

Rushford Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, January 4, 2012

The Town of Rushford Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Tom Egan, Jerry Schoonover, Patrick Kafer, Kathryn Lewis, and Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 5 additional persons per attendance record on file, although several others were present, but did not sign in.

**Statement of Public Notice:** The Rushford Board Meeting and the special meeting of the board was posted at the Eureka post office building, the Waukau Post office, the town hall door and the town web page. Notices were mailed to Town Board members and the Zoning Administrator.

**Sheriff's Department representative:** Officer Scott Rollo from Winnebago County Deputy was present to hear concerns and answer questions.

**Clerks Report & Minutes:** *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to approve the minutes as presented for the December 7, 2011 town board meeting. Motion carried. Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to approve the minutes as presented for the December 27, 2011.*

**Discussion:** It was asked what the meeting on December 27<sup>th</sup> was for. Mr Egan explained that it was to pay off the year end invoices and to pay off the town hall. The board could not pay off the town hall, for there was an adjustment in the levy for that payment. Payment of the loan will have to be made in 2012. It was also asked if this is going to be a common occurrence at the end of the year and it was thought this was never done previously. Mr Egan stated it has been done in the past, but was probably done during a zoning meeting which are scheduled for the last Wednesday. It was suggested to move the December meeting in future years towards the end of the month. *Motion carried.*

**Treasurers Report** was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance at the end of December in the general account is \$107,655.50. The Town tax account has \$661,255.34. *Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to accept the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

**Payment of invoices:** Peggy Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for January in the amount of \$94,492.02 for approval of payment. *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to pay January's bills as submitted. Motion carried. Correction 2/1/2012 - December Alliant Energy payment deleted from list of invoices for \$249.09. Corrected amount: \$94,242.93*

**Public Input:** Pat Schoonover, Waukau, asked to have the levy and the Town tax explained.

**Communications & Correspondence:**

- Tom Egan read an email from the Berlin Boat Club that states the bridge height plans for the Eureka bridge will not be high enough. There will be a county meeting on this tomorrow night.

**Discussion of Town Hall maintenance/needs:** Peggy Hendricks presented prices for indoor flag pole stands and pole for the town hall. Patrick Kafer suggested talking to Dean Larsen before we order. *Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to table this for one month. Motion carried.*

**Discussion on Town Maintenance:** Peggy Hendricks inquired about moving the posting board in Eureka to a new location since the post office is closed. It was suggested earlier that a board mounted on the siren pole in Eureka would be a possible site along with the entrance of the park. It was stated that boating information and ordinances will be posted at the location of the park. Peggy had asked Wagoner's if this would be agreeable with them, which it was. Tom Egan stated that Alliant or the County owns the pole which the siren is on and permission should be obtained from them. Peggy will make some phone calls and report at the February meeting.

**Street Light at Quarry & Division St in Eureka:** Last month it was asked if this could be on the agenda for this month. The residents requesting this were not present at this meeting. Tom Egan and Jerry Schoonover had checked out the location and reported it is very dark on that corner. Years ago there was a street light there, but residents requested that it be removed. ***Motion by Schoonover to place a street light on the corner of Quarry and Division St in Eureka. Tom Egan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. DISCUSSION:*** Pat Kafer would like all the neighbors contacted to inform them before a street light was put up. ***Motion carried 2-1.***

Tom Egan stated that he does not think the street light on Commercial Street in Waukau was repaired yet. Peggy Hendricks will call them again to check on the status.

**Winnebago County Erosion Control & Stormwater Management permit:** Tom Egan explained that this is something the Township needs when they do certain road or culvert work. The County will issue this to the Town for free and it is good for one year. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to sign the Erosion Control permit. Motion carried.***

**Roads & Brushing:** Tom Egan reported that the Correction Department is not quite done with the brushing/chipping. Peggy Hendricks stated that Pat Lux had contacted the clerk with concerns with the brush that was left in the ditches. He offered to have the chips dumped at his property by his wood pile. Tom Egan inquired what the board wanted to do in case they don't come out to finish. Tom has been in communication with the supervisor, but not in the past week. Patrick Kafer suggested contacting Friends to see if he would be interested in chipping the wood that is left. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to hire someone else if the Correction Department does not come out to finish the chipping. Motion carried.***

**Town Assessor Report – Larry Timm:** Larry Timm reported he has been taking pictures of homes in the town. He has noticed not all homes have fire numbers. He has sent out 2012 personal property tax assessments. He went through some of the changes the Department of Revenue will be enforcing on all assessors. Mr Timm stated he needed something in writing from the Fire Department stating they will be using the house on Bell School Road for practice fire burns before it can be taken off the tax roll. This was approved by the board in December's meeting.

**New Business:** Peggy Hendricks stated that she received a call about garbage charge for 8050 Broadway. Ms Erickson stated that the house has been vacant for 2 years; it does not have power or running water and would like to have the garbage charge taken off her tax bill. Tom Egan said Ms Erickson should be contacted to 1) See what her plans are for the house; 2) To have the trailer and junk cars removed. He will drive out to check out the property. This will be on the agenda for next month.

***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to join and pay the 2012 dues for WMCA. Motion carried.***

**Discussion on Parcel #022 031203 – James Erdmann:** Tom Egan explained that it has been brought to the attention of the Town that someone has moved into the structure this past weekend. The last communication from Mr Erdmann was that someone else would be fixing the place up and taking over ownership. Tom Egan asked Fred Kasten, zoning administrator to follow-up. Patrick Kafer said that this has been discussed and acted on for over 2 years. Mr Erdmann has not followed through with any of board required actions. There is concern if this the building is up to code, for it is just a basement. He was to apply for a building permit, bring in site plans and had a time requirement to finish the home. Fred Kasten suggested we have an inspector check the premises. We will have to find out if the Town has the authority to send an inspector into a home if they believe it is not up to code and unsafe to live in. Peggy Hendricks will get all the correspondence and minutes concerning this property to Fred Kasten. ***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to get advice if the Town can hire an inspector, find out who legally owns the property, and look into what avenues the Town has available.*** Tom Egan suggested talking to the WTA attorney before contacting our attorney. ***Motion carried.***

Tom Egan asked if we need to go to a lawyer, should we look into other attorneys as mentioned previously or stay with Mr Selsing. Patrick Kafer suggested with this matter, we should contact Selsing Law Office.

### **County Zoning Committee Report – Fred Kasten**

Fred said we have to decide exactly what we want done with our zoning ordinances. Would it be updating or a complete rewrite? It will make a big difference in the price. We do have a couple of bids in ranging from \$12,000 to \$20,000. We do hope to get more bids. Mr Kasten suggested that we should not do a complete rewrite, that to amend and update would be sufficient. The Board agreed. Incorporation of Farmland preservation, green power and other items will have to be added. Tom Egan said as of this time, the state has not passed the County's Farmland preservation program.

Fred reported that Enterprise School was sold for \$100,000. Someone from Illinois purchased it and their plan is a winery/brewery with living quarters. We should have something in our ordinance for this.

Tom Jackson stated that according to our statues, the zoning committee has 6 year terms, take 1 year off and be reappointed. June 26, 2006 was the first meeting and members were appointed in April or May. Everyone will have their 6 years up in June. Mr Jackson's suggestion was to change the terms of office of 1, 2, and 3 year terms to 2 year terms. We should start this year with someone to carry over for 1 year and to start a staggered 2 year term. If it is kept the way it is, every other term will be up at the same time. He feels the town board member should stay on a one year term in case of change from election.

Tom Egan stated if we did the rewrite and if Dean Kaderabek would agree to do it, he does not feel Dean should be part of the committee. Everyone has been excellent on the committee. Tom Egan offered his position on the zoning committee to either one of the supervisors. The supervisors usually attend all the committee meetings and put in their input.

Tom Egan mentioned he has had calls on people who were interested in being on the committee. Committee members are usually appointed after the Annual meeting. Tom Egan stated it should be on that agenda for next month and it will have to be decided what the terms will be and how to determine the committee. The board should make calls to see if people are interested and Peggy Hendricks will post it on the web page.

**Dog, Constable Report:** Peggy Hendricks reported one warning citation was issued for horse at large. Patrick Kafer asked about a fire arm sign to put at the Town hall. Peggy Hendricks stated that they way she understood the law, if you have a sign; you are liable for anything that would happen with a firearm inside the building. If you do not have a sign posted, you are not liable.

### **Reports on Meetings that have been attended:**

- Special meeting of the Board December 27, 2011: Prepaid road payments were approved and approving the fire department to have practice burns on the home on parcel # 022 0411, 9133 Bell School Road.
- County Revision of the County Zoning Ordinance on January 3 – Tom Egan reported that it will be voted on in the March County Board meeting. There are open meetings planned.

### **County Report by Tom Egan:**

- Bridge will be talked about tomorrow night at the county meeting.
- County wants to buy land for the airport in the amount of 1.6 million dollars. That comes to \$15,000 - \$18,000 per acre.

Tom Egan presented a picture of Waukau Woolen mill to place on the wall. Waukau post office closing is planned in May at this time, but might be indefinite.

### **Upcoming meetings and workshops:**

- Winnebago Co Unit of WTA meeting Thursday, January 5 at 6:30 at Nekimi Town Hall
- Open house for Town/County Zoning Map and Shoreland Zoning Map – January 10, 4pm-7pm at Utica Town Hall, 1730 County Rd FF, Oshkosh

Peggy Hendricks said she just received a bill this evening on a bill from Oshkosh Humane Society for \$45 for a cat that was taken in there on September 8<sup>th</sup> by Gaylord Grover who lives in Ripon. It was written on the report the cat was found in Rushford. A certified letter was sent earlier in the year stating we would not pay for bills from the Oshkosh & Neenah Humane Society unless it was approved from a board member, a constable or dog catcher. The bill will not be paid.

Books were audited.

***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to adjourn. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk