

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, January 4, 2023

The Town of Rushford January Board meeting was called to order by Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Jerry Schoonover, Kathryn Lewis & Peggy Hendricks present. Pat Kafer was excused. 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 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 hearings and the Town Caucus was published in the Northwestern.

Clerks Report: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve the minutes from December 7, 2022. Motion carried. Motion by Egan, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the minutes from the Board end of the year meeting on December 30th. Motion carried. Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve the changing from the Oshkosh Northwestern to the Omro Herald for the Town of Rushford public notices. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of December was \$194,510.26. The balance in the tax account was \$849,890.27 ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.***

Payment of Monthly Invoices: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve and pay \$18,692.76 for invoices for January. Motion carried.*

County Emergency Response Protocol/Eureka Dam Issue: Mike Butler, 9105 Eureka Lock Road addressed a couple issues in continuance of last months meeting. He had reached out to law enforcement to address problems of emergency response protocol and the Eureka Dam. Present was members of the Berlin Boat Club, Captain Greg Cianciolo of Winnebago Co Sheriff's Department, and Bob Hoodie from the Department of Natural Resources. The discussion was how 3 adjoining Counties communicate together. This discussion was because of a fugitive who was on the run last November. The residents did not know they could have been in possible danger and was wondering how they could bring better communication to the residents. The representatives from Waushara and Green Lake were not present. Each County has a different program where residents can sign up for alerts and notifications. Winnebago Co explained if you go to the County website, there are two different ways to sign up for AlertSense. You can receive alerts by cell phone or email. They also have a program where they can ping every cell phone for dire emergencies. Butler would like to know if the other 2 Counties had an alert system to sign up for. Waushara County and Green Lake County has a CodeRed alert system for people to sign up. Art Rathjen from Greater Oshkosh said many of new phones will also do this by going to notifications on certain phones to receive emergency alerts. This is a different notification system then what the County has. Mike Butler would like to have something written up to put on the website so residents know how to do this.

Bob Hoodie from the DNR and representatives from the Eureka Lock were present to discuss the problems occurring at the Lock and the Dam. There are vehicles going down at all hours. Some are spinning donuts and ripping up the fields and possibly doing things they should not be doing. Residents were wondering if during the winter, the road could just be blocked off. Mr. Hoodie explained that this area is a DNR Fisheries area and therefore remains open at all times to the public. It cannot be closed to the public. Several ideas for solutions included cameras for surveillance, lighting and/or signage. Residents would like more law enforcement present. Captain

Cianciolo pointed out that they were there 138 times in 2022, 113 of those were their proactive enforcement, and out of that, they took enforcement action 50 times. The County handles 44,000-55,000 incidents a year. They are open for discussions on what more can be done, but the County has a large area and staffing problems. That area is owned and maintained by the State. The County has jurisdiction to enforce the laws as do the DNR wardens and the state patrol. Captain Cianciolo said to call 911 or the Sheriffs non-emergency line and they will get someone out there, although response time might vary given to the large geographic area the County has and the number of patrols out.

Guest Speaker – Adam Ereest from Winnebago Co Parks Department: Mr Ereest was present to go through a presentation of the 2023-2024 Waukau Dam Capital Improvement Project. This material was delivered to the County Board the previous night outlining rehab features, funding options and timing of the workflow. Funding would come from Winnebago County, outside funding and grants. Some of the areas have been eroded by washout due to heavy rain, regulating the level of the pond, deterioration of the man made structures such as the cat walks, safety concerns coming into the trail system off HWY 116 and lighting. This is a unique project and the area provides recreation such as fishing, walking trails, bicycle trails, a fishing dock, 3 dams and also a reservoir for the Omro Rushford Omro Fire Department to fill their tankers. If anyone is interested in the Power Point presentation that was given, they can contact the Town Clerk.

Public Input – Bryce Pomplun, 3175 County Rd E, was present to express concern on the trailer on Quarry Road. His property connects to the back side and he brought in pictures of the deterioration and condition. Egan said that for the February Board meeting, Attorney Blazel will be present, and this will be addressed next month with legal council. Jim Moore said he noticed that a lot of areas that had snow fence, no longer does and he was wondering if the County stopped putting snow fence up. Tom Egan said he will find out, for he noticed that also. The DNR posted a sign that said Eureka Public Assess with an arrow that is missing. He asked if the Town or County Hwy department did that. Egan said if it is on the Town road, then he has permission to put the sign back up or ask Friends do it.

Communications and Correspondence: Tom Egan thanked Freund Excavating for the good job of opening up the roads after the last snow storm.

Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson: The Zoning Committee met on December 28. They approved and recommended to the Town Board to approve the Conditional use permits for Karen Hess and Richard Potratz for storage containers. The Ansay property was discussed. This will be discussed next month when Attorney Blazel will be present. Other old business was having a building inspector for remodeling. Marty Johnson does the inspections and he said only 2 Townships in Winnebago does not have him to inspect remodeling jobs after completion.

New Business:

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve a conditional use permit for 2 storage containers for Richard Potratz, 4409 Eureka Road, Omro, Parcel #022 015101. Motion carried.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve a Conditional use permit for Karen Hess, parcel #022 0353 for a 40' storage container on a gravel pad located at 37th Ave, Rushford, Wi. Motion carried.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to have Friends do our road work in 2023 and approve the new equipment rates of 20% for 2023 from Freund Excavating. Motion carried.*

Old Business: Hendricks received information from Green Lake animal shelter pertaining to a contract with the Town to bring in stray dogs. They would set up an animal fee with it being the same cost for dogs or cats. The Town does not have a cat ordinance and is not supposed to bring stray cats in, but Chuck Mier had done so previously. Municipalities can bring in stray dogs and if a resident bought in a cat, the shelter would determine if the cat is a stray or not. Stray animals are not billed. If it is, the Town would be billed and if the Town brings in a cat, the Town would be billed. The fee could be discussed, but they think \$75/animal fee is reasonable. Previously the Town was not billed. The Board suggested contacting Neenah and Oshkosh to see what the cost might be.

County Report: The County would like to add a zoning map amendment for the Wittman Regional Airport. *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to approve and sign the zoning map amendment for Wittman Regional Airport and Winnebago Co. Motion approved.*

Attended Meetings: The Board had an end of the year meeting to pay the final bills for 2022. The Board approved \$40,389.78 for final 2022 bills, \$50,000 to Freund Excavating for future work and \$50,000 in a contingency fund for road work that was scheduled for 2022 but delayed.

Upcoming Meetings:

Winnebago Town association unit meeting on Jan 5, 2023 at the Town of Winneconne.
Town Caucus on January 14th at 9 am

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Egan to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
