

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, February 6, 2019

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

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of this meeting was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K & E in Eureka, the Waukau post office and the Towns website. In addition, notice of Town Caucus was published in the Oshkosh Northwestern.

Sheriff Department Representative: Deputy Hebert was present to answer questions from the floor.

Clerks Report & Minutes: *Motion by Schoonover 2nd by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the January 2, 2019 board meeting. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance at the end of January was \$156,773.47. The balance in the tax account was \$702,415.39 *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the treasurer's report. Pat Schoonover inquired when the tax settlements were sent out. Motion carried.*

Payment of invoices: Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for February in the approximate amount of \$51,925.60. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay the bills for the month of February. Motion carried.*

Guest Speaker - Ron Harke & Dave Peck presented a report from the Berlin Boat Club. They passed around pictures of the opening of the Locks on 6/2/2018 and flood pictures from September. They had over 873 people who went through the locks this year and 326 total lockages. These are good numbers with the lock being closed due to fall flooding. The BBC has had excellent working relationship with the DNR. The DNR got rid of the tires that they reported on last year. New gravel has been laid on the road. Dave Peck mentioned that historic tourism is one of the fastest growing groups. The Fox River and the locks is great for both tourism and has a lot of history. There were a lot of problems with the high water this year. Fox Tours works out of Appleton and they have been discussing on bringing tours up on the upper Fox. They both thanked the Town of Rushford for their part in the Eureka Locks. It was asked if they knew who was in charge of the bouys in Delhi, but they did not know for sure. Tom Egan also does not know who is plowing their road. Tom Egan thanked the BBC for all they do with the Locks.

Public Input: Jim Moore, 7505 Archery Drive, stated that during the last storm, certain roads were plowed with a truck where he felt they should have used the big truck with the wing. Jerry Schoonover mentioned that Friends have always used a pickup truck for the villages. Tom Egan will talk to them. Pat Kafer had some concerns that the subdivisions should have been plowed more often. Pat Schoonover, 2575 Hwy 116, stated in the beginning of January, 37th Ave had a lot of slush on the road up to State Hwy 21. It was a sunny day, but the driving was hazardous. Tom Egan said that the Town is liable on 37th Ave down to Cumberland. There were reports that none of 37th was done, so the Town did plow all of 37th. Jim Moore stated on one of the streets, they are to plow up to the barn and then turn around. They are just plowing to the house and Jim Moore had to plow to the barn. He felt they could plow to the tool shed and turn around there.

Communication & Correspondence:

Tom Egan read a letter that was placed in the drop box. It pertained to the abandoned houseboat along Island Ave. which was signed by several Island Ave neighbors. They feel the boat is not structurally sound and should be removed under the Towns Ordinance of Junk. They are disappointed with Zoning Administer, Tom Jackson decision. Tom Egan read an email that was sent by Josh Viet, who is a neighbor on Island Ave stating that he had decided not to sign the letter for even though it might be an eyesore for some, he felt the boat is theirs and sits on their property and they should have the right to that.

Hendricks received an email on "Snapshot Wisconsin". The information is posted on the Town Halls website under NEWS and is in the entry way of the Town Hall. They are looking for volunteers to monitor the wildlife with trail cameras.

The Town received an invitation to an asphalt pavement seminar hosted by Northeast Asphalt on March 7th in Kimberly, Tony Daley asked for copies of the correspondence.

Old Business: Hendricks reported that last month the Board had talked about having a street light moved on Liberty Street. Alliant went down there and looked at it. They said they would move it with no charge and replace it with a LED light. As the village's streetlights are replaced, they have been being upgraded with LED bulbs at no extra cost. Kafer would like to see the pole moved up a little more, centered, and get rid of the light on Liberty Street. The Board will look at it.

New Business

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to nominated Bruce Mueller and Doug Bohn to be Town of Rushford Appointee's for Rush Lake Watershed Restoration Inc. for terms of 04/18/2019 thru January 2022. Motion carried.

Discussion on Town hall maintenance: Kafer said the alarm for the septic was going off, so Hyler came out tonight to pump it out and they will come back to check the pump. Hendricks stated the light for the back door of the hall is out. Tom Egan said he received calls if the Town hall phone was in working condition. Hendricks stated that the phone works fine, but there is a new number. Notices on the posting boards and the website has the new number posted which is 920-744-8092. The number changed after the Town newsletter went out in the tax bill in 2018, so people might be going by the information in the newsletter.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Jerry Schoonover said he received a call from Friends, for they are having some issues of people pushing snow out of their driveways, across the road in the shoulders. The newsletter states that residents should not do this. With the last cold snap, the snow froze and they bent one of their wings plus it can put the truck into a spin. Kafer said that if the Town knew who was doing this, letters should be sent out. Friends should not be expected to go back out with a backhoe to move the frozen snow.

Building permits - Tom Egan

Tyler Volp, 8747 Liberty School Road, Omro
30 x 20 barn addition
\$15,000 1-3-2019

Michael Engstrom, 520 W Huron St, Omro for
7990 Broadway Road, Omro, WI
Single family home built by Installation Specialist, 520 W Huron St, Omro
\$250,000 1-4-19

County Report - Tom Egan: The County has been spending time regarding where to place violent sex offenders when they are released in Winnebago County. The County will be fined \$1,100/day if they do not find living quarters. They went back to court and after the County found a spot to house the offender, the state has come in and they want to put the housing up Fremont. They will have a vendor who rents out a home and then they will rent it out to the state. Two (2) inmates can be in each housing unit.

The question with the County and the air port is "who has jurisdiction." The Board voted one way, but the County Executive over ruled them. The Corporate Council will get ahold of the Attorney for the State and see who has jurisdiction.

Winnebago County is one of the few Counties that has a County Executive. Some are wondering if an administrator would be a better choice.

Animal Report: Chuck Mier had 2 dogs that he took to the Green Lake shelter with the aid of 3 deputies. The dogs killed a turkey and 2 chickens at a home on Hwy K.

Reports of Attended Meetings:

Active Shooter meeting at the Coughlin Center – Hendricks reported the County Clerk arranged this meeting for Clerks and poll workers. Peter Ehlert gave the presentation and contained information on how to be prepared if an active shooter entered the hall.

Caucus was held on January 19th with Susan Carpenter as caucus chair. Pat Schoonover and Thomas Egan were nominated for Chairperson. All other offices stayed the same.

WTA District Meeting on January 1st – Jerry Schoonover reported that funding for roads was a big topic along with volunteer fire fighter and responders training requirements. Hendricks reported that the afternoon session was given by the Department of Revenue going through how to do the required CT report.

Upcoming Meetings:

Spring Primary on February 19th

Fire Department meeting on February 20th

Assessors report: Larry Timm has been looking at new homes in the Township. He thought there was a new home that did not have a building report in one of the Waukau subdivisions. Larry passed out a printout of the Valid sales of 2018 to determine the level of assessment. The economy has picked up and parcels are selling for more than they did in the past. The average ratio is 86.75 where it should be 100-110. He might have to do some adjusting to be in compliance. As of this time, we are not in compliance in one of the categories. He feels he might have to increase the homes on agricultural properties and the lots in Bluebelle will have to reassessed.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to adjourn at 8:10. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks
