



PRESS RELEASE: IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of Tomah, WI

8 May 2026

Tomah Aquatic Center Closure Frequently Asked Questions

1. How old is Tomah Aquatic Center?

The mechanical building that services the infrastructure of the pool was built in 1965 and underwent renovations in 1990 and again in 2007. The bathhouse and restrooms were built in 1978 and renovated in 1989 and again in 2007. The current pool vessel, water slides, and zero-depth entry pool were part of the renovation completed in 2007. In other words, the current structure is at least 20 years old, with much of the infrastructure components being over 30 and 40 years old.

2. Why didn't the city seek donations from large corporations in the area who may be interested in using a donation opportunity for a tax write-off?

Since 2003, the City's Comprehensive Plan has called for an indoor recreation center. The City's current plan, Tomah Comprehensive Plan 2045, was approved by vote of the City Council in July 2024 and calls for the completion of this facility no later than the Year 2045. Several years ago, City officials purchased an architectural and engineering site plan that places the facility on the same city-owned property that is home to the new baseball fields located at 1201 Eggleson Street. The designs call for a phased approach that eventually results in an indoor pool, basketball courts, fitness room, and community spaces.

The City recognizes that donors, like the City itself, have limited resources and the plan was to engage community partners to donate toward this new facility. It was expected that the City would be able to operate the Tomah Aquatic Center for at least this season. However, recent winter damage to the water lines had an operationally catastrophic impact.

3. What are the kids in Tomah supposed to do now that the pool is closed?



The City of Tomah is proud to be a family-friendly community that serves as a great place to raise children! Below is a brief list of just a few of the activities for children to take advantage of in the City:

- ✓ Lake Tomah: Fishing (no permit required by WI DNR for children under the age of 16), boating, and kayaking (kayak rentals available through a City of Tomah program).
- ✓ Gillett Park.
- ✓ Winnebago Park.
- ✓ Veterans' Park.
- ✓ Butts Park.
- ✓ Firemen's Park.
- ✓ Skate Park.
- ✓ Tomah Public Library: Youth reading programs and activities.
- ✓ Tomah Area School District Summer Pack activities (summer camp from 8:00am – 2:00pm).
- ✓ Municipal disc golf course.
- ✓ Recreation Station: Indoor programs and activities for infants and toddlers.
- ✓ Monroe County Fair.
- ✓ Tractor Pull Kids Club Day.
- ✓ Downtown Thursday Nights bounce houses and face painting, both free of charge.
- ✓ Ho-Chunk Cinema.
- ✓ Tomah Boys and Girls Club.
- ✓ Hiawatha Junior Golf Academy.
- ✓ Boy Scouts of America.
- ✓ Girls Scouts of America.
- ✓ Youth football programs.
- ✓ Tomah Youth Wrestling Association.
- ✓ Tomah Youth Soccer Association.
- ✓ Tomah Youth Baseball.
- ✓ Tomah Stix Softball.
- ✓ Bowling at the Strike Zone.
- ✓ Recreation Park: Adventure Park Zip Line.
- ✓ Ice skating: Open skate, Tomah Youth Hockey Association, 7 Rivers Figure Skating Association.



4. Why wasn't this decision presented to the public as a referendum election?

In accordance with State of Wisconsin law, the City is not required to hold a referendum on any decision it intends to make unless the City plans to exceed the property tax levy limit imposed by the State of Wisconsin. However, the City of Tomah is evaluating several budget topics to be presented via referendum during the November 2026 election. It was the City's sincere hope that the Tomah Aquatic Center would hold for at least one more summer. However, when the winter damage to the water lines servicing the bathhouse and restrooms was fully understood in early May it became apparent that it would not be possible to open the pool this season. The second and third order effects include wasted money on pool chemicals that are ordered in May, and notifying any returning lifeguards to provide them time to find an alternate summer job.

5. Is the City serious about an indoor pool/recreation center, and how will the situation be different, especially as it pertains to maintenance?

Yes, the City is committed to an indoor pool/recreation center. Such a facility has been listed in the City's 2003 and 2013 Comprehensive Plans. Comprehensive plans are required by the State of Wisconsin, and by law they must be updated at least every 10 years. However, little to no progress was made over the past 23 years except for the commissioning of architectural and engineering site plans several years ago. The project was not approved to move forward due to the cost estimates. However, in July of 2024, the Mayor and City Council voted to approve Tomah Comprehensive Plan 2045, which clearly stated that an indoor recreation facility is to be completed no later than the year 2045. Community input was solicited prior to the vote approving the plan.

Below are the actions that have been taken since the approval of Tomah Comprehensive Plan 2045:

- ✓ On 9 January 2025, City staff conducted a review of the architectural and engineering plans completed by a professional construction firm that specializes in these types of facilities.
- ✓ On 16 January 2025, City staff contacted the Chief Executive Officer of the Upper Midwest YMCA Alliance to schedule a meeting to discuss opening a YMCA in the City of Tomah.
- ✓ On 22 January 2025, City staff met with the CEO of the Alliance, the CEO of the Dahl Family YMCAs (downtown La Crosse, Onalaska, Holmen YMCAs) and YMCA staff.



Discussion focused on opening a YMCA in Tomah. The CEO of the Dahl Family YMCA committed to presenting the opportunity to the Dahl Family YMCA Board of Directors.

- ✓ On 27 February 2025, the CEO of the Dahl Family YMCAs notified the City that the Board of Directors decided to monitor the operational stability of the newly opened Holmen YMCA, but remain open to the idea of conducting a feasibility study regarding opening a YMCA in Tomah in the future.
- ✓ Summer/fall 2025: City staff researched and met developers regarding several different future projects covering housing, downtown revitalization, and an indoor recreation center in preparation to present options to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council during Fiscal Year 2026 budget preparation meetings.
- ✓ 12 November 2025: City staff met with a developer with a successful track record of building indoor sports and recreation facilities to discuss the foundation of a framework for a future Request For Proposal (RFP) process.
- ✓ January-March 2026: City staff continue to develop the conceptual framework for moving forward with the development of a detailed plan for an indoor recreation facility project.
- ✓ Late April 2026: New winter damage to the Tomah Aquatic Center results in a decision point regarding operations: exceed the City's budget for the facility by over \$1 million to get at least one more season out of the facility, or close the facility down and propose that the funding that was already allocated for this year be reallocated to the funding for the indoor recreation facility.
- ✓ 1 May 2026: City staff brief Mayor Dwyer on the details of the situation, the operational impact of winter damage, and the fiscal implications. Mayor Dwyer, acting in his capacity as the Chief Executive Officer of the City, made an executive decision to prevent further financial loss and threat to public safety by closing Tomah Aquatic Center and shifting strategic focus to an indoor recreation facility.

6. How can Tomah afford and maintain a new high school if it cannot take care of Tomah Aquatic Center?

Contrary to popular belief, the City of Tomah and the Tomah Area School District are two separate and distinct government organizations with separate funding and budgets. Although both organizations share many of the same taxpayers, not all Tomah Area School District taxpayers are residents/taxpayers within city limits. The funding of the Tomah



Aquatic Center has no bearing on the funding of a high school, whether or not that high school is within city limits.

7. Why isn't there a YMCA in Tomah?

Please review the answer to FAQ #5.

8. Other municipalities have closed pools, like La Crosse Northside Pool, why is this happening across the State of Wisconsin?

Sadly, this is true. The City of La Crosse recently made the tough decision to close their Northside Pool due to the budget constraints that were mentioned earlier. The City of Menasha closed its pool in Jefferson Park due to the age of the facility and estimated repair costs. The City of Platteville also recently closed its aquatic center due to structural failures and long-term deterioration of the facility. The Milwaukee County Park System recently completed a study after closing multiple pools. The study concluded that Milwaukee County will need to either close the remaining pools or consolidate them into one facility to balance the budget moving forward.

In February 2019, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities commissioned a non-partisan research organization, the Wisconsin Policy Forum, to study the State of Wisconsin's municipal financing system to gain a better understanding of the budget constraints villages and cities face. The study was entitled, "Dollars and Sense," and identified that municipalities in the State of Wisconsin operate under the 7th out of 50 most restrictive state-mandated municipal funding systems in America and the most restrictive of all midwestern states. The study also identified that Wisconsin cities, villages, and counties operate under the 2nd out of 50 most restrictive state-mandated property tax levy limit regulations.

