

Rushford Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, April 5, 2023

The Town of Rushford April Board meeting was called to order by Thomas Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with Thomas Egan, Pat Kafer, Jerry Schoonover, & Peggy Hendricks present. Kathryn Lewis was excused. Also present for all or part of the meeting: 13 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 Election equipment testing and Application of Liquor licenses was published in the Omro Herald.

Clerks Report: *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the minutes from March 1, 2023. Motion carried.*

Treasurers Report was given by Peggy Hendricks. The balance for the general account at the end of March was \$453,672.94. The balance in the tax account was \$2,004.67 *Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to approve the treasurer's report. Motion carried.*

Payment of Monthly Invoices: *Motion by Schoonover, 2nd by Kafer to approve and pay \$59,155.98 for invoices for April. Motion carried.*

Communication & Correspondence: Hendricks read a letter from Winnebago County informing the Town that Todd Schafer, 3578 Bell Line Rd, Omro, WI applied to the DNR for Timber Cutting. Cutting agent is Quast Forestry Consulting LLC, Rosendale. Hendricks asked the Board if Troop 623 could use the hall for 3 Mondays in April free of charge for merit training. Hendricks received an email from citizens concerned about the potholes on Stone School Rd, Ferry Ln, Liberty School Rd and Island Rd. The road sign for Lost Lane is faded on the East side and is unreadable. Friends will take care of this. The pits did not open until April 1st, and with snow/rain, any work done before the weather changes is unproductive. It did not help that the frost went out early, which made it difficult. The Board will be going on a road tour on April 13th and will evaluate the roads that need work.

Public Input: Lousie Schoonike, 8691 Edgewater Ridge, Omro, spoke on tree/brush cutting on Edgewater Ridge. She stated it looks terrible. On her personal property, they cut close & branches of her lilac bush. She inquired why they had to do that and why they left such a mess. The Town hires brushing/trimming out and that is the way they brush the Towns right away. 33' from the center to the road on both sides has to be taken care of by the Town. Egan said it does look terrible at first, but the work had to be done because of complaints by bus drivers and farming equipment. The jaggedness is because there is a lot of rock and they have to stay up to avoid the rock and stumps. Property owners can clean back from the road if they wish. Mail boxes damaged during winter was discussed. If the plow driver takes it out, it is taken care of. If the snow takes it out, it is the homeowners responsibility.

Don Wagoner, 3094 Quarry Dr, Eureka stated that during plowing, about 100' on both sides was lost. It has gotten very narrow on the corner. Don tried pulling some back. Some gravel will have to be put down.

Pat Schoonover, 2575 Hwy 116 Omro said last year at the Annual meeting, he talked about a parcel in Waukau that was in someone else's name. The County had it and it sent up for sale and was purchased. Schoonover mentioned that he thinks the plow drivers should get out much earlier. Friends said they use to get out earlier, but since it was still snowing, they would have to go back to

clean up. Egan said this is the first time he has heard this year that they were late getting out. They go out when the snow is done. If the Town would like to change that, they could. Friends also stated that they alternate plowing to address as many roads as possible. They have it broken up in separate quadrants. Friends said this year a lot of the storms started during the evening and did not get done until after the morning rush.

Pat Schoonover asked about the Towns share of ARPA funding which will be coming from Winnebago Co. Egan stated that 22 Townships will receive \$145,000 from 33 million plus interest that the County received. Schoonover asked if they were going to disperse any other monies to the Towns. Egan said they were happy with what they got. He asked if there were stipulations on how you could use the money. This is addressed in the County Resolution – Appropriating Funds in the Amount of \$145,000 for each Municipality or Town Primarily Located within Winnebago Co. Some municipalities are putting it towards their roads, buying fire trucks and radios, water ways, etc. The County has not decided what they are going to do with their monies yet.

Schoonover asked the Board if they would go down Edgewater on their road tour. All the supervisors and chairman stated they have inspected Edgewater already. Kafer said a few years ago they did the same thing on Liberty School Road. It looked the same way. But now it looks a lot better, and residents have been able to mow. The Town is hoping to mow & spray this year so they won't have to come back and do it again. Russ Lee said they brushed on Eureka Road. He is glad they did what they did, for it was very dangerous. Once it grows back, it looks nice. Mike Hammerle, who did the cutting, said years ago the inmates would come out, but that program is no longer in existence. Edgewater is difficult because of the rock. He also stated that he gets around to other Townships and he feels the Town of Rushford is one of the best for taking care of their setbacks and maintaining the roads.

Art Rathjen, Great Oshkosh reported on the Greater Oshkosh Municipal updates. He would like to draw attention to the educational webinars & events. He said there are 2.5 jobs for everyone looking for a job according to the 2023 Wisconsin Rural Economic Summit. He visited with the Town of Utica Fire Chief, Tim Oliver and had information on Rural Distance address signs. These would be very beneficial to the homes that have a long drive way and has an indication if a turn around is available for fire departments. These are "road to home linear foot distance plaque" and only for homes that can't be seen from the driveway or roadway. Oliver wanted to share this with other Townships and fire departments. Tom Jackson will talk to Omro Rushford Omro Fire Department.

New Business: Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to the Class B beer & Liquor license to Feed the People of Oshkosh, Inc, Travis Schinke, 161 Riverhealth Way #605, Appleton, Eureka Landings at 3105 Cty Rd K, Eureka WI, 54963 from April 30, 2023 to June 30, 2023 providing proof the sale is finalized. Motion approved.

A CSM was on the agenda for Ron Carpenter for parcels #02206304, 022 0061, 022 0064, 022 006201, 022 06401, located on Liberty School Rd. **Motion by Kafer, 2nd by Schoonover to table this until next month. More information is needed and someone needs to attend to explain, Motion carried.**

Kafer discussed Eureka Daze, which is planned for July 8th, 2023. They would like to have a parade with the staging between Kafer Farms and Craig Auto. They would like to go over the bridge, go west, loop around and come back to the church around noon. For road closures, Cty Rd K & E would have to be shut for a bit. He talked to Sheriff Matz and will email him the time and details. They would like to close the road that goes to the County Park and would like to use that for parking, vendors, etc. The Parks Department will be getting back to him. They would like Liberty St closed and parking can be accessed off Cty Rd K into Eureka Landings. There would be barricades

set up for that. Egan said he has no problem closing off the roads, but somehow they would need to be manned in case an emergency vehicle needs to get through. Kafer thought by the curve and the park, a trailer would be parked that could be moved to get through. Another thing that could be done is to use the grass area on both sides of the road and use the road as a walk way. One concern from the Parks Department was parking for the fishermen. Eureka is 173 years old. They plan on having music, vendors, crafts, dunk tanks, etc. Parking will be an issue. Hendricks will ask the Eureka Church if their parking lot could be used. More information will be upcoming. Kafer basically wants the Towns & Sheriff Matz blessing on closing the roads at this time. This will be on the agenda next month.

Town Zoning Report – Tom Jackson: Jackson received copies of the letters the attorney sent to residents pertaining to clean up. Egan said Roger Kasuboski is starting to move equipment from DT's back to his property.

Old Business: Egan said Roger Kasuboski is starting to move equipment from DT's back to his property.

Discussion on Town Maintenance: The road tour is scheduled for April 13. They are cutting some of the trees down. Egan heard that Ripon truck will not be mowing, Kafer asked if Hendricks would call Ripon Truck. It was heard that they sold their equipment. He thought they would give the Town the courtesy of informing us.

Building Reports:

Jason & Nancy Stoflet, 4760 State Rd 91, Oshkosh for 7345 Old Mill Road, Omro, WI
New home built by Cypress Homes, Appleton
Parcel #022 1454 \$550,000 3-17-23

Ryan & Tracey Miller, Tori St, Omro WI for 3472 Wren Ct, Omro, WI
New home built by Installation Specialist, Inc, Omro
Parcel #022 1431 \$400,000 3-16-2023

Rick Gehrke, 9136 Bell School Road, Omro
40x53 Shop addition to existing with concrete floor, heated, built by Gehrke Construction
Parcel #022 40802 or 022 040801 \$100,000 3-27-2023

Luz Gonzalez & Jesus Gonzalez, 3284 Morrow Road for 2512 Wi 116, Omro, WI
Full roof replacement
Parcel #022 0867 \$16,380 3-27-2023

County Report: The ARPA funding was discussed earlier. \$3,030,300 was approved for Land & Water Conservation Projects from a special revenue fund known as the Spirt Fund, using resources made available through use of ARPA funds designated as replacement of lost revenue and used for general government services. This will be used for agricultural ditching, water right ways, barnyard runoff systems, etc

Tom Egan said the \$145,000 that the Town will be getting should be earmarked for something. Kafer said it should go to roads. Hendricks said she would like a new Town hall floor. Kafer thought with Town rental fees, a new floor could be gotten from that. Hendricks should get bids and also determine how much the Town has made from rentals though out the years. These monies from ARPA could be used for Legacy projects. Kafer said ideas could be a park. Radios for the fire department was mentioned. There are no firm numbers of cost of these projects.

Bonnie Barkow suggested having a referendum for the residents to vote on what to spend the \$145,000 on. Egan said that would be hard to put as a referendum. Kafer said it is wonderful to be receiving this money, but it really is not a lot of money. Not to belittle the amount we are receiving, but it would not go very far in roads. Jim Moore suggested having people send in ideas. It is thought to come up with a wish list and go from there.

Attended Meetings: Election equipment testing was done on March 29th and we had 550 voters for the Spring Election on April 4th.

Upcoming Meetings:

April 13th – Road Tour

April 6, 2023 Unit meeting at Town of Wolf River

April 19th – Annual meeting at 6 pm

May 1st – Board of Review Training at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point or virtual program.

Mike Hammerle gave an update on where he is on mulching. We have already paid \$9125 and they are at \$9300 at this time. They have done Edgewater, Bell School, Bell Line, Spring Road is about 1/3 done. Then they will go to Rushford and will check Edgewater once the snow is gone. Then they will do some areas in Eureka where bus drivers have complained, and finish up on Morrow Rd. He was wondering if the Town wanted him to get a chipper. There are some trees that were dead and still standing. He knocked them into the ditch line. Some trees could be hand cut. An estimate would be between \$6000-\$8000. Freund said they could save on chipping for some of the trees could be taken to the Town dump. Egan said to finish up the roads he mentioned. He should also check Division in Eureka. Hendricks mentioned that in the last 2 years, we have received almost \$172,000 in grants that has either gone to roads or is earmarked for roads/brushing. The Board will discuss the chipping during the road tour.

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

Respectfully submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk
