

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, December 2

The Town of Rushford December 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: 4 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of this meeting and budget workshop was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K&E in Eureka, the Waukau post office and the Towns website. In addition, Summary of the budget, the budget hearing, the Meeting of electors and Notice of Spring Election was published in the Northwestern.

Clerks Report & Minutes: *Motion by Schoonover 2nd by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the November 4, 2020 board meeting. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of November was \$37,380.50. The balance in the tax account was \$1,957.26. Discussion – Egan asked if the outstanding checks were from the same person. Kathryn said a couple of them came through today. ***Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve the treasurer’s report. Motion carried.***

Payment of invoices: Hendricks approved and submitted to the board the bills for December in the amount of \$33,606.53. Discussion: Pat Schoonover inquired what the ground asphalt was used for (Ferry Lane) and if the covid expenses would be covered though the grants by the end of the year, which Hendricks said she was expecting the rest of the grant money any day. This month \$6,758.21 was received. ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay the bills for the month of December. Motion carried.***

Public Input: Bill & Lori Woolman, 2858 Lost Lane expressed concerns that their neighbor at 2842 Lost Lane currently uses an outdoor wood boiler that is 95’ from their house. The smoke coming from this is causing an issue and health concerns. The house is surrounded by smoke from the burner, the smells are seeping through the walls and windows causing their home, furniture and belongings becoming saturated with the smell of smoke, they are unable to open their windows or spend time outside. and it is causing burning eyes, nausea and headaches. Because of Covid, they are working from home and this is 24/7 problem. They would like the wood burner removed and would like help from the Town Board to resolve this issue. The stack on the burner is 10’. They have asked the neighbor to raise the stack. They provided Tom Egan some pictures, facts from them and experts. Tom Jackson said the Town Board has a wood burning ordinance and Egan was wondering if we had the ordinance in place when they put the boiler in. Jackson said there is no such thing as being grandfathered in, you need to conform to the ordinance. Jackson suggested sending the neighbor a letter stating what our ordinance requires. Our ordinance says that the set back has to be at least 100’ from property line, 500’ from any adjacent resident parcel, The minimum stack height for any detached energy system is 20 feet, except that a lesser stack height which meets the manufacturer’s minimum specifications is allowed for any system that is Phase 2 Qualified under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s 2008 Hydronic Heater Program. Egan asked the clerk to send a letter and then to take the next step if nothing is done.

Jim Moore commented the South Street has fence posts right up to the road and is in the road right away. With these up, he can not get a trailer down that road and is concerned it would cause problems when snow plowing. Tom Egan asked the clerk to send a letter to the residents on South Street to inform them their posts are in the right away of the Town.

Pat Schoonover would like the Town of Rushford to publish a newsletter more than once a year. The Town of Nepeuskun puts out a newsletter twice a year and he bought them along to show to the Board. He also mentioned that earlier in the year, Jim Moore had suggested getting a Town dumpster. At the present time, there is a mattress and frame on Archery Drive. This is a constant occurrence. He also commented that he would like the Town publications in the Omro Herald instead of the Oshkosh Daily Northwestern. Egan said this has been discussed previously but a Town cannot change until the annual meeting. He also said the Berlin Journal does the Town of Nepeuskun newsletters and does their own postage and sends them out.

The Town provides the list of the residents. Hendricks will look at the State Statues pertaining to Town Publications, Chapter 985. Kafer asked how many newsletters we mail out a year. It is about 800. It was also asked about the cost of Oshkosh Northwestern ads. The Town gets a government price, and it goes by size and word contents. Hendricks asked if we went to the Omro Herald, what about Berlin residents who get the Berlin Journal. The Oshkosh Northwestern is considered an official state newspaper. Kafer said they will contact Freunds to pick up the mattress.

Communication & Correspondence: Hendricks a letter informing the Town that Waste Management has acquired Advance Disposal Services together with its affiliates and subsidiaries, "ADS". They mentioned that the services in the community will remain the same and will continue to be an active, operating company, Hendricks read an email from US Internet. They had requested a letter of support for they are applying for a grant to bring high speed broadband grant for the village of Waukau. An email was read pertaining to Rush Lake Watershed Restoration Inc stating that the DNR has begun reviewing the report submission and the Town should be receiving \$1,364.54 (refund of about 68% of our donation).

Town Zoning Report: Tom Jackson read a letter from East Central Planning Commission, that they are opening a technical assistance project. There are possible CSM coming up. Tom Jackson had called Attorney Sondalle to see if he would be interested in working for the Town regarding Roger Kasuboski. He is too busy to take over this case. Tom Egan called the Town attorney. He can not represent the Town in this case because of conflict of interest. Tom was recommended to contact Attorney Muza, an attorney in Oshkosh. Tom Egan will contact Attorney Muza and see if Tom Jackson can talk to him to give him the records regarding Kasuboski's.

Old Business: Tom Egan received a phone call from the resident at 3107 Quarry Drive. He has been wanting to clean it up and clean it out, but he has cancer and other problems. It sounds like the neighbors on both sides would like to purchase this. Tom Egan did not know if the Town should push this farther. Kafer said he has a hardship and Tom Egan should call him back to let him know there are some interested parties and the Town would touch back in the early Spring. Schoonover agreed with this discission. Pat Schoonover asked about the people living in the Kasuboski trailer. He thinks we should start penalizing them for the ordinance violations. Jackson has stopped there a few times. There are 2 trailers there and there is a covering over the basement. Jackson informed them that they can only live in the trailer for 30 days. This is why the Town is trying to acquire an attorney and the Town has been watching it. Tom Egan asked Tom Jackson to discuss with the Attorney to have Kasuboski pay for the Towns legal fees in this matter.

Discussion on Town Hall Maintenance: 3 new toilets have been installed at the hall.

New Business: *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to allocate the Towns 2021 per capita Economic Development of \$1800 to go to the City of Omro. Motion carried.*

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to appoint Bruce Mueller as the Town of Rushford RLWRI Board of director for a 3 year term.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Freunds has been patching potholes and filling in gravel at Lost Lane. Tom Jackson asked if the County would be cutting any trees this winter. On Rushford Ave, there are some dead elm trees and they might fall on the road. Egan said the Board has to decide where the road money will be spent this year. If it would go mainly on roads or brushing/trimming, If these trees are cut down, they should be sprayed right away so they don't grow back, Tom Egan said there are some on Eureka Road also.

Building permits - Tom Egan:

Pete Steger, 2871 Cty Rd E, Berlin WI
Outdoor Central Boiler by self
\$17,000 11-23-2020

Kafer did not think that Steger would be 100' as our ordinance says. Tom Egan said it is over by his personal garage by his house. A site plan was submitted.

County Report: They finished up with the Budget. Taxes are down a little bit this year. The Budget was all done virtual this year. Hendricks stated last year the County's mil rate was \$5.683/\$1000 and this year it is \$5.5548/\$1000. The County voted to give the County Health Department representative authority to take action. He cannot go out and shut businesses down. He would have to bring it to the County Board. Part of the airport is down.

Reports on Attended meetings: Hendricks reported that on November 19th, the Board met and went through the Budget the Clerk prepared. On November 30 there was a Public Hearing – a presentation of the Budget and after adjournment, a Meeting of the Electors was held. The Town Levy of \$387,078 was approved.

Upcoming Meetings:

Tax collection will be December 26th from 10 am – 2 pm. There will not be any cash taken. It will be stated in the newsletter that it is preferred to have taxes paid by mail or in the drop box. A lot of Townships are not collecting taxes in office this year.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to hold the Town of Rushford Caucus on January 9, 2021 at 9:00 am at the Town of Rushford hall. Motion carried.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to hold the End of Year Board meeting to pay 2020 bills on December 29th at 9:00. Motion carried.

Tom Egan wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to adjourn the meeting at 8:00. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