What this means is that Wisconsin municipalities are more reliant on property tax to fund state-mandated essential municipal services than 43 other states in the country. The State of Wisconsin requires villages and cities to provide the following essential municipal services to maintain their municipal corporation status:

- ❖ Law enforcement services (police department or contract with the County Sheriff)
- ❖ Fire
- ❖ Emergency medical service (Ambulance, must provide directly from city employees or contract through a third-party agency (privatization))



- ❖ Tax collection (Treasury)
- ❖ Run elections (Clerk)
- ❖ Water service
- ❖ Waste management
- ❖ Maintain roads and highways
- ❖ Provide administrative structure to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of these essential services

Due to the levy limit restrictions, the vast majority of Wisconsin municipalities struggle to keep their revenues on pace with the rising cost of expenditures. During the global COVID-19 pandemic, the country experienced historic inflation rates across multiple federal administrations. As the cost of fuel, lumber, steel, labor, and other material increases, municipalities across Wisconsin are forced to reduce or completely eliminate non-essential services to balance their budgets and ward off deficits that threaten to bankrupt the municipality. Below are some examples, not a complete list, of the rate increases that affected this year's budget for the City of Tomah:

Associated Appraisals City Assessor Contract:	+1.1%
Police Union Stipend Adjustments:	+2.5% (per year since last increase)
Ambulance Union Stipend Adjustments:	+2.5% (per year since last increase)
Non-Union Cost Of Living Adjustment:	+2.7%
CPI-Materials:	+3.1%
Baycom Police Radio Service:	+4%
WE Energies (City's natural gas bill):	+4.86%
Police Union COLA:	+5%
Vector Solutions Police Personnel Management:	+5%
Pace Scheduler Police Shift Management:	+5%
Lexipol Web-based Training:	+5%
Traffic Logix Speed Control Signs:	+5%
Wisconsin EMS Association:	+5% (per year until '31)



Alliant Energy (City's electric bill):	+5.4%
Monroe County Tax Processing Software (Catalis)	+6%
Ambulance Union COLA:	+6%
Ambulance Credit Card Processing Fee:	+7%
Federal Government Lodging Rate:	+8.9%
United States Postal Service Postage Rate:	+10%
Monroe County Landfill (where the City deposits garbage collection):	+10%
State of Wisconsin Election Materials:	+14%
State Health Insurance (ETF) – Quartz Single Plan (Monroe Co.):	+14.3%
State Health Insurance (ETF) – Quartz Family Plan (Monroe Co.):	+14.5%
League of Wisconsin Municipalities Membership	+15.3%
State Health Insurance (ETF) – Dean/GHC/Mayo Access Single Plan (Monroe Co.):	+22.1%
State Health Insurance (ETF) – Dean/GHC/Mayo Access Family Plan (Monroe Co.):	+22.4%
Police Overtime	+22.7%
Reconyx Graffiti Abatement Camera System:	+33%

The result has been that municipal budgets today stand in stark contrast to the budgets that residents remember from the 1980s through the early 2000s. Due to changes in Wisconsin laws, it is not feasible nor responsible to budget the same way that we once did.

9. Why does the City always cut things for children?

This is the first service that the City of Tomah has, unfortunately, been forced to eliminate that serves children, in addition to serving many adults. In fact, the City of Tomah repurposed its old fire and ambulance station into the Recreation Station Indoor Youth Fun Zone. The facility, designed and operated specifically for year-round activities for young children has been open for close to a year and a half.



10. Why did the City budget so much money to repair sidewalks over the past few years, but did not budget to make repairs to the Tomah Aquatic Center?

The City of Tomah balances hundreds of different programs, projects, and priorities through many different departments, commissions, committees, boards, bureaus, and authorities. Sidewalks are managed by the Public Works and Utilities Department in collaboration with the Public Works and Utilities Commission. The Tomah Aquatic Center is managed by the Parks and Recreation Department in collaboration with the Parks and Recreation Commission. The City Administrator presents a comprehensive budget to the Mayor and City Council for review and approval that seeks to balance a plethora of priorities and to ensure the full spectrum of municipal services are maintained to the greatest extent possible.

11. Why didn't the City build something like the Lunda Center in Black River Falls?

The Lunda Center is named after the Lunda family because they made an exceptionally generous philanthropic contribution that made the funding of the facility possible. Additionally, the Center is operated and maintained by a non-profit foundation, not the municipality of Black River Falls. The City of Tomah is ready and willing to work with any local philanthropists to replicate the Lunda Center here in Tomah!

12. Were there other problems associated with Tomah Aquatic Center?

The Tomah Aquatic Center is now closed due to the winter damage to the water lines that would require the City to drastically exceed the budget that it submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue in December of 2025. However, the facility has been in disrepair for many years. Other issues besides the water lines, water slides, and the net operating loss that it posts each year include:

- ✓ Decreased attendance to a catastrophic level:

Adult Memberships

2023: 17

2024: 14

2025: 13

Youth Memberships



2023: 46
 2024: 45
 2025: 22

Family Memberships

2023: 353
 2024: 383
 2025: 301

Daily Passes (Not including memberships)

2023:	195 lap swim/seniors	3,925 youth	1,879 adult
2024:	196 lap swim/seniors	3,783 youth	1,867 adult
2025:	153 lap swim/seniors	2,884 youth	1,396 adult

<u>Year</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Surplus(+)/Deficit(-)</u>
2023:	\$57,439.86	\$152,456.00	-\$95,016.14
2024:	\$52,203.38	\$150,682.00	-\$98,478.62
2025:	\$39,543.60	\$155,940.00	-\$116,396.4
2026 (budget):	~\$48,970.00	~\$147,572.00	~-\$98,602.00

- ✓ Difficulty recruiting lifeguards, which forced the pool to open approximately one month late in 2025.
- ✓ In 2025 alone, the pool leaked four feet of water overnight due to one of the leaks mentioned in the closure notice, resulting in unplanned utility cost to refill the pool.

13. Why are property taxes going up and services going down?

Please review the answers to FAQs #8 and #16.

14. Why were these issues not discussed with the public previously?



The issues affecting the Tomah Aquatic Center have been discussed publicly frequently over many years. These include, but are not limited to, Parks and Recreation Commission meetings, Committee of the Whole meetings, and Common Council meetings that are publicly noticed and open to the public. Many of these meetings provide a public comment period. Unfortunately, it is overwhelmingly common in municipalities across the country for the public to not notice issues that are frequently discussed in public meetings and published in public reports until the service is finally eliminated.

On Saturday 15 November 2025, the Committee of the Whole held an 8-hour budget hearing during which time the City Administrator and each department head presented an itemized proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026. During this presentation the concern about Tomah Aquatic Center and near zero margin of error regarding additional infrastructure problems was highlighted.

The meeting was noticed to the public and open to any member that wished to attend. The total number of members of the public that attended the meeting was zero.

A second opportunity for discussion with public was the following week when the City Council voted on the budget. This meeting contained a public hearing on the budget, which is required by Wisconsin law. The total number of members of the public that appeared to during the public hearing to highlight their concern about the budget for Tomah Aquatic Center was zero.

A third opportunity for discussion with the public was the following week when the City Council voted on a minor amendment to the budget. The total number of members of the public that appeared to discuss their concerns about the budget for Tomah Aquatic Center was zero.

15. It feels like Sparta and Black River Falls are thriving, but Tomah is going downhill; why?

Sparta and Black River Falls are great places to live, work, and play with thriving communities. However, we feel strongly that Tomah is better!

Each municipality in the State of Wisconsin is unique and offers different advantages and disadvantages depending on an individual person's needs, wants, and desires. Many residents in neighboring cities complain to Tomah City staff about challenges in their communities. It is reminiscent of the old saying, "the grass is always



greener on the other side.” The reality is that the City of Tomah is proud to offer many amenities and services that our friends in neighboring municipalities do not, such as:

1. Proud home of Ho-Chunk Members, Services, and Amenities: The Ho-Chunk Nation, whose tribal headquarters is in Black River Falls, maintains a substantial footprint inside Tomah’s city limits to include three Ho-Chunk neighborhoods, the Ho-Chunk Cinema, the Ho-Chunk Housing Authority, the Ho-Chunk Housing and Economic Development Authority, a Ho-Chunk Transportation Department office, the Ho-Chunk Nation Cultural Museum, and the Ho-Chunk Youth Community Center.
2. Immediate access to two different interstates (I-90 and I-94) that makes the City of Tomah the number one strategic road-based logistics hub in West Central Wisconsin.
3. Amtrak passenger rail station: 1 of only 8 in the State of Wisconsin. A downtown Madison station is projected to be completed by 2029, as announced by Amtrak and the City of Madison, which would connect Tomah directly to the State’s capitol by rail.
4. Municipal airport that services executives from Walmart, Cardinal Glass, etc.
5. Strong military community: 16-minute drive from the main gate at Fort McCoy and 19-minutes from the main gate of Volk Field. Fort McCoy announced in November of 2025 that an additional 15,000 soldiers will train on the installation in 2026, and that is in addition to the approximately 75,000 soldiers that are already scheduled to come through the base. The installation is also close to completing a \$55 million dollar barracks project to house the trainees. To support this increase in training capacity, the installation is expecting 3,000 new permanent personnel over the next year.
6. Proud and thriving veteran community: Tomah VA Hospital provides healthcare for our veterans not only here in Tomah, but for the region that includes municipalities such as Sparta and Black River Falls. Tomah boasts one of the highest veteran populations per capita in the State of Wisconsin!
7. Top notch healthcare: Tomah Health serves as a regional rural critical care hospital with a Role IV trauma center.
8. Higher education and vocational training opportunities: Downtown Tomah is home to a satellite campus of Western Technical College. The Tomah campus features the Medical Assistant and Human Services Associate programs. The city is also less than a 20-minute drive to the Western Technical College Public Safety Training



Facility which features associate degree programs for criminal justice, fire protection technician, and paramedic technician, as well as technical diploma programs including criminal justice law enforcement - 720 academy, EMT advanced, EMT basic, and EMT paramedic. The city is approximately 45 minutes from UW-La Crosse, and a little over one hour to UW-Madison and UW-Eau Claire.

9. Lake Tomah: Our lake serves as our recreational crown jewel, offering year-round water and other recreational opportunities such as fishing, boating, and kayaking. Kayak rentals are available through a City of Tomah program that began in 2025.
10. Tomah Recreational Trail System: Six miles of paved multi-use trails inside city limits.
11. Year-round sporting and recreational events:
 - Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull, the second largest tractor pull in America that draws as many as 70,000 people to the City, held on City property.
 - Downtown Thursday Nights, six consecutive Thursday nights in the summer featuring live music, vendors, and bounce houses and free face painting for kids that draws as many as 5,000 people in a single night to Tomah's historic downtown. The North American Squirrel Association sold over \$16,000 worth of \$1 dollar 50/50 raffle tickets during DTN events in 2025, with over \$8,000 worth being sold in one night alone.
 - Monroe County Fair, draws several thousand people to the City each year, held on City property. (Note: The City of Tomah is not the county seat for Monroe County.)
 - Packerland Rabbit Show: Largest rabbit show in the State of Wisconsin, held twice a year on City property.
 - Freeze Fest: Winter activities held each year on City property.
 - City of Tomah Farmers' Markets: Held on City property.
 - City of Tomah Recreation Station Youth Fun Zone: Recently completed renovation of City property, now equipped as an indoor fun zone for young children.
 - City of Tomah Senior and Disabled Services Center: Funded completely by the City of Tomah, zero funding provided by the Monroe County Aging and Disabled Resources Center (ADRC).
 - Kindness Community Classic.
12. Established corporate and industrial base:



- Two Walmart facilities: super center and nation-leading distribution center.
 - Cardinal IG: Currently completing a \$70 million artificial intelligence expansion of its current manufacturing operation.
 - Toro lawn mower factory and distribution center.
 - Kwik Trip: 3 stations within 11 square miles, including a full travel center with CAT scales.
 - Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Railroad office.
13. Thriving small businesses: The City of Tomah provides an annual grant program for small businesses to ensure they don't just survive difficult economic times, but thrive.
14. Smart Growth Principles: The City of Tomah has committed to following a development and growth strategy centered around the industry standard Smart Growth Principles:
- 1. Mixed land uses.
 - 2. Take advantage of compact building design.
 - 3. Create a range of housing opportunities and choices.
 - 4. Create walkable neighborhoods.
 - 5. Foster distinctive, attractive communities with a strong sense of place.
 - 6. Preserve open space, farmland, natural beauty and critical environmental areas.
 - 7. Strengthen and direct development towards existing communities.
 - 8. Provide a variety of transportation choices.
 - 9. Make development decisions predictable, fair and cost effective.
 - 10. Encourage community and stakeholder collaboration in development decisions.
15. Strategic, intentional economic development priorities:
- 1. Housing (see 2022 City of Tomah Housing Study that can be found at tomahwi.gov/ed)
 - 2. Downtown Revitalization
 - 3. "YMCA-like" Community Center
 - 5. Commercial Expansion
 - 6. Industrial Expansion
 - 7. Daycare
 - 8. AI Datacenter Research and Analysis
 - 9. Workforce Development



16. Why not spend less money on the Tomah Police Department instead of closing Tomah Aquatic Center?

Over the past 33 years Tomah Police Department has added just 3 additional sworn police officers. During that same period, the City's population has grown from 7,570 to 9,572. That is a population increase of 21%.

In addition to providing professional, ethical, and timely law enforcement services to the 9,572 residents of the City of Tomah, the City receives between 20,000 and 30,000 transients that enter city limits every day. These transients reside in neighboring townships like Town of Tomah, Town of La Grange, Town of Oakdale, Town of Adrian, Town of Wilton, Town of Warrens, Camp Douglas, as well as travelers stopping in Tomah to refuel during trips between Minneapolis, La Crosse, Eau Claire, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago.

What this means is that our 2 sworn patrol officers on shift, reinforced by 1 patrol sergeant, police at least 40,000 people inside city limits on any given day. On days when the Budweiser Dairyland Super National Truck and Tractor Pull comes to the City, TPD officers police over 100,000 people inside city limits with the assistance of law enforcement partners like the Monroe County Sheriff's Department.

Below are the sworn law enforcement officer counts by organization for the local area:

Monroe County Sherriff's Department:	29
Sparta Police Department:	24
Tomah Police Department:	21

During the month of April 2026, Tomah Police Department delivered the following law enforcement services for the City:

Calls for service:	1,227 (40.9 calls per day)
Traffic stops:	252 (8.4 per day)
Arrests/citations:	215 (7.17 per day)
Accident response:	20
OWI arrests:	3



During 2025, Tomah police officers handled 89 major crimes cases involving significant felony violations including, but not limited to:

Possession of Child Pornography	13
Sexual Assault of a Child	9 (including under 13 years of age)
Child Abuse or Neglect	5
Firearm – School Related	5
Homicide	4

Thus far in 2026, Tomah police officers have handled 42 major crimes cases involving significant felony violations including, but not limited to:

Possession of Child Pornography	2
Sexual Assault of a Child	7 (Including under 13 years of age and one case involving incest)
Child Abuse or Neglect	5
Firearm – School Related	5
Homicide	2

The City of Tomah is extremely proud of its officers and the fact that year after year they save several children from what amounts to a living hell. They are heroes to these children.

The City of Tomah currently uses the bulk of State of Wisconsin shared revenue (state income and sales tax revenue) to fill the gap in funding for the police department due to a lack of City property tax revenue. This is a funding structure that has been in place since 1911 when the State of Wisconsin created the first income, sales, and property tax construct in the country, with revisions to the property tax levy limit restrictions in 2006.

Due to these budget constraints, several operational expenditure cuts were made to the Tomah Police Department and every other department in the city this year. A total of \$2 million in expenditure cuts across all City departments were made for the Fiscal Year 2026 budget. Further reductions in funding would likely result in the department being unable to accomplish its assigned mission.



The City of Tomah is extremely grateful for our officers who put themselves in harm's way, and support staff necessary to operate the department, and will continue to ensure they are properly resourced within the State of Wisconsin's municipal budget constraints.

17. Why doesn't the City reduce employee wages and/or benefits and reallocate the funding to the Tomah Aquatic Center?

Public service as a local government professional is an extremely rewarding career. However, many of those "rewards" are intangible, meaning they come from the satisfaction of making a visible, direct, and positive impact on the community that you can see daily. Local government service is not regarded as a well-paid profession compared to many of the major employers in the local area and the region. The City of Tomah prioritizes taking care of the people that take care of our community by ensuring they are compensated with a competitive wage when compared to similar municipalities and through a benefits package that takes care of their families too.

The City remains committed to taking care of our employees and is developing new incentives to reward our highest performing team members, including additional monetary compensation. When any organization, and especially a municipality, decides to undercompensate its employees, the result is high employee turnover rates, employee burnout, and noticeable decreases in the quality of work due to employees desperately trying to do the job of two or three people by themselves... and failing.

Unfortunately, many municipalities succumb to the temptation and/or public pressure to devalue their people to solve intractable financial management challenges. The result hurts the community as much as the hard-working city employees that serve them. The City of Tomah is committed to placing a premium on our people that work so hard in service of the community.

18. Did the City explore grant opportunities to keep Tomah Aquatic Center open?

Every year, the City's Parks and Recreation Department applies for Wisconsin DNR, Andres Trust, and Earle Trust grants. Funds that were awarded increased the City's ability to keep the Tomah Aquatic Center open for another season. However, due to the compounding infrastructure degradation it has become unsustainable to continue operating Tomah Aquatic Center.

19. Can the City turn the facility into a skate park?



That is a great idea! It is certainly possible and will be forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission. Thank you!