

TOWN OF UNION

PRIVATE DRIVEWAY INFORMATION

The town board and emergency services associations (fire, ambulance and police) servicing the town have safety concerns of inadequate private driveways. Emergency vehicles do not have to travel on a driveway if whoever in charge determines it would not be safe or unable to drive on. They do make an effort to respond to the scene even though their vehicles are not able to do so. Some examples that create obstacles are driveways too steep, narrow, sharp curves, weak bridges, low tree branches, wash outs, etc. Emergency vehicles are now larger and weigh more requiring better roads than the older units. Safety is a major factor.

Driveway entrances are also a concern because of safety. There should be good visibility each way accessing a public road, not too steep and good drainage so as not to create a problem of debris washing onto the main road. If a culvert is required it is recommended to install one of adequate length 20 feet or longer in length, longer for trucks and 15 inches in diameter or larger if possible to drain properly. It should also be installed inward towards the property and deep enough to prevent damage from snowplowing and vehicles driving over the culvert ends.

It is important that residents be aware of this because sometimes these things are not considered before installing a new driveway. It is very important and in some cases may save lives if done properly. If planning a private drive we request contacting the town patrolman or a member of the town board to view the driveway site for assistance. We will try to help in any way we can to prevent future problems.

911/ADDRESSES AND SIGNS

There are properties in the town that do not have addresses. Vernon County does have a 911/Addressing Ordinance asking for properties to have addresses assigned. It is to your advantage to have a 911/address number assigned because in case of an emergency your location could be pin pointed immediately at the sheriff's office after calling 911 for response. Emergency services would then be notified to respond knowing where to go.

Procedure to obtain an address may be done by contacting the town chairman, any member of the town board, patrolman or Vernon County Sheriff's Office 800-637-2123. A request form done at the town level will have to be filled out followed by a GPS reading taken at drive way entrance off from the main road. Copy of the form will then be sent to the Vernon County Sheriff's Office with information forwarded to Lang Enterprises for assigning the address number. After we get the assigned number the town is responsible to install the sign and post. The charge for measuring and installing at present is \$70.00 for sign and post. In some cases a second sign may be needed at a cost of \$50.00 for sign and post. If post is not needed amount will be subtracted from billing.

