

Rushford Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, May 5, 2021

The Town of Rushford May 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 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 Open Book, Notice of Board of Review and Request for Insurance Bids for insurance was posted in the Oshkosh Northwestern.

**Clerks Report & Minutes:** *Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the April 7, 2021 board meeting. Motion carried.*

**Treasurers Report** was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of April was \$288,559.53. The balance in the tax account was \$1,662.43. *Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

**Payment of invoices:** Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for May in the amount of \$17,419.39. *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to pay the invoices for May. Motion carried.*

**Public Input:** Pat Schoonover, 2575 Hwy 116, Omro, said that there have been a lot of complaints about his neighbor. He thought you had to have at least 5 acres to have animals on their property. He thought she had 3 acres at the most. She has chickens, cats and dogs running loose and barking. He didn't know if the Town could do anything about it or penalties for people breaking ordinances. Tom Jackson said those are considered household animals and the Town has how many animal units are allowed. It was suggested the Clerk send her a letter about the complaints.

He asked about the Kasuboski property. Tom Jackson said the Attorney is working on this with a new Attorney. He has to go back from the first complaints and ordinance violations. It does not appear that he is living there, but no one knows for sure. Tom Jackson will stop over there to talk to him.

Art Rathjen from Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corporation dropped off the Annual Report. He had an update about the grant that was submitted to the USDA. They have not heard back yet. Tricia Rathermel has been named the CEO of the Team. Art also gave a rundown of what the organization is for people who were not at last month's meeting. It was asked if the County is down in job placements, which they are slightly. They sponsor job sharing ride program and has done over 4000 rides getting people to work.

**Communication & Correspondence:** Hendricks read a letter from Ayres offering assistance completing the WisDot WISLR ratings of roads which is done every two years. The flat fee was \$2500. At this time the Board rates the roads along with the County and the Clerk submits the information to the WISLR database. Kathryn Lewis had the contract MSB who would be providing the service of online payments of taxes. The cost is \$450, but that will be reimbursed to us. We would still have to pay \$99/year for maintenance fee. They will need to know by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Tom Egan said it was not on the agenda to approve. Hendricks said the Board made a motion to approve it. Egan said the motion was made to approve as long as there was not any additional cost. *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to table this until the June Board meeting. Motion carried.*

**New Business:** The Town advertised for insurance bids. Two bids were submitted by Rural Mutual – Andrew Ballard, and Horton Group – Michelle Strauss. The Clerk sent both a booklet of Insurance Bid Specifications and a premium summary sheet to be filled out so comparisons could be made. The bid booklet was returned by The Horton Group. Rural Mutual presented a Summary of Coverages and premiums, but not the bid booklet as the posting stated. Tom Egan invited both to talk. Michelle Strauss was first. She explained the company, herself, the services, the insurance bid specifications and the premiums. She made some comparisons between their coverage and Rural Mutual. The total premium summary was \$5,222 including

workman's compensation. Andrew Ballard presented his proposal of summary and coverages. He did not send in the Insurance Bid Specifications that was specified in the posting by the required date. The total package including workman's compensation was \$4586. The difference he stated was cyber insurance. Hendricks said from what she could understand from trying to compare the 2 policies, the big price difference came in Public Official Liability Coverage. It was explained that this was because coverage in one policy would cover claims from previous years where one would not cover anything before June 1 of 2021. Kafer asked Andrew if his policy covered everything that was included in the Bid package. Andrew said it does not. Rural Mutual is a Wisconsin company where Glatfelter is a larger company and can offer more bells and whistles. Tom Egan asked both representatives to explain why they would purchase one over the other. They both expressed their opinions. Hendricks was concerned about coverage from virus and hacking into computers. In recent times, there have been several neighboring Townships that have been hacked into and had cost thousands of dollars to restore and get safeguards back in place. **Motion from Kafer to grant the bid of insurance to Horton.** Discussion: Kafer said a bid form was sent to both and Rural Mutual did not fill out the form so the Board could compare apples to apples. Horton had met all the specs and unfortunately Rural Mutual did not. **Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover. Motion carried.** Tom Egan thanked both companies for their bids and coming to present their policies.

**Town Zoning Report - Tom Jackson:** Tom Jackson had found the information that Pat Schoonover asked about animal units per acre. 5 household animals are allowed per acre in a confined area. Tom Jackson will stop and talk to the neighbor, but it does look like she is well within the animal units per acre. There is just a question about the confinement. It was also asked if the dogs were licensed. It was mentioned that the dogs bark a lot. Kafer asked if the Town or our animal humane officer has had any complaints. Hendricks said that there have been none that she has heard of.

**New Business:** Culvert aid applications have come out and are due by July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discussion on Hall Maintenance:** Hendricks asked Jim Moore if he would be able to assembly picnic tables that have been purchased and he said that would be great.

**Discussion on Town Maintenance:** The road tour report was just sent out today. The Board will go over them to discuss what roads and cost would be.

**Building permits - Tom Egan:**

Dan Carpenter, 8718 Liberty School Road, Omro, WI  
Shed addition built by self  
\$3,000                    4-10-2021

Barbra Winkler, 9112 Liberty School Road  
10x10x10 used lumber built by Andrew Monroe  
\$1000                    4-14-2021

Roger & Marjorie Langeberg, 8155 Cty Rd K, Omro, WI  
Home repair and replace patio doors by Wrightway Home Improvements, Fond du Lac  
\$9,471.64                    4-15-2021

Theodore & Kathryn Twet, 151 Spring St, Berlin, WI for 3362 Hwy E, Omro  
New home with attached garage, poured foundation, vinyl siding, steel roofing.  
\$260,000                    4-20-21

**County Report:** Tom was at a meeting last night. The new County Executive fired the highway commissioner on his first day and has been meeting with the others from the Highway department and others departments, he is proposing to have more people in his office to get the work done. They are giving tours

out at the airport. They plan on having EAA, but no set plans are made as yet. They are working on Sawyer Creek problem.

**Reports on Attended meetings:**

Hendricks reported on the Annual Meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>. The Annual meeting booklet is available at the Town hall for anyone who would like one.

**Upcoming Meetings:**

Board of Review May 14<sup>th</sup>, 5 pm – 7 pm

***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 8:05. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk

---