

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, April 21, 2021

The Town of Rushford 2021 Annual meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on April 21st, 2021 by Chairman Tom Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for all or part of the meeting was Supervisors Patrick Kafer & Jerry Schoonover, Treasurer Kathryn Lewis, Clerk Peggy Hendricks and 5 persons per attendance record on file.

Nicole Bahn swore in the Town elected officials.

Guest Speakers: Deputy Kyle Schoonover was present to answer any questions.

Motion by Kafer to appoint Attorney John Blazel as the Town of Rushford Attorney for 2021-2022. Motion 2nd by Dan Stokes. Motion carried.

Three members of the zoning committee has terms up. Dan Stokes – chair, Rob Resop – vice chair and Pat Kafer. Egan asked for approval for Nicole Bahn, Ryan Helmuth and Jerry Schoonover. ***Motion by Kafer to accept the nominations. Motion 2nd by Dan Stokes. Motion carried.*** Tom Egan asked Russel Lee if he would serve as alternate, Mr. Lee accepted.

Hendricks went through the booklet and PowerPoint of the 2020 annual report. ***Motion by Dan Stokes to accept the minutes for the 2020 annual meeting minutes. 2nd by Nicole Bahn. Motion carried.***

Public Input: Tom Egan asked Hendricks to call Waste Management to see how the farmers can dispose of the plastic they use for feed storage.

Chuck Mier, 8588 Banner Hill, Omro, WI asked the Town Board to take out a loan to repair all the roads in the Township. ***Motion by Mier to borrow the money to have all the roads repaired in 2021. Motion died for lack of 2nd.***

Hendricks stated that residents can get a burning permit online. There is a link on the Town's website or they can call and come down and Hendricks will issue a burning permit. All burning permits expire on December 31st. Hendricks also stated that people can request an absentee ballot for each election, for all elections for the year or if they have a medical problem, they can request to have a ballot sent to them every year.

Egan said the County went out to survey the Town roads and the report should be available by May's Board meeting. The County has a new County Executive who took over yesterday. He fired the Hwy Commissioner. Russel Lee, 4511 Eureka Road, Omro, WI, asked how the ATV ordinance is going. Kafer said there is more traffic. Tom Egan has not heard of any accidents. A lot of them go on road trips. It is another form of recreation. Egan said a lot of the Counties are opening all the County roads and it is getting very popular though out the state.

Jay Treleven, Omro Rushford Omro Fire Chief was present, and he gave a report on the joint fire department. He has been the chief for 13 years. There are 56 in the department. 11 members are from the Town of Rushford. His family goes way back in the department. In 2003, a new fire department was built. They own their own fire station. The Towns (Rushford, Omro & City of Omro) own the fire trucks. They are all volunteers. Training is very extensive for fire fighters and responders. Training for fire fighter is 96 hours. Training for first responders is 96 hours and they have to recertify every 2 years. Their big fundraiser is the street dance, which will be held June 11th. They project to replace the rescue unit in 2021. December 31, 2021 ends the 3 year contract with the City of Oshkosh ambulance service. They have given impeccable service. Chuck Mier asked if the calls increased with Covid. Chief Treleven said that calls have dropped off. They come into the City of Oshkosh and calls are ranked. Egan asked if anyone has looked into other choices for ambulance service. Chief said no, but they will start talking to the City of Oshkosh and look at the other entities that provide this service. There are 11 municipalities with the City of Oshkosh right now.

It was asked how many miles were on the rescue truck that they want to replace. There is under 20,000 miles on a 30 year old truck. Chief said that the suspension is terrible, and a lot of safety updates are needed.

The firemen and first responders have fund raisers. They have raised money for the air boat (\$109,00) with no taxpayer money. They replaced the utility pickup truck. They trade in every 3 years. Used trucks are very expensive. They received more money for the trade in then the new truck cost.

The firefighters and first responders do not receive compensation, but they do receive SAP (Service Award Program). You have to have so many meetings, trainings, 15% of total runs. Then they get a contribution to the fund which they can draw at 55. The state will match what the joint fire department puts in. They have been in the program since 2006. It is an incentive and helps with retention.

Jerry Schoonover asked how the dryness has affected the runs. Chief said Utica had a huge marsh fire. Humidity was under 30%. The combination with low humidity and a little wind is very dangerous

Motion Dan Stokes, 2nd by Chuck Mier to adjourn the meeting at 7:10. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk