

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

The Town of Rushford 2015 Annual meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on April 15th, 2015 by Chairman Tom Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for all or part of the meeting was 9 persons per attendance record on file, although several others were present, but did not sign in.

Guest Speakers:

- **Sheriff John Matz, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office:** Sheriff John Matz discussed heroin and drug issues. There has been an increase in property crime, so property owners should take precautions, such as locking their home, cars, etc. There is an increase of meth labs in rural areas. With spring, comes parking issues of fishermen. They expect with the warm weather, there will be an increase in underage drinking and vandalism. Tom Egan asked about the DA giving less sentences to drug offenders. The Sheriff said they do try to get to the dealer and it is the way the system works. He thinks the DA is doing a good job. Pat Kafer said he has been to workshops where they have information on signs of meth use and asked if the Town could get more information. Sheriff Matz said he will send some information to the Clerk for her to put up. Tom Egan asked about the police dogs. They now have 3 dogs – one for each shift. The total cost is about \$17,000. The dog cost about \$12,000 which includes the training. The maintenance on a dog is fairly small. The dogs work life is about 8 years. Pat Schoonover asked about speeding in the Village of Waukau. The County has a machine that shows the speed and was wondering if something could be put in Waukau. Sheriff Matz says it is a small box (speed spy) that counts the vehicles and records the speed. They will set these up and send the results to the Town. Pat Kafer asked how to go about changing the speed signs in Eureka. It starts at 25 mph quite a ways out of Town and feels it should be raised and not go so far out. The Sheriff stated the County Highway Department would be the department to contact.
- **Ron Carpenter – Assistant Chief, Omro-Rushford Fire Department and Chuck Habie from Oshkosh Fire Department–** Ron said they are pretty much on schedule for fire runs. There are 50 fire fighters, 15 first responders and 15 junior fire fighters. It is grass fire season. There were 5 grass fires last year. They did 400 acres of control burns last year. With the donations and fund raisers last year, they were able to purchase a F250 to pull the hover craft and grass fire equipment. They also purchased a new mule with tracks which was just a bit under \$18,000. This will assist in wild land fires. The new fire truck is ordered and should arrive around October. It will be a support truck and is smaller from what they have, so they can get into smaller driveways. This was ordered from Pierce. Last year they received a grant from the DNR for \$2500 and will be reapplying this year. Mr. Habie from the Oshkosh Fire Department said they received over 8000 calls. 85% of these are medical. 15% are fire related. The subsidy is about \$1.35 per capital. When it started in 2005, it was \$8.25. They serve in excess of 91,000. Tom Egan said they do an outstanding job. Mr Habie said it is because of the first responders.
- **Dean Kaderabek:** Dean reported that writing the public nuisance ordinance is still in progress. The zoning maps have been updated. There have been many meetings and discussions. An open house and public hearing was held this past winter. Pat Schoonover suggested that the Town hold another open house. The 10 year comprehensive plan will be worked on next. This

is required by State Statutes. Pat Schoonover asked how much is going to be grandfathered in. Dean stated that if someone is in compliance now, they will stay in compliance until the time comes where they wish to expand or make changes. They will then have to be in compliance with the new ordinances.

- **Larry Timm – Assessor:** The Town is in compliance of being within 10% of the state equalized value. The RE value in the Town of Rushford is \$110,497 million and in 2014 it was \$109,735 million, which is an increase of \$700,000.

Tom Egan asked what would happen if the assessor goes out to assess a property and the owner will not let him in. Larry said he does an estimated assessment and the owner loses the right for an appeal. If someone cannot make open book, they should give Larry a call.

Tom Egan talked to the attorney and he said the Mr. Erdmann was going to show plans at the next meeting. The state building inspector, Tom and the attorney went out to inspect Mr. Erdmann's property. He was going to call and let the attorney know where he was going to be receiving funding. Attorney Sondalle will be serving Roger Kasuboski papers.

Nicole Bahn swore in the Town officials for the term April 2015 to April 2017. Thomas Egan – Chairperson, Peggy Hendricks – Clerk, Patrick Kafer and Jerry Schoonover – Town supervisors, Kathryn Lewis – treasurer and Shawn Edinger – Constable.

Motion by Fred Kasten, 2nd by Dan Stokes to retain Attorney Blazel for the 2016 – 2017 term. Motion carried.

Tom Egan stated to contact him if anyone would be interested in serving on the Planning/Zoning Committee.

Peggy Hendricks went through the 2015 Annual Report Booklet that she prepared. This includes the financial annual report, 2014 annual meeting minutes, informational pages, 2015 Budget Summary and a recycling calendar. Hendricks stated in 2013 we had 71 tons of recyclable items – 90.33# per person in the Township. In 2014 we had 89.83 tons – 114.14# per person. 82.4#/person is standard.

Fred Kasten asked about recycling electronics. He would like to see something more local for collection of these items. Pat Schoonover suggested a Community Collection day for big items such as mattresses, furniture, etc. A big dumpster could be placed in each village.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the minutes of 2014 annual meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Pat Kafer, 2nd by Russell Lee to approve the Town of Rushford 2014 annual report. Motion carried.

Motion Pat Kafer, 2nd by Dan Stokes to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Motion carried. Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk