

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2020

The Town of Rushford November 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: 6 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of this meeting and the zoning Committee 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, notice of public hearing and testing of election equipment was published in the Northwestern.

Clerks Report & Minutes: *Motion by Schoonover 2nd by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the October 7, 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of October was \$45,176.49. The balance in the tax account was \$1,957.10. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

Payment of invoices: Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for November in the amount of \$40,291.88. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay the bills for the month of November.*
Discussion: Past Schoonover asked what the \$1,286.68 to Office Max was for. Hendricks stated it was for new tables and office chairs which the grants received from the Routes to Recovery paid for. He also asked what Friends were paid for through the month. Kafer said most of it was for patching of potholes, signs and reground asphalt. *Motion carried.*

Public Input: Pat Schoonover suggested that the Town of Rushford put out a newsletter 3-4 times during the year to keep residents updated through mail. Town updates are published on the website. He also suggested that the newsletter that comes with the tax bill include that 2021 is when the Town officials' terms are up and stating when caucus will be. He feels a lot of people do not go on the website and this might be the only opportunity they have for Town news. Kafer said at one time an extra newsletter was sent out and it was decided only to have annual newsletters sent with the tax bill because of the cost of postage. Kafer said that a lot of people tell him what is going on at meetings for they read the website. Kathryn Lewis mentioned that a lot of people do not read the newsletter in the tax bill. Hendricks also agreed with this, for last year the newsletter informed people they had 3 months to let the Town know what size garbage bins they wanted otherwise 95 gallon would be default if not notified. Bins were delivered and many people wanted the smaller ones but did not inform the Town for they said they did not read the newsletter. As far as dog licenses go, Kathryn puts dog licenses application along with the tax bill and newsletter. Kafer said it was a good idea but might not be cost effective just to resend what is published online. Kafer requested Schoonover to bring examples of the newsletters that Nepeskum sends out during the year.

Communication & Correspondence: Hendricks read a thank you letter that was received from the Omro Area Development Corporation thanking them for past years allocation of per capital funding and requesting to be considered for this year's allocation. Tom Egan said he got a call from Bob Wolff requesting the Town come out to look at the ditch above his house.

Town Zoning Report: Tom Egan said Tom Jackson is not here for he came down with COVID. Dan Stokes reported on the Town Zoning meeting that was held on October 28th. A public hearing was held for BigView Hill LLC and the committee discussed ordinance changes. (Zoning minutes are published on the website for more details.) Paul Stellpflug explained that he lives in the City of Omro and land was purchased in the Town of Rushford. It is their retirement plan to start a tree farm and build a home later. He would like to put up a shed before the home is built to store his equipment in. *Motion by Kafer to approve a Conditional Use permit for a 30x40 shed to be built before a home on parcel 22-003302 located at 7793 Liberty School Road, Omro, WI for Paul & Jennifer Stepflug – BigView Hill LLC. Motion 2nd by Jerry Schoonover. Motion carried 3-0.*

The unlicensed vehicle ordinance was discussed. The committee recommended to amend the current ordinance to allow 3 DOT unlicensed vehicles per residence for GA, LER and SER instead of per parcel. Tom The zoning committee suggested that an ordinance was not needed for grass length. If a complaint was turned in, the Town Clerk would send a letter stating a complaint was made and if they had a hardship to contact the Town. Tom Egan inquired that if there was not a complaint made, a person could have grass a foot high. The noxious weed ordinance was discussed. The Committee suggested that nothing is needed since this is covered by the State. Storage containers were also discussed.

Egan asked for clarification on vehicles. It was explained it was suggested for per residence and be DOT vehicles so this would exclude 4 wheelers, snowmobiles, etc 3 would be allowed on GA, LER and SER. Only 1 unlicensed vehicle is allowed on RR and HDR. He asked about demolition vehicles and project cars. It was asked if these would be classified as DOT vehicles. Pat Schoonover asked why the change. Kafer explained that the previous ordinance stated a number of vehicles per tax parcel. Some homes are made up of 2 or more tax parcels, therefore allowing a residence on for example 3 tax parcels, 9 vehicles instead of 3. Pat Schoonover suggested not changing the ordinance for the Town does not enforce the one they have now. **Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to amend the current ordinance to allow 3 DOT unlicensed vehicles per residence for GA, LER and SER. Motion carried 3-0.**

Egan said he has a problem with the decision on grass length. Letters have been sent to people who do not mow their lawns and if nothing is done, there is nothing the Town can do. He feels that if there is nothing in the ordinances, all we can do is send a letter requesting them to mow. Kafer asked what the County had. Egan did not know for sure, but there is a certain length where the grass can not exceed. Kafer said the committee decided that if this was done, someone would have to go and measure grass. Letters are sent to inform people their grass is too high so they are aware. Dan Stokes said the committee had a hard time on this. It was wondered who was going to set the height and who was going to do it. Some people enjoy their lawns to be prairie gardens and grasses. Egan feels if you have an ordinance, at least you can send a letter where you can do something. Jerry Schoonover asked what height a person would recommend. Kafer said it is hard to send letters and fine a person if there is a hardship. Hendricks said no complaints were made this year, so no letters were sent. Jerry Schoonover said there are usually two properties the Town gets complaints about. This year no complaints were made. Egan said that probably was because the Town can not do anything. **Motion by Kafer to table this and send it back to the zoning committee the next time they meet. It should be checked what other Townships have for a grass length ordinance. Motion 2nd by Schoonover. Motion carried 2-1.**

Tom Egan said that he has been giving out building permits for storage buildings. Kafer said that all building improvements over \$999 requires a building permit. **Motion by Kafer that if it is not a temporary pod or unit, a building permit would be required if over \$999. Motion 2nd by Schoonover.** Discussion: Dan Stokes asked what is temporary. 60 days was agreed upon. Pat Schoonover asked if someone had one, if it would be grandfathered in. The Board said no, but if a unit is there, a new building permit would not be required. The assessor said he is taxing the units. **Motion carried 3-0.**

The committee felt that storage container homes would need all permits & inspections required and be allowed though a Conditional use permit where it can be looked upon a case by case basis. A site plan would be required along with the building permit. Jerry Schoonover wondered why Waushara County allows trailers but not storage container homes. Egan thought we should check with Waushara County and inquire why this was. At this time in the Town of Rushford, if a person has 50% or more of their wages from a farm, they can live in a trailer. A Conditional use permit is required case by case instances where someone wants to live in a trailer temporary. **Motion by Kafer to table this until more information can be researched. If a conditional use permit came in for one, it would not be approved. 2nd by Schoonover.** Discussion: Pat Schoonover suggested these are new and people cannot quite envision what there are. Pictures would be desired. Kafer said that is why the committee decided on a CUP, for a site plan, drawing of home, etc would needed to be included. Egan said for the next zoning committee meeting, pictures of some of these units would be helpful. **Motion carried 3-0.**

Pat Schoonover thought the Town should follow up on someone possibly living in trailer for they are working for the family at the Kasuboski property. He thought it would need to be moved after 30 days. Egan said he goes by, but it is not known for sure if anyone is living there. It does look like the resident is getting ready to build for there is equipment and materials there now. Tom Jackson will check on this when he gets better.

Hendricks stated that Tom Jackson said that he talked to Attorney Sondalle about representing us against Kasuboski. Attorney Sondalle said he was too busy and is not able to. Tom Egan said he will talk to Attorney Blazel and see if he could get a recommendation. Egan asked if he found someone if he would have the authority to hire him. Egan mentioned Attorney Culp who the Town had hired previously, but Hendricks stated he is not with the firm any longer.

Old Business: Tom Egan stated that on 3107 Quarry Drive, there is a trailer where a letter was sent to over a year ago. Egan had talked to him and Mr. Hess told him he would have it cleaned up and sold by this past summer. Egan knows that there are 2 people attached to the property that is interested in purchasing it. ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to have Hendricks send a letter requesting he contact Tom Egan pertaining to 3107 Quarry Drive. Motion carried 3-0.*** Egan asked Hendricks to explain how the COVID grants were going. Hendricks said there was over \$26,000 granted to the Town of Rushford. There are 3 submittal dates with one left. Payment has been made from the first two. The last reporting period ends November 17th. Some of the items purchased were new tables and chairs, cleaning agents and machines, toilets, router for hall, printer, racks for storage, picnic tables, vacuum, touchless soap dispensers, rugs, touchless hand dryers, new glass in the office doors, etc.

Discussion on Town Hall Maintenance: 2 new trees have been donated and planted by Blue Sky Nursery at the hall. A thank you card has been sent. DKAL will be coming to install the hand dryers.

New Business:

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Friends has been patching potholes. The one on Ferry Lane that was bad, has been done. Egan called the County for Job Road. The Board will be going out early to inspect the roads.

Building permits - Tom Egan:

Lucas Neitzke, 8793 Cty Rd K, Omro WI
12 x 20 pre fab storage shed built by self
Parcel # 022 0635
\$5,000 10-8-2020

BigView Hill LLC - P. Stellpflug, 411 S Webster St Omro for
7793 Liberty School Road, Omro
Excavation - driveway and park area built by Jacobson Contracting, Oshkosh
\$11,800

Chuck Mier, 8588 Banner Hill Rd, Omro
Replacement window by Feldco Factory Direct
\$1,193 10/13/2020

Don & Teri Wagoner, 3094 Quarry Drive
Shingle roof
\$6,000 10/28/2020

Don Wettstein, 2943 Cty Rd E
2943 Cty Road E, Eureka
Replace mixer valve, remove tub and replace by Bath Fitter
\$7,000 10/26/2020

County Report: They just finished up with the Budget. Taxes are down a little bit this year. The County had the 2nd best borrowing rate in Wisconsin. Park View received the best nursing home for the 2nd year in a row. They will be discussing the health officer this month.

Reports on Attended meetings: The Town of Rushford had 1124 registered voters and there were 1041 voters for the November election. 401 of those were absentee ballots and 121 in office voters. For comparisons, in 2016 November election we had 77 absentee voters.

Upcoming Meetings:

Budget workshop to be determined.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
