

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, September 4, 2024

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, Jerry Schoonover, Katheryn Lewis & Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 10 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of this meeting, notice of public hearing and the zoning 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 to approve the minutes from August 7, 2024. 2nd by Kafer. Discussion: Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Katheryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of August was \$178,930.44.. The balance in the tax account was \$2,127.16 *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 \$51,455.34 invoices for September.* Discussion: Kafer asked if Northeast was all paid. Chuck Freund asked what the bill was to Northeast for \$14,163.98. Hendricks said she called for on the bill it said it was a retainer, and the Town has never paid a retainer before. ***Kafer rescinded the motion to pay the bills for September but to hold Northeast invoice until it is totally explained. 2nd by Schoonover. Motion carried.***

Public Input: Steve Wolff asked what the protocol was to issue a permit for fireworks especially if they know there are people in the surrounding area with serious issues. Egan stated there is no protocol in the Towns ordinance. Under code, officials could not restrict landowners using fireworks on their grounds if they receive a permit which the Chairman issues. Mr. Wolff stated it is an issue of respect. It sound affects neighbors. Egan said he can't promise anything, but the Board will discuss this issue. Mr Wolff stated he was going to start shooting varmints late in the evening and it is completely legal. At times the discussion was heated and emotional. Egan thanked him for his service and his time.

Communications & Correspondence: Hendricks received an email from Dale & Bev Bev Gruszyuski, 9002 Stone Road, Omro pertaining to vaping in establishments where smoking is illegal. The residents were told that Winnebago Co prohibits electronic smoking devices in Winnebago Co and this ordinance shall apply in Winnebago county instead of the definitions in the state statues. They were wondering why business do not enforce this. Hendricks said she was unaware of this in Winnebago Codes. She feels some communication should of came from the County to inform the clerks and the businesses. Since the clerk sends out the liquor and tobacco invoices and licenses, she feels if she known, she would of communicated with the businesses. People are vaping without realizing it is illegal. Mrs. Gruszyuski would like to see informational signage to be placed in the establishments. Egan said the signage is going to have to come from the County. Kafer said that with the yearly health inspections the establishments have, would be a good channel to communicate with owners and get the information out. It was suggested to have them contact the health officer – Doug, or Ann Boyce along with inspection staff which might help get signage.

Hendricks received a Conditional approval from Wisconsin DSPS for Bohn Farms – Baked by Breck, 2512 State Hwy 116, Omro, for a 19.7 gpm interior grease interceptor. Egan said they will have to call him to get a building permit.

Hendrick received an email from US Cellular saying they have an existing communication tower in the Town that they would like to modify the existing equipment. They were wondering what zoning or building permits they would need. Egan said they would need to get a building permit.

Egan received an email from Mike McMonigal saying he had talked to our insurance company and they can not insure the Berlin Boat club, but does not have an issue with the current arrangement, with the Boat Club being the lessee from the Town and them doing the work. The DNR would be named as an additional insured. This will be on the agenda next month.

Tom received a notice that there will be a meeting of the joint Fire Department on September 15th at 7:00.

Egan got a call from Ripon Trucks pertaining to the wireless mounts for example Spectrum and USI. They do not see them and might hit them. Then they get billed from the company, but their equipment is receiving damage also. They were wondering if someone could contact them and ask them to mark them. The newer pads are pretty low. They should be marked so the mower knows where they are. Tom asked who is responsible if they damage their mowers or equipment. Friends mentioned when they snow plow, they are liable for any damage they do.

Old Business: Updates on Kasuboski: The State inspector inspected Kasuboskis on August 12th. It was observed that some work had been done, but the current state of the structure does not meet the requirements of the Wisconsin Building code for occupancy. Hendricks had sent the pictures and report to the Town attorney.

There has been progress and some burning on the Carlson property.

Spencers have mowed around their garbage, but nothing else has been done. Egan will contact the Towns attorney.

There have been complaints for parcel #022 1531, Sean Edinger property in Eureka. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to have the clerk send a letter and to either comply or contact a board member from 30 days receiving the letter. If they do not hear anything, this will be turned over to the Town attorney. Motion carried.***

Town Zoning report – Tom Jackson: Tom gave a report of the zoning meeting which was held on August 28th. The meeting minutes are published on the Towns web site.

New Business: ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the CSM for Andrew Krenzke, 7400 CTH E, Omro, WI, parcel #022 05100102. The CSM has a split from 1 lot of 11.339 A into 2 parcels. Motion carried.***

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the zoning changes for Mai Krenzke, 7400 Cty Rd. E, Omro, WI 54963, parcel #022 05100102. It is a 11.339 AC parcel zoned General Agricultural. The request is to rezone Lot 1 – 7.122A of the CSM from GA (General Agricultural) to LER (Large Estate Residential) and Lot 2 – 4.217A from GA to SER (Small Estate Residential). They would like to have a single-family residence on each lot. The property description in question is on lot 2, CSM 7570, Section 24, T18N, R14E, Town of Rushford, Winnebago County, WI, Motion carried.

Our ambulance contract for ambulance service for 2025 has to be decided by October 1, 2024. Hendricks went to a meeting on August 29th and learned that they would like to add a 4th ambulance unit effective July 1, 2025. They went through the estimate EMS costs for 2025 and based on actual cost, the per capita cost for 2025 is \$31.20, which is a significant increase. This will be almost a 10 fold increase. The Board will have to call a special meeting before October 1st to discuss and act if we will be receiving service in 2025.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve a picnic License for Waukau Community Center for Waukau fest on September 17th. Motion carried.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the Joint Powers agreement with Winnebago Co Sheriff. Motion carried.

Discussion of keeping appointed positions being a Town of Rushford resident: This was on the agenda for Tom Jackson, our zoning administrator, will be moving out of the Township. Jerry Schoonover said he thought Tom did a great job as administrator, but he would like to keep our positions in our

Township. Jackson said he didn't think living out of the Township would be a problem, but he respects what the board decides. Kafer said he agrees with Schoonover. It was asked if Egan had someone in mind and if Jackson would consider helping a newly appointed person on for a couple months. Egan thought that Tom would be agreeable to stay on for a couple of months to help the new administrator and he has had a few people show interest in the position. Egan and the Board thanked Tom for the great service and job he did as zoning administrator. **Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to keep appointed positions in the Town as much as possible. Motion carried.**

Egan said he had talked to Marty Johnson about getting someone for his position as state inspector, for he is retiring the end of the year. He is going to stay on as inspector in the Town of Poygan, but not the other Townships. The Town of Rushford still needs to find someone. Egan said the Town of Omro received 3 bids and Egan suggested Peggy to get ahold of Dana for information.

Winnebago Co Sheriffs Dept Representatives: Representatives were present to answer questions from the Public. It was asked if they get a lot of complaints on fireworks. They said they do not get very many. They say if they are permitted, they cannot do anything. If they do not have a permit, they are allowed to possess them, but not to fire them off. They have never issued a citation for fireworks. It was asked if you can shoot a shot gun at night shooting varmints. Basically, this would probably be done to irritate neighbors. The deputy said they would probably need a small game license and that is a question for the DNR.

Discussion of Town Hall Maintenance: A big thank you to Ben Olsen from Elite Caulking for caulking around all the baseboards in the Town Hall.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Hendricks stated that our garbage/recycling contract will be up at the end of this year. Hendricks will publish bids and it will be decided at the November meeting. Egan said to make sure it is noted that the Town can accept or reject all bids.

Building Reports:

Steven & Carol Eake, 3602 Bell Line Road
14 x 18 Concrete slab by Phelps Concrete Construction, Berlin
\$3,000 #022 036801 7/22/2024

Bohn Farms, 8482 Hwy K, Omro
Roof install by Eagle Roofing of Wisconsin
\$21,500 #022 0593 7/30/2024

Matthew Dey for 4110 Spring Rd, Omro, WI
New home by Tom McHugh Construction, Greenville
\$355,000 #022 0177 7/15/2024

Jeff Netols, for 3928 Cty Rd K, Omro, WI
48' x 48' Wood framed addition to match existing building profile
Built by Blue Sky Contractors, Appleton, WI
\$149,659 #022 031205 8/2/2024
(This building permit is on hold for his plans have not come back from the state as yet)

County report: They are working on budget sessions.

Attended business: There were 372 voters at the Fall election.

Upcoming meetings:

WTA fall workshops on 9/18 in Fond du Lac.

WTA convention in Stevens Point on Oct 7-8

Fire Department meeting on September 18th

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve Hendricks to attend the WTA convention. Motion carried.

Egan said this was not on the agenda, but he asked if the Township would consider taking over the park if we received it free? You would not get the parking lot, channel or boat launches, but it would entail mowing and upkeep. This would only be the playground and the grassy area. Kafer said he would entertain the idea. When Kafer talked to them, they had discussed playground equipment. It would be nice if they would do that first. This is not going through the Parks department, rather the County Executive. They use to mow all the way down, and it would be nice if that was all included.

Schoonover asked if anyone knew where the signs were that were by the gate in Waukau. The County did go though there and Freunds said they were going to email the County to see if they had them. That park in Waukau is used a lot and the Town does not incur any costs.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 8:40. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk

