

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, February 7, 2024

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 Tom Egan, Pat Kafer, Jerry Schoonover, & Peggy Hendricks present. Katheryn Lewis was excused. 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, election equipment testing and the zoning hearing for February 28th 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 Kafer to approve the minutes from January 3, 2024. 2nd by Schoonover. Discussion: Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Peggy Hendricks. The balance for the general account at the end of January was \$262,812.43. The balance in the tax account was \$1,321,708.75 *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

Payment of Monthly Invoices: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve and pay \$114,303.39 for invoices for February including \$59.63 for tax overpayments.* Discussion: It was asked about the double payment to Pitney Bowes. One was for stamps, and one was for machine rental. The garbage reimbursement was questioned which was reimbursed for he was a new home owner but never received garbage cans in 2023. They have since been ordered. The check for mailbox damage was questioned. This was damaged by Friends during snow plowing and Friends said to void the check out, for they were going to be taking care of that. It was asked if the ambulance bill was the amount agreed on, which it was. *Motion carried to approve the bills for \$114,248.55. Motion carried.*

Public Input: Eric Hayward stated he was running for Judge in the February election. He wanted to introduce himself and tell the residents about himself. Art Rathjen from Greater Oshkosh wanted to share a press release announcing the new Winnebago Co Revolving Loan fund which offers loans from \$25,000 to \$250,000 which will launch this spring. This program will match a maximum of dollar to dollar of traditional capital investment sources. There was a handout passed around with the highlights of the program. Then he presented the Town of Rushford municipal report which shows demographic and income profiles, breakdown of businesses and strategic plan for the Town of Rushford. The clerk will have a copy of this report if anyone would like to view it. Egan asked who someone should get a hold of if they wanted to apply for this loan. Art directed those seeking more information to call GOEDC President and CEO, Tricia Rathmel at 920-230-3326 or the website. They will also be sending .pdf's for Town Clerks to put on their websites. Tom Egan mentioned that the County's next IDB meeting is the first part of March.

Sheriff Department: Deputy Stehoi from Winnebago Co Sheriffs Department was present to answer any questions from the residents. He was asked about the missing Blue Belle School Bell which was stolen, if there have been any further break-ins, about missing Town road signs and traffic problems.

Communications & Correspondence: A note from Ken Mulvey was read with concerns of a fence going up around his home. The Board will look into this. Egan said he had communication with a

resident that was unhappy with the brushing on Broadway. Egan invited him to the Board meeting and he did go down to observe. Egan thought it did not look that bad. Usually right after brushing it is not too eye appealing but does look better with time.

A report from a resident on Island Ave called and said they were very happy with the cutting on their road. The vision is much better then it was. Mike Hammerele inquired what to do to the east of Broadway. Friends said there is brush there, for when they were ditching there last year, the gas company came through and it does need to be addressed. Hammerele will talk to the resident before he begins work.

Egan said he received a call from Carol Hilderbrand. She requested to call when the Board knows what roads will be worked on this year. She asked if the Board would take a look at Spring Road.

Hendricks read a letter from Greater Oshkosh thanking the Town for their support and asked for continued support though the IDB Per Capita Funding Program.

Attorney Blazel sent an email saying that he was able to serve Curt Carlson with the Notice to Remove/Abate Nuisance. He also sent a letter advising him that we were aware that he may be taking actions to remove some or all buildings and asked Mr. Carlson to contact him with his plans on remedying the issue. Attorney Blazel said if he does not remove the building within 30 days from the date he was served, the Town can then begin an action in the circuit court to get an order to raze the buildings.

Attorney Blazel sent Mr & Ms. Spencer a Notice of Motion and Motion for Default Judgement, two affidavits in support of this motion and proposed Judgement. The Court hearing will be held on January 10 at 9 am.

Egan said Carlson has taken down the two small buildings and Spencer's have done a little of cleanup.

Hendricks said a resident had stopped at the hall on January 2nd and informed her that thieves had stolen the bell from the Blue Bell School monument located near the intersection of Cty Rd E and State Hwy 116. They broke off the top and cut the mounting brackets and took the bell. Hendricks also said that the sign thieves are out and about again. There are reports of missing street and ATV signs.

Old Business: A report was given with updates on the legal activities the Town of Rushford has in motion. On the Spencer property – it was reported that he appeared in court and the attorney was able to discuss matters. They agreed on 60 days for cleanup and if he did, the Town would stipulate a much lower fine. He expressed a willingness to cleanup. Attorney Blazel asked the Board to keep an eye on the property and inform him of any progress. Otherwise on March 11th we could ask the Court for judgement.

Regarding the Carson property, Hendricks read a letter that was received from Attorney Blazel where he explained he was trying to decide whether he wanted to remove the barn or repair it. He was getting quotes for repairs. The attorney told him to give him a timeline as to when he would make the decision so the Town could make a decision as to whether it wants to give him more time to accomplish the work that needs to be done.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to give him 30 days from today's date before any further action would be taken. Motion carried.

Attorney Muza sent communication on February 6th stating that Mr. Kasuboski failed to answer in response to the Summons and Complaint. He will prepare documents to get a default judgment and Court Order in the near future for which a hearing will be scheduled.

Egan said he would talk to Marty Johnson to see if he would check into the Kasuboski building, for he never got a building permit from the Town, and it has been reported smoke is coming out of the chimney of the basement.

New Business:

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to appoint as a representative for the Town of Rushford, Bruce Mueller to a 3 year term on the Rush Lake Watershed Restoration, INC board. Motion carried.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the CSM for Dave Carpenter, 8312 Edgewater Ridge, Omro, WI for Parcel 022-028002 located on Ferry Lane contingent that the Zoning Committee approves the zoning change on February 28th. Discussion: This parcel is 16.9A and he would just like to split it into 2 separate lots for family. Motion carried.

CSM for Sonya Bock for parcels 022 0923, 022 0924 & 022 0925 located on Commercial St in Waukau. No one was here to answer questions on the proposed CSM. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to table this until March so more information could be gathered. Motion carried.*

Hendricks went though the proposed Green Lake animal shelter contract for 2024. The Board questioned #2 which states that the Municipality would honor the agreement and fees when stray dogs are found and transported to the shelter by residents. Only a member of the Board or our humane officer should be able to transport dogs. It was asked if the wording could be changed to Town Representative instead of residents. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the contract with changes if they would go along with that. Motion carried.*

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Mike Hammerle reported that they have been cutting on Liberty School, Island Road, and starting on Broadway.

Building Permits:

Joe Schuster, 8036 Ferry Lane, Omro, WI
Storage building – trusses 36x22 built by self
Parcel #022 047012 \$20,000 1-3-2024

Jim Fitzpatrick, 520 W Huron St, Omro, WI
New home built by Prairie Stone Homes at 7336 Bluebird Crossing, Omro, WI
Parcel #022 1442 \$485,000 1-15-2024

Lauren & Conner Jucht, 8479 Edgewater Ridge, Omro WI
Basement finish by Kriers Construction, Oshkosh
Parcel # 022 0286 07 \$70,000 1-29-2024

County report: The IDB – Industrial Board will be meeting the first part of March. They are going over possible changes. On February 22nd, the Chairmans of the Towns will meet and talk about IDB board and the changes the Towns might like to see. Planning and Zoning will be having a meeting on the Spirit Fund monies. Some Towns think they should get more. The Spirit Fund did purchase new radios for the Omro, Rushford, Omro Fire Department. The Federal government tentatively will be purchasing 3 ice/water boats for the County. There will be another ARPA/Spirit Fund meeting on the 15th. It is possible that there will be 16-17 new County Board members this year.

Attended meetings: Hendricks attended a WI DOT webinar concerning the new Culvert/Bridge Inventory and Assessment program that is new and mandatory for Towns. There will be more information forthcoming, for an application will be sent out that will be due by April 15th.

Upcoming meetings:

Election Equipment testing on February 12 at 10 am

Spring Primary on February 20

Omro/Rushford/Omro Fire District meeting on Feb 21

WTA District meeting on March 8, 2023 at Radisson Hotel & Convention Center in Fond du Lac – This has BOR training. Virtual training on March 19th for Board of Review, March 18th for Culvert, Ag Road improvement program and Shared Revenue presentations.

Zoning Hearing and Zoning Committee meeting on February 28 at 7 pm

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 7:57. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
