

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, April 22, 2020

The Town of Rushford 2020 Annual meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on April 22nd, 2019 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 4 persons per attendance record on file.

Nicole Bahn swore in the Town elected officials and Jay Treleven, Fire Chief for the Town of Rushford.

**Guest Speakers:** Chief Jay Treleven, Winnebago Co Sheriff Department and Advance Disposal were invited to be guest speakers. Because of COVID, the Sheriffs Department or Advance Disposal will not be present. Chief Treleven was called on a call and might be available later.

Hendricks said it will be on the agenda for next month, but the Board should think about what the Town wants to do if someone wants more than one tote from Advance Disposal. The Town pays on tonnage now and each household is given one. Egan said that he does not feel that people should put out as many as they want, and if you charge for additional bins to certain parcels, it will be a lot of extra paperwork. This will be discussed at the May meeting. He feels that if someone wants extra bins, they should deal with Advance directly and be charged directly.

Tom Egan appointed Attorney Blazel as Town attorney for 2020-2021. Dan Stokes made a motion to appoint Attorney Blazel for the next year. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Schoonover. Motion carried.

Peggy Hendricks presented the Annual Report for 2019 with a PowerPoint presentation and booklet. Motion by Nicole Bahn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Schoonover to approve the minutes from 2019 annual meeting. Motion carried.

Hendricks mentioned a few people were upset that they received 95 gallon totes instead of the 65 gallon. Notices were sent in the tax bill and it was posted on the website and posting places that if people wanted a 65 gallon instead of the 95 gallon, which was by default, they would have to contact the Clerk so she could order them before delivery. Pat Kafer would like to see a more detailed list of what can be put in the recycle bin. Hendricks stated that the website has a recycling page that has details for Winnebago and Outagamie landfills.

**Public Input:** Chuck Mier made a motion to pave all the Town roads one time. The interest rates are down and it would be a good time. Motion died for lack of a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Kafer asked for discussion, what would the rate be for a municipality. Egan said he did call the bank today in case something came up at this meeting, but no one got back. Nicole Bahn thought maybe around 2% or lower. Kafer says if it was around 5 million, for the cost is around \$100,000/mile. The monthly payments would be about \$46,000. In a 10 year loan we would of paid back \$520,000 in interest. Mier said the roads are not getting any better. The Board agrees. Kafer said a couple years ago, we added up all the road work that was recommended, which is really a bandage, but that would have been 1 million. That is just some patching, wedging, etc. Egan said this year we did a lot of trimming and ditch work is needed. You must do ditching if you are doing road work. The Board and the County has done their road tour for this year. The Board will get a list and it will be compared with last years and they will decide what should be prioritized. Egan stated that we will get pricing from other places besides the County. The County did not give prices for this year. Pat Schoonover said Lost lane should be done and turned into a 2 lane road. It will cost extra money. He asked if there will be any development there, but it will be all residential. Kafer said to begin with it was talked about having it pulverized, raised up, widen out and to put gravel on it. It would be the first gravel road in the Town and maybe more to come. It is hard to spend \$140,000 for one road when the budget total is \$275,600. We applied for a grant for Lost Lane, but did not receive it. Besides Lost Lane, Broadway is bad. Mier asked if we are not going to fix the roads, what are we going to do with them. Egan said we can fix some, but we can't fix them all. Egan says the Town is doing what they can with the money they have. Hendricks said this is a problem though out the state. There are lobbyists in Madison trying to get more money for Towns. Transportation aid has been the same for

many years and it did go up a little this past year. Every bit helps. Mier says if the Town does not fix all the roads at one time, it will cost more in the long run, for the price never goes down. Egan said when he was elected, his goal was to do 5 miles of roads a year. The first 2-3 years they met their goal, but that has not happened since. Mier said it was like when the new hall was built. It has been paid off and if the Town would have waited, it would have been much more. The Board agrees, but Egan asked where we would get the money from. Kafer said if all the roads would be done, it would have to be decided at a special Town Meeting, for the mill rate on the tax bill would go up considerably. The Board is not saying a loan to fix the roads is not a good idea. Kafer said it would be more than paving, for a road needs a good base and a lot of roads do not have a good base. If a 10-year loan was taken out, you would probably be back repairing in 7 years – not even to the end of the loan. The River road was repaved, but the base is not good. It has only been a couple years and it is deteriorating. He does not think it will last 5 years. Jerry Schoonover said the weight on the roads is much more than it was a few years ago.

Pat Schoonover wanted to go on record thanking the Hendricks Family Distillery for doing the job they are doing for the pandemic with making sanitizer and hopefully Kafer farms and other farmers did not have to dump their milk as he saw on the news in other areas. Kafer said farmers have to go down in production at this time. If a farmer does not comply, they might have to dump their milk. Schoonover knows that small businesses are struggling, and he just wanted to go on record for the appreciation he has.

Pat Schoonover drove down Wayside road and was wondering what was going on with the parcel there. Egan said the County is involved with that. Hendricks said the registered letters have been returned, but with COVID, they can not send someone over there. Katheryn Lewis said the owner, Ron Arts lives in Milwaukee and he does come to the courthouse to pay his taxes. Pat Schoonover asked about the property that Larry Timm mentioned with the pole building on a home property outside of Waukau that was turned into living quarters. Egan said this was resolved for the County went in there and informed them that you can only live in one building, otherwise it would have to be sectioned off and a septic permit would need to be taken out.

Dan Stokes asked since we had the trees trimmed, will we be able to mow that or should it be sprayed first. The Board said they would like to have it sprayed, for it kills the brush. Dan Stokes will get the contact information for the Board. Pat Schoonover asked what we paid the County per hour to do the brushing. It was figured out about \$170/hour.

Hendricks stated that a lot of the clerks in the state are giving their poll workers hazardous pay or gift cards and was wondering what the Board thought. She would like to do something for the poll workers who have to work during the pandemic. In April, we had 4 poll workers, for 2 of the workers had to back out. Pat Kafer made a motion to purchase a gift card for \$10 from the Cheese House and Kwik Trip for the election workers. Dan Stokes 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion carried.

***Motion Dan Stokes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Kafer to adjourn the meeting at 7:05. Motion carried.***

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk