

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, July 7, 2021

The Town of Rushford July 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: 10 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 the special meeting of the Board was posted on the Town hall door, the corner of K&E in Eureka, the Waukau post office and the Towns website.

Clerks Report & Minutes: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer, to approve the minutes from the June 2, 2021 board meeting. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of June was \$328,960.22. The balance in the tax account was \$1,662.69. *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 July in the amount of \$43,091.17. *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to pay the invoices for July. Motion carried.*

Public Input: Bonnie Barkow, 3535 Cty Rd K, Omro, asked if the brushing was done yet in the Town. Tom Egan stated they have not started. It was asked if Edgewater Ridge was on the list and Tom said it could be, depending on money left after road work is done.

Old Business: Art Rankin from Greater Oshkosh – discussion on high-speed internet.

Mr Rankin has shared to the Board at previous meetings a plan that was being proposed from a company that is trying to bring Broadband to parts of the Town and outlying areas. The companies name is US High Fiber, headquartered out of Minneapolis and is owned by Dan Hessemeyer. He applied for a grant 3 years ago to bring broadband to all the fiber towers around Lake Butte de Morts. He received that grant. This was called Lake to Lake 1. He then wanted to bring high end fiber to dark areas on the County. He applied for a grant from PSC and received about 2.4 million dollars to bring fiber. The 2nd grant he applied for was for 1.7 million. This is called Lake to Lake 2. This consist of the entire Township of Poygan, parts of Omro Township & the village of Waukau. The 3rd part will cover a little bit of Eureka. They have met with the County and his Lake to Lake 3 project will be no more then 1.1 million dollars and serve about 275 homes. If he was to do more, he would need more from the County IDB funds and will be applying to the Public Service Commission for a grant. They score this grant and look for matching funds. He is asking the Town for a token gift of support in a letter and possibly monies up to \$2500. He knows that budgets are tight but asked the Town to consider budgeting their IDB monies to the company. Cindy Bohnert, 3422 Bell Line Road had several questions for Mr. Rankin. She works from home, as many people in the area do and internet is particularly challenging. Jean Bernier, 9221 Bell School Rd is a graphic artist that works from home and the internet in the Town makes it almost impossible. She was wondering what other options they have. Sadly, if this grant is approved, it would only come to small parts of Eureka and not to outlying rural areas. This grant needs to be submitted by July 21st. The monies would not be needed until late fall or next year. The grant would have to be approved first. The company offers 3 packages. 300 mg at \$49, 500 mg for \$59 and I gig for \$69. This is up and download speeds. There is no limit on usage.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to have the Clerk write a letter of support and pledge what ever IDB funds the Town receives in 2022. Motion carried.

Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson: Tom Jackson went over the discussion from the Zoning Meeting that was held on June 30, 2021. There was an appointment of new officers. Bruce Bohn explained a CSM that they would propose to the Board. They went over old business which included grass length, minimum size of homes, splits of parcels, solar panels, and violations to a property owner on Liberty School Road.

Jerry Schoonover thinks that there should be more information on length of grass.

Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to add to the Town ordinances that all types of residences have a minimum of 1000 sq. ft. Discussion: It was asked who rewrites our ordinances. At this time, it will be done by the Town Attorney. It was also mentioned that one resident thought 1000 sq ft was too large. There are many homes in the villages now under that. Jackson said the 1000 sq ft was in the ordinances at one time and would like to see that reinstate that. Kafer asked if any homes have been built under 1000 sq ft. At this time, all homes built were much larger. **Motion carried.**

The Board discussed maximum split of a 40A. It was once in our ordinances, that a 40A parcel could only be split once. The Board has looked at splits of parcels when family members are involved. It was suggested to add verbage that considerations would be taken for family members. Russ Lee stated he thinks it should be 20A instead of 40A. He would like to see a 20A parcel being able to be split. Schoonover suggested going over this with the attorney. Kafer said he thinks that if a person has paid taxes on 40A for years, he should be able to do with it as he wants and not told what he can do with it. If there is a hardship, a person might need more than 1 split. Bruce Bohn said that things continue to change. There are kids, grandkids, etc Kafer said he would like to have more information on this topic.

Kafer said he has no problem with people using storage containers as homes as long as they have their 1000 sq ft. and pass all inspections. He has seen some really nice ones. They have been on full basements, footings, etc. You can have guidelines where they have to match like houses in the area, etc He thinks there is value in using them. It was also mentioned that a person would need a Conditional Use permit for a storage container home. **Motion by Schoonover to not allow storage containers as homes in the Town of Rushford. Motion 2nd by Egan. Motion passed 2 - 1.**

New Business:

CSM for Bohn Investments for parcel #'s: 022 0436, 022 060108, & 022 060003

Bruce Bohn explained this CSM was created, for it was bought to their attention that they did not have legal access to their property on Quarry Dr. When they put the road in, there was never a legal description done. He talked to the neighbors and they agreed to go along with a CSM to give them legal access to the property. **Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the CSM for Bohn Investments for parcels 022 0436, 022 060108 and 022 060003. Motion carried.**

Discussion on Hall Maintenance: Jim Moore was asked to set up the new picnic tables and to look into straightening the pine tree in front of the hall. Kathryn Lewis said that one of the new trees that replaced the ones that died on the side of the hall looks like it is dying. Pompluns donated those trees to replace the ones that were there, but were planted by someone else. Eldon & Patsy Pomplun donated the first tree.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Tom Egan went though the roads that the Board decided to have done this year. The Town will be starting with the following roads: Liberty School road – Rushford Ave to Poygan, work on Poygan ave, & Banner Hill, Lost Lane, Culverts on Spring and CTY E & Banner Hill. Kafer will be looking into cracksealing for certain roads and the hall parking lot. Hendricks said that she was notified that the stop ahead sign was down at the west side of Banner hill. It was thought it was taken down when mowing the roadsides. The stop sign is also leaning really bad. Senn & Delhi was only mowed on one side. Egan had gotten complainants that when they did the mowing, they mowed up to their ditch line and cut into the grass.

Building permits – Tom Egan:

Marv Litton, 7603 Archery Dr, Omro
redoing garage floor concrete by Tanner Equipment
\$3000 6-17-2021

Robert & Teresa Duzinske, N8747 Douglas St, Ripon for
N7290 Old Mill Rd, Omro Wi
New 28x42x64 Modular home with attached 24x30 garage built by

Dowling Construction, Oshkosh, WI
Parcel #022 1463
\$392,803 6-30-2021

Dave & Barbara Kersztyn, 7131 Cty Rd K, Omro
Concrete driveway with approaches, patios and sidewalks by Dowling Construction, Oshkosh
Parcel # 022 089103 & 022 089102
\$39,665 6-28-21

County Report: The airport terminal is now open. Regular County Board meetings will resume this month. The County is taking applications for Highway commissioner. He said in September, the County Board will be discussing redistricting. This would be eliminating Board members. Egan feels that this will hurt the rural areas, for the board members goes by population. So Oshkosh, Fox Crossing, etc will have a lot more representation.

Upcoming Meetings:

WTA Unit Meeting – Town of Oshkosh on July 8 at 5:30 at 230 East Cty Rd Y, Oshkosh – This is a pig roast, so need to RSVP by June 25th

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 8:30. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
