

Rushford Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, January 6, 2016

The Town of Rushford January Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Patrick Kafer, Jerry Schoonover, Kathryn Lewis & Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 13 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

**Statement of Public Notice:** Notice of this meeting, notice of Special Meeting of the Board on December 11 & December 31<sup>st</sup>, and the tax collection dates was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K & E in Eureka, the Waukau Post office and the Towns website. Notices were sent to Board members and the Zoning Administrator.

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

**Treasurers Report** was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance at the end of December, 2015 was \$89,740.20. The balance in the tax account was \$770,285.11 *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover 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 \$12,794.34 from the general account for approval of payment and \$631,988.07 from the tax account to pay January tax settlements and real estate overpayments. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay January 2016 bills from the general account & the Tax account as submitted. Motion carried.*

**Public Input:** Dan Reyen, candidate for State Senate and from Fond du Lac, WI was present to introduce himself and to see if anyone had any questions. Mr. Pat Schoonover stated that he wanted it on record that at the budget hearing, he stated that he is against the Town having a contingency fund. He inquired who works on the budget, where the clerk replied the Board and herself. He thinks the snow removal on the back streets of Waukau is terrible for what the snow plowing bill was. He inquired how much attorneys were paid for 2015. Hendricks stated that it will be in the annual report and he could stop after the meeting for a number. He thinks that the public should see every bill that the Town pays. He would like to see copies of the bills on the website. Hendricks stated that she would not do that. At every meeting, there is a listing of bills for the month and also the bills that were paid the previous month. All this is public record and anyone can request public records from the clerk. He mentioned that Winnebago County was out plowing snow and was wondering if Friends were out plowing. Tom Egan mentioned that if certain roads were bad, a Town Board member should be called and they will check with Friends. He also said that when Friends goes through the villages for the first time, they use a pick up truck. They then go back to widen out from his understanding. Schoonover suggested getting the County next year. Egan said then we would get one truck. Schoonover then suggested Radtkes. Jerry Schoonover stated that a lot of trees went down in this storm which Friends had to remove before plowing. There were high winds and Tom Egan had 3 calls. Every time he called, Friends were out plowing. This year their contract is up and the Board will be taking bids. There are complaints with the County, Ripon Truck, Radtkes from others. Chuck Mier inquired why a list could not be compiled with roads that need extra attention. He inquired how much of a donation was made to Green Lake Co Shelter. Hendricks stated that a donation of \$50 was sent since animals were only taken there once this year.

**Communications & Correspondence:** Tom Egan read a letter sent by Winnebago Co pertaining to the matter of foreclosure of Tax liens for parcel # 022 0312 03, which is the Erdmann property. Hendricks read an email from the church group. They wanted to donate a coat rack, but have been unable to find a suitable one. They were wondering what the Board thought about a flag. Tom Egan said since it is their donation, it is completely up to them. Hendricks stated that she received two phone calls from the same person pertaining to snowplowing on Eureka Road.

**Discussion of Town hall maintenance/needs:** Tom inquired if there was a date set for the wainscoting to be put on in the hall. There has not been a time set yet. Pat Kafer will repair the light in the parking lot.

**Discussion on Town Maintenance:** Roads: Tom Egan stated that he will talk to Friends and inform them on problem roads. Jerry Schoonover said there were many trees and power lines down that had to be taken care of.

**Township discussion with Sheriff's Department Representative:** Sheriff Representative, Nathan Dahn was present to hear concerns from the public. Chuck Mier inquired how long they have been using tasers. Deputy Dahn mentioned it was before his time which has been 5 years. He thought around 10 years.

**Old Business: Blue Belle Subdivision Road work in 2016** – Tom Egan read the letter that the Clerk had sent out to each lot owner in the subdivision informing them of the meeting tonight. Tom Egan said that the Town will have this work done this year. The cost will be divided up by lots. The owners have a choice to pay for their cost all at once or pay over a 3 year time where the cost will be added as a special charge to their tax bill along with interest payment. It has not been decided on who will be doing the work or the exact cost. The bids that the Town has received are in the area of \$100,000. There are 26 lots. Where the old farmstead is – the work will be done, but will not be included in the payment owed or counted as a lot, for that is more or less their driveway. As soon as the work is done and the Town knows exactly what the bill is, the lot owners will be informed on their cost. The Town will be taking out a loan through First National Bank for the amount that is left after the lot owners who wanted to pay their share in full. As mentioned, for those lot owners who do not pay their amount in full, the amount due with interest will be put as a special charge on their tax bill for three (3) years. Derick Koch asked the bill included gravel. Tom Egan read one of the bids which did include the gravel for the shoulder, etc. The actual cost for the gravel was not listed. Charles Williams stated that he understands why the road needs to be done, but he thinks that there should be some information explaining why for the people who do not reside there yet so they know what they are paying for. Tom Egan asked if he was asking for a special meeting with everyone who owns lots. He explained that before it was left to the bank, the road was suppose to be finished, but was never done and one spot was just filled in. The road is starting to come apart and if something is not done, it will get much worse and be much more expensive. He was concerned about the machinery and trucks coming in while building is being done and the damage they might do to the road. Tom stated that according to our attorney, the State Statutes say that if a contractor rips up the road after it is done, the Town can go back to the company who did the damage and charge them for repair. Once the road is completely done, the Town will take over maintenance of the road. The work will start in spring/summer of 2016. It is the Town's #1 priority for 2016 and will be started as soon as possible. Tom Egan told the Clerk that a note should be added to the Building Report form explaining about the liability of contractors.

**Animal Report:** Chuck Mier had 5 dogs and some mileage. He has had complaints about chickens, but has not found them as yet. Mr Mier has had complaints, but has not actually seen the animals. Enforcement can only occur if the humane officer has observed the violation. Diane Handrich from the Winnebago Co Sheriff's department inquired where animals should be taken to if they cannot reach someone from the Town. It was decided they should go to the Green Lake Shelter.

#### **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Winnebago Co Comprehensive Plan regional input session – Dan Stokes went to this meeting and said there were no concerns from the public.
- Road meeting for WISLR forms on December 11th
- December 17 – TRIPP meeting – Jerry Schoonover reported.
- December 31 – End of Year meeting for Town Board – Minutes are in the back and on the town's web site.

#### **Upcoming Workshops and meetings**

- January 19<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 at the Town Hall – Board meeting with Martenson & Eisele (tentatively)
- Tax Collection at hall on January 30 from 10 – 2:30
- Election equipment workshop on January 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30
- WTA Winnebago Unit Meeting on Thursday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at the Nekimi Town Hall – guest speaker will be Glenn Grothmann. This meeting was originally scheduled for January.

Tom Egan said that the Board will be looking into applying for another TRIPP fund for River Road. The road is very bad and will be very expensive.

Larry Timm reported that he mailed out 49 personal property tax statements.

Tom Egan informed everyone that Albrights have been dynamiting in Michaels Pit.

The Board, Clerk and Treasurer audited the books.

***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to adjourn at 8:40. Motion carried.*** Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk