet and peaceful*
- *The opportunity to tap into our natural beauty, a park camp ground, family fishing hike trails. We have a lot of opportunities*
- *Work with other townships to share equipment/manpower to be more productive - ex. roadwork*
- *Opportunities for recreation and tourist development*
- *Be a leader in recycling, set the bar for neighboring communities*

- *Promotion of sustained agriculture, Opportunity to begin wise planning to balance all the needs, ag, recreational, etc.*
- *Many roads in need of repair/seal coating- well before any of the recent flooding. I know of people that totally our whole area because of the roads. Opportunity to fix roads to bring people to our township*
- *Change our ambulance closer to us than Ontario*
- *To grow as new housing develops*
- *A lot depends on how much we want government to control our future here. I think most of the residents can get by just fine with what resources are already available through local governments, hospitals, churches and friends and neighbors not to mention the services currently provided by the town.*
- *Very few(opportunities) with so many Amish*
- *Much of our town is still quite beautiful so we have an opportunity to keep it that way*
- *Attract wealthy retirees to its natural benefits*
- *Maybe wind and solar farms*
- *Maintaining roads, offering a drop off site for garbage that is in town bags*
- *Great retirement area*
- *Preserve the rural nature of the township - preserve streams/woods, small business*
- *Small, home based business growth, encouragement to families with rural values, preservation of woods and streams*
- *Support farmers with Ag zoning*
- *Enforce building standards*
- *Encourage businesses*

WELLINGTON'S 2020 CITIZEN OPINION SURVEY

Part III: Respondent Comments to Open-ended Questions

Question #6: Do you have any other comments you would like to add?

- *Commend our patrolman, Matt and those that are serving our township. Hold down township regulations. State regulations will take too much of our rights too much regulations on land owners. I believe in regulations to keep people from infringing on others.*
- *Please make the garbage bags available so I don't have to go into Wilton and ... (continued with derogatory comments of a personal nature)*
- *I wish for a more robust online place for resources and information about our area.*
- *Spend our tax dollars to -fix roads, buy equipment on a regular basis - run it like a business*
- *Provide a safe and help whenever conditions are bad with snow removal and sanding when ice*
- *No more crowded, junky trailer housing*
- *Does everyone get building permits? Make it a place to be proud of*
- *I think the town is very fortunate to have a cemetery where people can use*
- *We would like to give a big THANK-YOU to all the wonderful, dedicated people who currently volunteer their time, or who are paid employees of our township! Each and everyone of you are VERY APPRECIATED!!!*
- *Comprehensive Plan objectives and goals can help the township qualify for grant funding for conservation projects or infrastructure. Emphasis on natural resources is a must!*
- *We don't hear many people complain about Wellington like we do a lot of other townships. So you must be doing something right.*
- *I don't like to see the farms broken into small parcels*
- *My wife and I own a cabin on hunting property in Wellington though we reside near Madison. We spend about 70 days total per year and do not use many of the town's services. We love the seclusion and natural beauty of our property and the town.*
- *Require Amish to keep horse "poop" off the roads, Require Amish biggies to have working tail-lights, Require Amish residents to have operating septic systems*
- *The town board is doing a fine job. If you want to zone the township, if that is your comprehensive plan, why don't you just say so? I have no desire to see the township zoned! The American Dream - what is it? Regulations by government? Placing MY desires and greed upon others? We may need some personal adjustments in life but not zoning!*
- *Would like to see something in place to keep big cattle and hog operations out of township*
- *We like the small town/rural feel*
- *Minimum acreage when land is sold*

- *The township, especially the land is becoming owned by absentee owners. They won't live here because of the lack of services close by. They will never build a decent house*

because they don't pay taxes on a new building so they keep an old farmhouse or build a small cabin or shack. This leaves the permanent residents to pay most of the taxes but not own the land. The Amish won't build buildings that increase the tax base. Good or bad this is reality. I'm not sure how this will affect the future but it needs to be considered. Our only hope or positive is we are close enough to Tomah, VA and Ft. McCoy that people can live here and commute to work. However, the Amish and absentee owners are not going to sell their land so someone can build a house. Will be interesting to watch what will happen when all the elderly in the township aren't around or unable to live here. If something drastic happens it will likely be something we never thought of or could plan for.

- *I am very concerned about more gravel pits to large dairy (CAFO) operations starting up and polluting our air and water and making a lot of noise*
- *Thanks for the opportunity we had in the town of Wellington. Let's not make a lot of changes, just maintain what we have. We like to raise garden and try to make a living off the land.*
- *I see a lot of deterioration of our rural farms. Torn down homes, yards that look like a junk yard, this is not attractive to any visitors. I would like to thank our village board. I think they do a great job with what they have to work with*
- *Sort of scary that our planning commission are not from locally raised people. What are their intentions?*
- *Too much emphasis on turning it into a village or suburb with regulation and ordinances - personal appeal and services - ie. garbage pickup, if all this can be had by living back in the village/city or suburb*
- *Could have a few signs out for seasonal road hazards. Example: in Posy Creek (Midway Ave.) there is a huge depression near corner by town that could bottom out any car. Good weather will cure that but a sign would help some now*
- *I think the survey is the start of improving the communication in the town with the residents even though I have some concerns with the survey. Does the planning commission consist of residents of the town or are they from outside of the town? Will the members be listed on the website? When the ATC had as one of its routes for their power line it was planning for it to go along the Elroy Sparta Bike Trail and then take a hard right at the top of the hill between Wilton and Kendall and go within sight of my house. I wrote them a letter advising them to run it along the interstate instead and lo and behold they did. Well I have a wish for the town. As you know or may not know Missouri Rd. (also called the Sunny Slope School House Rd.) is banned for ATV and UTVs. You can ride a snowmobile all winter on that road but not ATV/UTVs. It would be a dead end for ATV/UTVs but that should not be a problem if you just want to ride and enjoy a rustic road. Can that road be opened for ATV/UTVs? I will put my name on this since I would like that designation to be changes to OPEN. Monroe County is very friendly for ATV/UTVs and that is very unusual for that road to be closed. If there are other rustic roads that could be utilized for ATV/UTVs, maybe they could be posted to the website since it would add another source of recreation for our residents and visitors. Gaylen Hoefs*
- *Residents need to have a say when a cell tower is to be installed on a property. Quarries, mines, pits, wind towers approval should be based on discussion of all township voters, not solely the town board*
- *Horse diapers or fines for horse manure on roadway- Amish need reflective tape and bright (maybe led) lamps on rear and FRONT! way too many close calls*
- *Share information from the board more often*

- *We have to get them(Amish) to contribute to and be better stewards of the community, clean up after the horses in public and make them contribute maintaining and repairing the roads which they use and do A LOT of physical damage tp. They use our roads and the entire legal system. Having them help pay for it is not too much to ask*
- *I wish the dumpster would have recycling. Seems like a waste to me to throw it all together*
- *Board doing a good job, employees doing good job*
- *Please fill the pot holes as best as can be. Mat/Delmer do a wonderful job and are pleasant and responsive to questions or concerns*
- *Things will be great if property taxes don't get too expensive, yet we want land values to remain strong*
- *Do not like large farming - over fifty cows, also corporate companies growing crops, sand mining, etc.*
- *Please avoid the heavy - handedness that has taken over the town of Glendale. We need a town board that will work the people not dictate to them.*
- *There have been really good commonsense decisions made*
- *Thanks for asking and thanks for being reasonable people*
- *I'm not sure we all realize the absolute beauty of the area. The strength of Wellington is the mostly unblemished farming area of Wisconsin. It would be destroyed if overpopulation were allowed or farm land divided or fence rows eliminated*
- *I'm very happy with the Town Chairman and the road working guys.*
- *County Hwy V from Hoffman Corner to Monarch Ave should be leveled out redo the whole road so there are not as many dips and hills*
- *Very disappointed to see the lack of planning and resistance to planning. We need preserve our agricultural base. At the same time preserve the natural beauty to encourage visitors and vacationers.*
- *Don't allow too much close housing*
- *Maintaining a rural atmosphere (not developing housing tracts).*
- *That the township is welcoming to the Amish is important to me.*
- *Keep up the good work Thanks*