

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, September 6, 2023

The Town of Rushford September Board meeting was called to order by Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Tom Egan, Pat Kafer, Jerry Schoonover, 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.

Clerks Report: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the minutes from August 2, 2023. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of August was \$244,172.57. The balance in the tax account was \$2,005.92 ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.***

Payment of Monthly Invoices: *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve and pay \$420,628.52 for invoices for September. Motion carried.* Included in this amount was a bill for Northeast Asphalt for \$360,824.44 which was voted on last month but paid after the work was done on August 23, 2023.

Communications & Correspondence: The Board received a letter from Carol Hildebrand asking for an explanation on why Liberty School Road and Stone School Road was resurfaced and not Spring Road. She explained the road is in a bad way and it only gets patching. Egan said his answer on that is that when they got the money from the Spirit Fund, there was enough to do Stone School Road. On the road tour, the Board and the County thought it needed to be done. Schoonover said it was nice to finish the road. Liberty School Rd was supposed to be done last year, but the County didn't get it done. This year we went with Northeast Asphalt. They were able to get the roads done and at a less expensive price. Kafer said we can't do all the roads and next year the roads will be revisited for next years work.

Hendricks read a letter from State Representative Michael Schraa informing us of the big changes to state aid because of Assembly Bill 245. The Town of Rushford will receive \$57,780 or a 186% increase in shared revenue.

Hendricks received a notice from the DNR that Justin Wilke was approved a General Permit to construct a landscape pond at 3207 Quarry Drive.

Hendricks read an email from Town County Title Company pertaining to the sale of 2598 State Road 116 regarding a vacated alley. There was a Quick Claim Deed for the South side, but there was not a Quick Claim deed for the Northside. There were resolutions that were submitted in 2004. Attorney Blazel stated a Quick Claim Deed is not needed to transfer title.

Egan said he received an email from Nancy Plank on Lost Lane. A few years ago the Town wanted to go though and cut down trees on Lost Lane, but they did not want those cut. The trees are dying now and she called to see whose responsibility it was to have them cut down. Egan looked and some of them are in the Towns right away.

Egan received communication from Ray Ellis stating that there are trees hanging over on Fox St and they can not get their farm equipment though. We will have someone look at it.

Public Input:

Pat Schoonover said on Fox Street, Ripon Truck does not mow that. Egan thought maybe they thought that it was part of the Village. Schoonover said the Town of Nepeuskun puts their board meetings on zoom and thought the Town should consider that. Egan said that the School Board meetings are not on zoom, but County Board are. It has been discussed at one time, but there was not enough interest. It can be revisited. Egan thought they were the only Town around the area that does that. The Town of Omro and City of Omro does not. To enable zoom calls, there would have to be enough bandwidth at the hall.

Old Business: Pertaining to action against parcel 022 0968 – Curt Carlson for unsafe buildings and violations, and 022 0865 – Larry & Denice Spencer for cleanup and violations. Hendricks read an email from Attorney Blazel, for Egan had asked him if the Town could go onto a property and abate a nuisance without a court order. Basically, the answer is no. The Town will need to begin a court action to address the situation. You can choose whether to ask the court for fines only or ask the court for an order to clean up the property. Jackson said he sent a 2nd batch of pictures to the Attorney. He thought the Attorney did file claims for fines. Kafer said that there should be fines imposed though the winter and on May 1, 2024 if nothing is done, see if we can go and clean up along with a court order. He stated he does not think the Town wants to get into the business of cleaning properties. Egan will call Attorney Blazel to get more information and clarification.

New Business:

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the picnic license for Waukau fest on September 9, 2023. Motion carried.

The Joint Powers agreement renewal which is required by State Statutes will be tabled until October Board meeting. It is due November 10th.

Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson: Jackson had pictures of a trailer on Morrow Road. This trailer belongs to Deb Davy. It seems to be abandoned.

Pertaining to the Kasuboski property. He wrote to the Town that recreation vehicles can be on the property and that all vehicles are registered. The Attorney said he could have 2 travel trailers there. If you were to live in them, a person can up to 30 days then it would have to be moved. Kasuboski said he does have a primary structure there. The fines should of started on this property. The Owner said he will start on house once building materials come down. Egan said he never got any building permit. Egan asked if he could run a business out of there. Jackson said he can run an office and 25% of his home. Jackson said that could be another violation. Jackson will call the Attorney to make sure he is receiving fines. It was asked if he did not get a building permit, can you issue a stop work order until one is received. He is living out of the camper and has a well and septic report.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: It was asked who is responsible for the blacktop and culvert that went in on Broadway St. Kafer said it goes across the road, so the Town should pay for it. Friends said the cost should be on the homeowner for it was them who wanted the culvert put in. Jackson said the homeowner did say they would take care of the blacktopping after it settled. Friends will blacktop both (Broadway and Bell School Road) and send the bill to the Broadway residents.

Friends said the ordinances should be changed, for it is stated a 15” culvert has to go in and it should be changed from 15” to “current situation”. This can be bought up at the Annual Meeting.

Anvil Custom submitted a bid to mulch both sides of Fox St, from South St to Hwy 91. It will be done in the next couple weeks and will not exceed \$1800. ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to***

hire Anvil Custom to do the mulching on Fox St. Motion approved. It was mentioned to not fill in the little creek that is there, and to also watch for survey sticks.

Building Reports:

Lee & Chelsey Bartelt, 3577 2nd Rd, Omro, WI
Rebuilding 3 bedrooms upstairs, 2x4 and sheet Rock by Ripon Area Building
\$20,000 Parcel # 022 0510 8-8-2023

Joel Bartelt, 3044 Cty Rd K, Omro, WI
Demo existing home and new single-family dwelling, 28x44 Foundation by Dowling Construction
\$545,275 Parcel 022 1526 07-20-2023

Seerigo Gonzalez, 8752 Ann St, Omro, WI
Concrete and level garage, siding & roof by self
\$6500 Parcel 022 1534 8/15/2023

Jeff Doro, 7877 Liberty School Rd, Omro, WI
12 x 20 deck construction built by self
\$4500 Parcel 022 003304 8-22-2023

County Report: The Town of Rushford was the 1st municipality to get the Spirit Fund application submitted. At the next meeting, they will be discussing where the interest and the rest of the 10 million dollars will go. The County Board has the final say. The County wants to raise their per diem pay by quite a bit. They are restructuring committees. Egan is worried about the representatives from the Towns. Paul Dunlap from the Highway department and his wife who was part of County groups were killed in a motorcycle accident. They will be missed very much.

Attended meetings:

There was a meeting on August 31st with the municipalities that use the Ambulance service at Algoma Town Hall. Oshkosh would like to raise per capital from \$3.60 to \$19.62 for 2023, \$27.29 for 2024 and \$33.52 for 2025. They would also like to get another ambulance in 2025. According to the meeting, they serve 92,000 total. 28,000 is the Towns number. There will be upcoming meetings, for time is short. They do a great job, but it is thought that the worksheet figures are not correct. It does seem that we are also paying for part of the fire protection. There is a lot to sort though.

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

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
