

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022

The Town of Rushford November Board meeting was called to order by Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Jerry Schoonover, Pat Kafer, Kathryn Lewis & Peggy Hendricks present. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 8 additional persons per attendance record on file, though others were present who did not sign in.

Statement of Public Notice: Notice of this meeting, Notice & agenda of public hearing for the 2023 budget & meeting of electors and notice of 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, Notice of Spring Election and Summary of 2023 budget was published in the Northwestern.

Township Policing Discussion with Sheriff's Department representative: Detective from Waushara Sheriff Office, Deputy from Winnebago Sheriff's office and Deputy from Green Lake Co. They were present for they were asked by Mike Butler to attend the meeting. There was an incident 3 weeks ago off 37th Ave. with a fugitive that had taken off. He was found the next day in a neighborhood garage. He took off again & was caught. The question residents have is why they were not alerted. He had a record, and it is alarming to citizens if their safety might be in jeopardy. 37th is unique that it is in two Counties – Winnebago and Waushara. Mr. Butler feels there is a communication breakdown, for they have different policies and do not necessary work together. Mr. Butler was hoping that they could educate us on the procedures and maybe when this happens, they share this information. Waushara County has a code red alert. Winnebago has a different system. He is trying to get these procedures outlined so each citizen knows how to sign up to get messages. Emergency Management from Waushara County could not attend that could explain this. The Deputy is not up to date of the Code Red in that County. He also mentioned that Eureka Locks have been a big problem. He would like to question on when it is open and when it closes. Who owns the road and, in the winter, should anyone be down there and who services the road. No one services the road, so officers can not get down there to monitor. Egan said the road is owned by the DNR and if anything needs to be done with the road, Winnebago County takes care of it. The Town does not close the gates. It was mentioned there are 2 gates at the end of the road. It was asked why the gates can't be moved up by the road and locked. Jan Clausen said she has tried to communicate with anyone from the DNR about this, to no avail. Neighbors have reported that vehicles go out in fields and spin donuts and such. The Sheriff's department has been called but they say they do not have time to patrol the area. It should be closed off. This happens very frequently. In the summer you can't close off the road, but in the winter you could. Egan suggested calling the Berlin Boat club, for they so have somewhat to do with it. It was suggested to talk to State Representative Schraa and Feyen. Mr. Butler offered to reach out to the DNR and see what the options are. He also said for the January meeting, he will reach out to State Representatives, DNR representative, Winnebago, Waushara and Green Lake Sheriff representatives, and possibly the Berlin Boat club to attend the next Board meeting.

Guest Speaker: Health Officer Doug Gieryn: Mr Gieryn was present to answer questions from the residents. He mentioned that Tom Egan was on the Committee for a few years and thanked him for his service. He explained what the Health Department offers, had handouts and answered questions.

Clerks Report: *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the minutes from November 2, 2022. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Kathryn Lewis. The balance for the general account at the end of November was \$255,465.92. The balance in the tax account was \$1,823.48 ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.***

Russ Lee thanked the Board for the brushing that was done on Eureka Road.

Payment of Monthly Invoices: ***Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve and pay \$61,997.48 for invoices for December. Motion carried.***

Public Input – Art Rathjen was present. He handed out Greater Oshkosh 2022 Municipal Report for the Town of Rushford.

Communications and Correspondence: Action Appraisers will be doing field work after the 1st of the year. They will be invited to our Annual Meeting on April 19th and will contact the Town in January for Open Book and Board of Review.

The Town received from Winnebago Co zoning department a letter informing us that an erosion control violation was sent to parcel #022 010605, Ronald Ansay.

Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson: Been getting calls and inquires on different parcels. There will be 2 Conditional Use permit hearings on December 28th. Jackson went through the Ansay Court proceedings & judgement. Attorney Blazel then received a letter from Mr. Ansay saying that he did not believe the Town could take the action they did. He said that he thought the Town has no control over his property unless it goes through Congress. He said he was not changing the use of his land and will be prepared to contest any further action against him. The Attorney said he made a mistake by not answering the complaint and lost without the opportunity of a trial. The Attorney said we could petition for injunction for him to desist what he is doing or keep the fines in action as they are. Jackson's question to the Board was what they wanted to do with the injunction to desist and keep the fines going or what. Egan said if we keep the fines going, he will probably just keep on doing what he is doing, and the Town will end up with the property. He thought we should just do the injunction and be done with it. Kafer thought with the injunction, you can do that in 6 months. He thought leave it, the fines and interest will roll. Or give him 3 months and if there is not any communication, then put forth the injunction. Jackson will talk to the attorney to get clarification on the judgement and what his thoughts would be. This will be on the January agenda.

Old Business: Right across from the Waukau church, there is a trailer with a barn that is falling down owned by Curt Carlson. Also the trailer on Quarry was discussed. Egan thought they did pick up around the trailer. If a trailer is not lived in for a year, it can be considered abandoned. All of these residents have been sent letters at one time. It was suggested that to send letters to both of these residents. Hendricks said the last letter to Hess came back. Kathy thought the Carlson property just went into foreclosure. Egan asked if Hendricks sent a letter to the garage on K & E. Hendricks did, but the registered letter has not been picked up yet. There are also concerns with the cars that are parked there, violation of no building permit and the lot line.

New Business:

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to apply for the yearly Town erosion control permit. Motion carried.

Hendricks said they have not received their per capital economic development funding amount yet, but a request from Omro Area Development Corp and Great Oshkosh for allocation was received.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to split our per capital funding of \$1489 between OADC and Greater Oshkosh. Motion carried.

Discussion of joining TAC (Town Advocacy Council). Egan said this year the Town did not have to pay membership for Winnebago Co Town Association. TAC does lobbying for Towns in Madison. Tom thinks they do a lot for us, and we are one of the few Towns that are a member. The cost would be \$413.50. .25/capita. **Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to join and pay the TAC membership fee. Motion carried.**

Hendricks received a letter from Green Lake Animal Shelter. They will no longer take stray animals from municipalities that are not from Green Lake County unless a contract is in place.

Hendricks said that Spectrum stopped by to see if the Town wanted to switch their internet provider. A check was just sent to NTD for a year service up in October 2023. Art Rathjen mentioned that possibly summer of 2023 there will be another fiber internet provider available.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to wait for discussion after the NTD contract is up in October 2023. Motion carried.

April of 2023 will be the end of the terms for the board members, treasurer and clerk. Since the Town of Rushford has a caucus, a caucus date has to be set. It was agreed that caucus would be set for January 14th at 9 am at the Town of Rushford Hall.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: Hendricks thanked Friends for coming to fix the flagpole and the light for the flag. Egan suggested that the wall that had the bar to hold the maps up, which fell off, should be repainted. Hendricks said the trees are all decorated, and they look very nice. Potratz Landscaping came in and cleaned up the bushes and flowers around the hall, which also looks very nice.

Building Reports:

Shoot to Thrill LLC, 9239 Eureka Lock Road, Omro, WI
Completion of home construction by Shoot to Thrill LLC, Bechoff Homes
\$375,000 022 065704 11-04-2022

William Rew, 3092 Cty Rd E, Eureka, WI 54963
Concrete sidewalk and slab for A/C units by Tanner Equipment
\$3,000 022 14+93 11-4-2022

Bob Moore, 7481 Monroe St, Omro, WI
Re-roof by Security Roofing, Appleton
\$13,000 022 0829 10-12-2022

Marshall Herget, 7260 Meadowridge Dr, Pickett
Basement remodel. Will consist of insulation, framing, drywall and typical electrical work by owner.
\$7,000 022 1424 10-24-2022

Tonya Zanto, 7351 Cty Rd K, Omro
Replacing 3 windows, same location and size by Windows Solutions'
\$14,397.99 022 080005 11-3-2022

Andrew Ziuth, 9030 River Road, Berlin, WI
26 x 30 garage with siding and shingles to match home
Built by Real Construction
\$28,000 022 070502 11-9-2022

Chris Button, 8280 Cty Rd E, Omro, WI
Install egress window & well on west or south wall by B&B Basement Repairs
\$5,600 022 045601 11-9-2022

County Report: Tom Egan bought in the Winnebago Co mining sites from ECWRPC for 2022. The Town has 5 mining sites. All these are required to do reclamation. That cost to ECWRPC is \$35/acre for every year.

Attended Meetings: Hendricks stated that the November 8th election had 880 voters. There were 1087 on the poll books. There was a budget workshop on November 21st. Right before this meeting, a budget hearing and meeting of Electors was held. The levy of \$435,963 was approved.

Upcoming Meetings:

Zoning hearings on December 28th at 7:00.

A possible end of year Board meeting with date to be determined.

It was suggested that Hammerele cut more brush at Edgewater and the end of Bell School road.

Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 8:50. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
