

Rushford Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, January 3, 2024

The Town of Rushford December 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: 11 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

**Statement of Public Notice:** Notice of this meeting, road meeting and the end of the year meeting was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K&E in Eureka, the Waukau post office and the Town's website.

**Clerks Report:** *Motion by Schoonover to approve the minutes from December 6, 2023. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer. Discussion: Motion carried.*

**Treasurers Report** was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of December was \$147,992.24. The balance in the tax account was \$683,175.11 *Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

**Payment of Monthly Invoices:** It was asked if the NTD payment of \$804 was a yearly or monthly charge. That is yearly. *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to approve and pay \$13,153.42 for invoices for December and \$307.45 for tax overpayments. Motion carried.*

**Public Input:** Tony Daley from Omro Herald wanted to say to promote the Town of Rushford, he would like people to contact him if anyone has any human-interest stories. Circulation of the paper is going up. At this time they have 7000 subscriptions. They want to focus on the people in 2024.

**Communications & Correspondence:**

Hendricks read a letter from Greater Oshkosh thanking the Town for their support and asked for continued support through 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

**New Business:**

***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to approve a CSM for Dave Carpenter, Edgewater Ridge, Omro WI for parcels 022 0279 and 022 0280, owner Merle Carpenter located on Edgewater Ridge. Motion carried.***

Hendricks received notice from Winnebago County Industrial Development Board that the Town of Rushford IDB per capital funding would be \$1,644. Since the Town of Rushford does not have any economic developments, they can allocate their monies to other cities, villages or other economic development entities. Earlier Hendricks read the letter from Greater Oshkosh and last month the Town had received a letter from the City of Omro requesting our allotment. Egan wondered if they could give their allotment to the Town of Omro. Hendricks said the Town of Omro was not on the list. Last year the monies were divided between the City of Omro and Greater Oshkosh. Kafer asked Art Rathjen if they have done some good for our Township. Art attends almost every Board meeting and gives us updates on the new programs, etc that are available to our Town. Art thinks they do add value with the different programs, educational opportunities, funding opportunities, etc. Kafer asked Hendricks if the letter from the City of Omro stated what they use their allocations for. Hendricks said no, they just requested consideration of our allocation. Egan said that the IDB funding will be redone for 2024. Many Towns would like to be able to use this money instead of allocating it elsewhere.

***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to allocate Greater Oshkosh the full amount of the Towns per capita funding.*** Discussion: Tom Egan agreed that Greater Oshkosh does a lot for the Town of Rushford, but so does the City of Omro with our first responders and fire department. Kafer said the reason he made the motion is that he is here at almost every meeting and we see every month what money is being spent. Kafer said he does not really see a lot of money being spent in the Omro Industrial Park.

***Motion carried with 2 ayes, 1 nay.***

**Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson:** Jackson asked if anyone from the Board has gotten calls about the Towns assessor inquiring how things are accessed. Egan told Jackson to tell people to call the Town Board and the Town Board will either answer or direct them to our assessors.

Jackson said he got a call on the lights that Wilkie has, for they are shining on the road on the East side from the hill on O'Reiley Road. Hendricks will send him a letter.

**Representative from the Sheriff's Office:** Deputy Hebert was present to answer any questions. He has been on the force for about 7 years and is currently on night shift. He is also one of the K-9 handlers. Egan asked about the Blue Bell monument bell theft. Hendricks explained what she was told by a resident. He was also informed about the sign thefts. Deputy Hebert said he would stop over there. The Deputy said other Townships are having similar issues with stolen signs. He told residents that if they see suspicious behavior, they should call and/or report so they can at least swing by and check it out. Don't feel that you are bothering them. It helps them become aware of what the issues might be.

**Discussion on Town Maintenance:** Egan said he has been told that some residents on Wayside do not want their road to be redone next year. If we do repair the road, they would like to see the speed limit lowered to 35 mph.

**County report:** They started with discussing Capital Improvements.

**Attended meetings:**

The Board met on Dec 7<sup>th</sup> to do a road rating that is required by Wisconsin Transportation department. The Board met on December 28<sup>th</sup> to approve the bills to be paid before the end of the year. A total of \$2,301.95 was paid.

Last month the Board wanted Tom to check to see why we got a high bill from the County. He inquired and this was for helping with the road ratings.

**Upcoming meetings:**

Winnebago Co Unit meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> at the Town of Clayton.

Art Rathjen said that they will be offering loans to any business in Winnebago County up to \$250,000.

They plan on launching this first quarter.

Kafer asked if the Town should do something on brushing. Liberty School Road between Rushford and Poygan, Delhi from E to corner, Broadway, and other spots should be addressed. *Motion by Kafer to set \$15,000 aside for brushing at the same rate as last year to Anvil. Mr. Hammerle will work with Friends on what roads to address. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover. Motion carried.*

***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 7:54. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk

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