

Rushford Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, August 5, 2020

The Town of Rushford August Board meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Jerry Schoonover, Patrick Kafer, Kathryn Lewis & Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 8 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

**Statement of Public Notice:** Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K&E in Eureka, the Waukau post office and the Towns website. In addition, public testing of election equipment was published in the Oshkosh Northwestern.

**Clerks Report & Minutes:** *Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the July 1, 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.*

**Treasurers Report** was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of July was \$98,668.17 The balance in the tax account was \$1,956.64. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*** Chairman Egan inquired information on the 5 outstanding checks. Kathryn said there are two people whose checks are two years out. Julie Henke asked if the bank would cash them if they were out that long. It was found it makes no difference if the check says valid for 90 days, the bank will still cash them. It is expensive to stop payment. Kathryn has not sent letters to any of them, but she has talked to one of the people. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to send a letter to the two outstanding check payees, give them 30 days to respond. If they do not respond, it will go back to the General Account. Motion carried.*** Kathryn Lewis said one of the checks was written to Mark Jozefowski for \$45.40 which was lost and re-issued. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to void out the check to Mark Jozefowski since it was re-issued. Motion carried.***

**Payment of invoices:** Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for August in the amount of \$74,995.75. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to pay the bills for the month of August. Motion carried.***

**Public Input:** Pat Schoonover asked what work Freunds Excavating did during July. A lot of culverts were fixed/installed. He was offered to look at the invoice for the month. Mr. Schoonover asked if the road work was done for the year. Egan said we might be putting in two culverts on Poygan if we can get money from the County. Our budget is about done for the year for road work. There will be spraying on the brush that was cut by Paul Romer.

**Communication & Correspondence:** Hendricks read an email from Bill McNee, Forest health specialist from the DNR. He stated that there was a visual survey for emerald ash borer and noticed that the Town has 2 infested trees located outside of Eureka along CTY E and on the north side of Waukau. A letter was read from Glatfelter Claims Management for boiler equipment breakdown insurance claim payment for \$2850 which represents the replacement cost less the \$250 deductible. Tom Egan talked to Russ Pomplun from Blue Sky Nursery. He will remove and replant each of the spruce trees in front for \$350 each but will donate the replacements. He will also donate 2 deciduous trees if someone can remove the 2 existing dead ones. Kafer asked if there was money in the budget but Hendricks said she will have to do a year to date of the budget. ***Motion by Kafer to have the work done if there is money in the budget.*** Kafer thought about trying to pull the trees back. That was done previously, but they still tipped with the wind. Kafer said the insurance money was put in the general fund. He rescinded his motion. ***Motion by Kafer to use some of the insurance money to replace the trees. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover. Motion carried.***

**Town Zoning Report:** Tom has gotten a few calls from residents. Tom Jackson and Dan Stokes visited with the Town attorney to go over the ordinance changes. The attorney said that the property on 4653 Eureka Road which has the railroad ties close to the road should remove them for the Town could be liable if something happened. The attorney was not concerned with the grass length ordinance. The City of Omro has a maximum of 8 inches. If longer, the City will cut and bill the resident. The attorney will be mailing out

letters to the residents that were discussed last month. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to send a letter to the resident at 4653 Eureka Road to have him remove the 6x6 on both sides of the driveway citing it is a hazard and in the Town right away. Motion carried,***

**Old Business:** Hendricks stated that last month it was tabled to discuss sneeze guards for PPE at the elections. She did go and order the PPE so it would be available for the August election next week, for there is a grant for additional cost due to COVID which she will apply for. Hendricks has not applied for the grant yet. Egan said she should apply as soon as possible. After some research, we would have to wait until September 1<sup>st</sup> to apply.

**New Business:** Jerry Schoonover expressed that on some of the Town roads, there should be a speed limit sign and be lowered from 55 to 35 for safety reasons and enjoyment of residents. Last month there was a petition from the residents who reside on Morrow road requesting 35 mph signs between County Hwy K and State Hwy 91. Tom Egan said if we lower it on one, be prepared to have requests to lower on other Town roads. Resident Julie Henke stated that people enjoy walking on country roads. People use Morrow road as a short cut to get over to State Hwy 91. It is a hilly road and there are hidden driveways. It is dangerous to have vehicles going though at 55 mph. Tom Egan received an email from a resident suggesting the speed change on all of Morrow Road. Jerry Schoonover said the speed limit changes on Town roads should be a case by case decision. Kathryn Lewis said the trucks fly by her home from the pit to County Rd K on Bell School Road. Pat Kafer agrees with Tom Egan that many other Town roads might want to have their speed reduced. He is receptive to the idea. He asked if there were children on the road and this is a common problem. Dave Zouski stated that Morrow Road is narrower than others. He feels 55 is too fast because of the hills, the hidden driveways and he would hate to see someone killed. Maybe a speed reduction should be allowed by house count on a road. Julie Henke asked when Archery Drive had their speed limited reduced. It was about 3-4 years ago and since that, this is the first petition and request for a Town road speed reduction. There have been people who questioned, but no one has petitioned until this time. Jerry Schoonover does not think this is a huge expense for safety. The Police has indicated the 35 mph signs has slowed down traffic. Whereas 45 mph signs will have people traveling faster. There was discussion on lowering the speed on all of Morrow Road. From Hwy K to Cty E, there are only a couple houses and you can see visually all the way down. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Egan to lower the speed to 35 mph from County Road K to State Hwy 91 on Morrow Road and to install signs indicating hidden entrances. Motion carried.*** Friends will be asked to install the signs and put flags on the 35 mph speed limit sign.

**Discussion on Hall Maintenance:** The light in the parking lot should be repaired before the election next Tuesday for it is getting darker sooner. Kafer would like to put in LED bulbs. The hall parking lot was sealed and will be crack filled.

**Discussion on Town Maintenance:** The Town has gone about as far as they can because of funds. Jerry Schoonover asked if there is more tax money coming in. Kathryn Lewis explained we will get an August settlement. The Town did not go in on deferring interest payments on late tax payments – proposal 185. She said she thought out of 22 townships, 6- 8 did not participate. It was a Towns choice. She did not bring it up to the Board for she did not understand what was sent out. She thought if they could not pay their taxes by July 31<sup>st</sup>, could they pay them October 31<sup>st</sup>. Kafer said he did not remember any discussion on it. Kathryn said the County will work with people if they can not pay their taxes. Tom Egan said that the County agreed to do this, so he also thought all the Townships were included. It was not clear that this was something to be decided on a Town level.

Brushing will be done again in the fall. There were at least 2 roads that were not done. Ripon Truck started late and seemed to be in a hurry to get out. Tom Egan said we might look into someone else for next year.

**Building permits – Tom Egan:**

Steve Toll, W6180 Cemetery Road, VanDyne, WI for  
Lost Lane, Omro, WI  
New home by KC Meier Construction, Markesan  
2x6 walls, asphalt shingles, vinyl siding

Parcel #022 082401  
\$300,000 received 7/2/2020

Jesse & Kelly Domke, 3508 Bell Line Road, Omro  
30 x 40 Pole Shed addition by self  
Parcel #022 0376  
\$15,000 7-10-2020

Joe Malecki, 1308 Menominee Dr for  
Parcel #022 0608, 3327 Cty Road E, Omro  
New home, stick built 2436 sq ft, attached garage 984 sq ft  
Covered porch, built by Envision Building, Oshkosh WI  
\$320,000 7-10-2020

John Matz, 2664 Morrow Road, Omro  
Concrete Slab for gazebo by Joe Rasmussen Concrete, Pickett  
\$3700 7-8-20

Benjamin Butcher, 8054 Old E Road  
Siding & windows by self  
\$7000 7-7-2020

Lee Bartelt & Chesley Kafer, 3577 2nd St Rd, Omro  
Complete interior needed built by self  
\$90,000 7-12-20

Ben Olsen, 9206 Eureka Lock Road, Omro  
32 x 60 pole shed built by Dean Streblinski, Berlin  
\$45,000 7-14-20

Robert & Jean Bruce, 2603 Cty Rd E, Berlin, WI  
Metal roof done by David Mast & Associates, Cambria, WI  
\$26,000 7-20-20

Doro Family Farm, 9349 Bell School Road  
16 x 50 Lean to wall to milkhouse  
\$20,000 7-23-20

Jana & Casey Jeft, N3552 N29th Rd, Redgranite, WI for 9582 Liberty School Road, Omro  
36x46 Pole barn, wood frame, metal sides with attached lean to built by:  
Jason Zimmerman, Cobra Construction, N3853 Cty Rd E, Redgranite, WI  
Parcel #022 010602  
\$25,000 7-20-20

Ron Gehrke, 9016 Bell School Road, Omro  
26x32 built by Gehrke Construction, 9136 Bell School Road  
Parcel # 022 041401  
\$15,000 7-23-20

Deborah Hanford, 3428 37th Ave, Omro  
28x12 concrete slap with steps by Tanner Equipment  
\$4500 8-3-20

R&R Smith LLC, 7431 St Rd 91, Waukau, WI  
Remodeling inside, vamping deck, adding outdoor cooler built by  
Ray Smith, 2312 Bradley Rd, Pickett  
\$15,000            7-2-20

They wanted to add on to the front of the Shamrock but they can't because they are not far away enough from the road. They would like to add on to the east side, but it is not known if it would be considered a non conforming building. Tom Jackson said they might have to apply for a variance.

**County Report:** The County finally had their Annual meeting. There was a meeting over the masks and the first meeting was over 3 ½ hours and it was not even on the agenda. People are concerned and the majority are against it. There will be a health meeting on Friday and it is not on that agenda either. The airport had groundbreaking and part of the terminal is down.

**Reports on Attended meetings:** Hendricks met with Peter Ehlert, Winnebago Co Sheriffs office to go through the Town hall and the grounds for a safety assessment on June 16<sup>th</sup>. She met with him and was given the risk assessment. She will meet with the board before Budget time to go over the suggestions.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Election will be on August 11<sup>th</sup> and the WTA County Unit meeting will be held Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at Scott Park at 6:30. There will be no food service provided.

***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to adjourn the meeting at 7:55. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk

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