

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Thursday, January 9, 2014

The Town of Rushford January Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Gerald Schoonover, Patrick Kafer, Kathryn Lewis and Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 6 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of January Board meeting, the 2013 end of year board meeting & agendas was posted at the Town Hall, the Waukau post office, the Towns web site and the corner of K & E in Eureka. In addition, Notice of the Board meeting date change for the January meeting was published in the Oshkosh Northwestern on December 26th and January 2nd. Notices were mailed to Town Board members and the Zoning Administrator.

Clerks Report & Minutes: *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the minutes as presented for the December 4, 2013 Town board meeting. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance at the end of December in the general account is \$134,308.35. The balance at the end of December in the tax account was \$746,572.89. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.***

Payment of invoices: Peggy Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for January in the amount of \$14,228.72 for approval of payment. The garbage reimbursement for Jim Schoonover was questioned. Lewis explained that Mr. Schoonover refused to pay the fee for the land has been vacant for 1 ½ years. She explained that he would have to pay the fee, otherwise his tax would go delinquent. The Town would issue a refund at the January meeting. This was not acceptable to Mr. Schoonover so reimbursement was made at that time and approved at the end of the year meeting. Chairman Egan commented that it is the public's responsibility to inform the Town when a home is razed. It was suggested Mr. Timm could also inform the Town. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to pay January, 2014 bills as submitted. Motion carried.***

Hendricks stated that L&L was called for LP and requested approval to pay the LP bill in the 10 days for the discount. ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve payment in the timely matter to L&L Propane. Motion carried.***

Hendricks asked approval for \$5,464.38 to pay the Real Estate overpayments from the tax payments out of the Town's Tax Account. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to pay the refunds from the taxes out of the Tax Account. Motion carried.***

Public Input: Russell Lee, 4511 Eureka, Road Omro inquired if Friends, who do the snow plowing has a system on how they plow. Mr Egan stated that they plow the same way Radtkes did, but Radtkes started on one side of the Township, whereas Friends start on the other side.

Ellen Newman, 4552 Poygan Ave, Omro, shared that she observed the neighborhood where her daughter lives has a system where everyone has each other's email. That way if something would happen, all the neighbors would be contacted. This is something like a neighborhood watch utilizing email. She is lining this up in her neighborhood hoping it would help with the breakins in the area. Mr. Egan thought this was a good idea. He asked Mrs. Newman to report back on how it is working out at the next meeting.

Dean Kaderabek, 8605 Banner Hill, Omro, was present to give an update on the rewrite of the Town's ordinances. Since late summer, he has been working with WPS concerning the small & large wind farms. He is satisfied with the rewrite and has left in web content the proposed ordinances to put on the Towns site. He would like to schedule a public open house sometime in February, to allow the town residents to come and ask any questions and voice concerns. It was decided to have this meeting on Thursday, February 20th at 7:00. Dean will be at the Planning Meeting which is scheduled on January 29th. After this public meeting, suggestions will be gathered from the public, it will then go to the Planning & Zoning Committee on February 26th. It will then be sent to the Town Attorney & the County Zoning Administrator. It will then go to the Town Board for approval.

Communications & Correspondence: Tom Egan received from the Division of Transportation that the General Transportation aid for 2014 will be \$99,350.81.

Hendricks received an appreciation letter from Ripon Truck with a 5% discount on next purchase up to \$500.

Discussion of Town hall maintenance/needs: Hendricks said that the lights for the trees in front have not been working. It will be looked into. Hendricks also said the woman's toilet is not in operation. She will pick up the part and have it repaired. Lewis asked if the Town could get a different vacuum. She could not get the one that is at the hall to pick anything up. Hendricks brings one from home when she cleans the hall. Patsy Pomplun said if it is a bagless one, the filters should be looked at.

Tom Egan thanked Pompluns for the nice Christmas decorations in the front and also the Weiss family for the Christmas decorations on the pine trees in the front.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Tom Egan said there is a tree that is in the Road right away and a resident said he would cut it down for \$200. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to pay \$200 once the tree and brush is removed. Motion carried.***

Assessors Report: Hendricks read a letter from Larry Timm. He could not attend tonight's meeting, but he sent the current list of the 2013 property sales for the Town. He would like the board to go through the list and let him know if there are any concerns. Kafer had concerns about the Dobberstein/Jackson assessment and sale price. He also was wondering about the cell tower. Hendricks will call Mr. Timm and pass on the concerns.

Old Business: Chairman Egan read letters the clerk had sent to Mr Henning, 7398 Commercial St, Waukau, Roger Kasuboski and Mr. Schoeni which invited them to the January 29th planning/zoning committee. Mr Egan stated that Mrs. Henning called and wanted to come and talk to him in person. Tom said he will tell him he will still have to attend the meeting. Hendricks said that she took the Kasuboski file to the Town Attorney. Mr. Kasuboski had called her and she directed him to Mr Egan or Mr. Kasten. She did inform him that it would be in his best interest to attend the Planning/Zoning meeting. Attorney Blazel will be attending the meeting. He also sent a letter to Roger that included the Town's Planning codes & copies of the pictures that were given to the Town of his property.

Pat Kafer said he would not be able to attend the meeting on January 29th. Chairman Egan suggested that the committee members drive by and look at the properties that will be discussed. Mrs. Newman asked what he was in violation of. Mr. Egan summarized the problems that the Town has had with the 2 residents who have been invited to the Planning meeting.

Mr Egan went through the Town of Rushford Town Road Improvement Program Schedule that was sent into the County for the TRIPP funds.

New Business: Hendricks requested approval to join the WMCA with a yearly fee of \$50. ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve \$50 for WMCA membership for the clerk. Motion carried.***

The Erosion Control General Permit for 2013 is about to expire. This is needed for any road ditch maintenance. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the application for Erosion control general permit. Motion carried.***

Kathryn Lewis stated that tax settlement is due to the County by January 15th. The total is \$700,084.71 ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay the January tax settlement to the County in the amount of &700,084.71. Motion carried.***

Animal Report: Hendricks read over a letter and a bill for \$500 that was sent from Oshkosh Area Humane Society. This bill was for 10 cats and 1 dog that were bought in by residents. Hendricks called and then wrote them back informing them that we are under contract elsewhere and a bill would only be paid if an animal was bought in by our Animal Constable, our Town Constable or Town Chairman.

Reports of Attended Meetings:

1. Mr. Egan read the minutes of the End of the Year Board meeting where they pay all the bills for 2013 and allocate monies for 2014.

Upcoming Workshops and Meetings:

1. Rushford Planning/Zoning Committee meeting of January 29th, 2014 at 7:00

It was asked if anything has been done with getting the court/judge in partnership with the Town of Omro and the City of Omro. This has not been worked out yet and is still in the works.

Mr Egan stated that as a small community, we have to ask ourselves if we are prepared to take action on violations of our code. Anyone can have rules, but if they are not enforced, the Zoning Ordinances are just words. A judicial system for the Township would help with enforcement. Mr Kaderabek said he had been on the zoning committee for a long time. If a fine is issued, he recommends talking to them. First violation should be given 30 days for a response. 2nd violation will give 10 days to respond. If they do not respond, a citation is sent. Usually that will get the residents attention. Once those start coming, word gets out that the Town is serious about enforcing the Town's Codes. Tom gave an example where the Town issued citations and time to respond. It was then turned over to the attorney who had further contact. The situation was taken care of before any drastic action had to be taken.

The Erdmann property was bought up since they are in non-compliance with the Conditional use permit, but it is thought this property is in foreclosure. It was also thought someone is living there.

Jerry Schoonover asked what co-mingling was for garbage, for he had questions asked. Hendricks said we have been co-mingle and paper for a long time. The schedule is for each recyclable products to be picked up every other week.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to adjourn at 8:20. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk