

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes
Wednesday, April 17, 2013

The Town of Rushford 2013 Annual meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on April 17th, 2013 by Chairman Tom Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for all or part of the meeting was 10 persons per attendance record on file, although several others were presented, but did not sign in.

Chairman Tom Egan welcomed everyone and thanked everyone for their support in the election.

Nicole Bahn was present to swear in the officials for 2013-2015 term. Thomas Egan – Chairman, Patrick Kafer and Jerry Schoonover – Supervisors, Peggy Hendricks – Clerk, Kathryn Lewis – Treasurer and Sean Edinger – Constable took the oath of office.

Guest Speakers:

- **Ernest Winters – Winnebago County Highway Department:** Mr Winters gave his background and explained how the Eureka Bridge Project was going and what they expected to get accomplished. He explained certain programs where Towns can receive financial help on projects such as the TRIPP program for roads and the financial aid to Counties for bridges. The County does maintenance on the Town of Rushford's roads and he expressed appreciation for the communication between the Town and the County.
- **Deputy Olan, Winnebago County Sheriff's Office** – The Sheriff's office has been utilizing social media for communication between the residents of the County and the Sheriff's office. They are using Facebook, Twitter & UTube. They have a service where you can sign up for emergency updates. He gave a report on the radios they will be switching over to.
- **Jay Treleven, Omro=Rushford Fire Department** - Mr Treleven has been on the fire department for 30 years and chief for 6 years. There are 50 members in the Fire Department and 20 first responders. They all are volunteers and they do not get paid for what they do. Mr. Treleven is very proud of this fact. They have several fund raisers that they do though out the year. June 14th will be their 50th annual street dance. They are building a storage/training facility. This is a 3 year project. This is from money raised from the Fire Department. They are finishing up with the 50/50 cost share grant from the DNR. They apply for as many grants as they can. One engine is a 1984 engine that will need to be replaced soon. A committee has been set up to get more information to present to the Fire Department Board. They will be working very closely with the Project Manager and the Winnebago Co Sheriff's department during the bridge closure. The new radios were discussed. Mr Egan thanked Mr Treleven and the fire department for all their work and dedication.
- **Dean Kaderabek:** Dean is doing the update and rewrite of the Town of Rushford's ordinances. He has been working on this for 9-10 months at this time. He has been working with the Town's planning & Zoning Committee. With the committees input, he is working on the 2nd draft. He presented to the Town Board. He will take the Town Boards comments, make any changes, and

then set a date for a public open house for residents to come to give comments and have questions answered. The draft will be written and a copy will be sent to Winnebago County and Zoning for their comment and view. The final draft will be sent to the Town Attorney. It will then go to the Town Board for final approval. This is taken longer than he expected, but he thinks it is a good thing to get all the comments from the committee and others. Pat Kafer asked about an encouragement area map. Dean said this will be in there, but now is the time to make any zoning changes that are needed to match what they should be. Tom Egan thanked Dean for all his hard work.

- **Larry Timm, Town Assessor:** Mr. Timm could not come to the meeting but he sent his report to the Town. Jerry Schoonover read Mr. Timm's report. Mr. Timm will be mailing out assessments next week. His report explained how the Board of Review works. The Town only had two new housing projects for 2012.

Peggy Hendricks went through the 2012 Annual Report Booklet that she prepared. This includes the financial annual report, 2012 annual meeting minutes, informational pages, 2012 Budget Summary and a recycling calendar.

Motion by Fred Kasten, 2nd by Jerry Schoonover to approve the Town of Rushford 2012 annual report. Motion carried. Jerry Schoonover thanked the clerk for the Annual Report Booklet.

Tom Egan stated that last year we had the Town attorney come and talk. He said our present attorney has always been very knowledgeable, helpful and has done a good job. It has been brought up the possibility of a different Town Attorney. We have had several attorneys come in to talk at the Board meetings. Tom asked for discussion. **Motion by Ellen Newman, 2nd by Peggy Hendricks to retain Attorney Blazel as the Town Attorney for Rushford. Motion carried.**

Our contract is up with Veolia. There has been an interest from someone else to do our garbage/recycling pickup. This should go out for bids. **Motion by Neil Newman, 2nd by Ken Larsen to allow the Town Board to decide who they think will be the best contractor for garbage/recycling pickup in the Town of Rushford. Discussion: Pat Kafer feels this should be put out to bids first, and then the Board should make a decision. Motion carried.**

Tom Egan asked for permission from the Town for the Board to go ahead and do whatever they feel is best and within the budget for the roads. **Motion by Nicole Bahn, 2nd by Ellen Newman to have the Town Board decide what should be done with the roads as they see fit. Motion carried.**

Fred Kasten said that after the ice storm there are a lot of trees and branches down and if someone is going to go around and take care of that. Tom said it will be taken care of. We will need to get a chipper out.

Peggy Hendricks proposed that all members from the board and committees be sent the agendas, minutes and other correspondence in the meeting package by email. Russ Lee stated that he does not have internet. He does check at the library periodically. Nicole Bahn asked if this could be done by member choice. Tom Egan said at the County, some is sent by email and some by postal mail. **Peggy Hendricks made a motion to offer committee members and board members the option of receiving their meeting information either electronically or by mail. Fred Kasten 2nd the motion. Motion carried.**

Tom Egan would like a nice sign out by the road. Pat Kafer mentioned an electronic sign. It was thought the expense would be very high. Ellen Newman suggested giving the project to a shop class. Pat Kafer did not know if they had a "shop class" that was any longer than one quarter. A committee should be formed to proceed with the sign for the Town Hall.

Pat Kafer would like the area set aside for a "rain garden" be mowed so it looks better. Something has to be done for it is unattractive as it sits. Fred Kasten suggested seeding it down with something like Kentucky bluegrass and then mowing it. The Master Gardeners was in charge of the vegetation around the building and Traxler said he would take care of the rain garden vegetation.

Tom Egan appointed Pat Kafer and Ellen Newman to take charge of the rain garden area.

Tom Egan brought up having an assessors plat in the Village of Waukau. It was discussed previously, but it was decided to be put off until Eureka's assessors plat was completely finished and paid for. This has been taken care of. Fred Kasten stated that he has a few people from the Village asking if this could be done. He said if members of the community would like to have a meeting to discuss this, the Town can arrange this. This item was on the agenda for tonight's meeting and only one couple from Waukau is present. Last year Jim Smith was here to discuss a plat in Waukau and the residents did not want the assessors plat done. Even if residents have had surveying done recently, they would all have to be part of the assessors plat, for Waukau is way off according to Martinson & Eisele. Kathryn said that the residents in Eureka were happy with the assessors plat when it came to tax bills. Dean Kaderabek said it would reconcile many property line disputes. This is especially valuable at the County level. Pat Kafer felt with Eureka's plat, we should have gone out a little farther. Ellen Newman feels that it is a huge expense for the Town to do when it is just for a few people and not the whole Township. Fred Kasten said for the Eureka's Assessors Plat, a meeting was called and all who were interested attended. The majority of the people voted to have it done. The Township did pay for the expenses, but the expenses were paid back within 3 years of completion by the residents it affected. She feels that even though the Town was reimbursed, the Town lost the interest on that money for 3-5 years.

The Town is the only entity that can order an Assessors Plat according to State Statutes.

Dean Kaderabek made a motion to allow the Board to investigate in the assessor plat for the Village of Waukau; however any cost associated should be paid fully by the residents involved in the project. If it be a loan by the Town, the interest incurred should be recouped. Motion seconded by Ellen Newman. Motion carried.

The Annual meeting held in 2014 will be set for April 16, 2014 at 7:00 at the Rushford Town Hall. There are refreshments available after adjournment.

Motion by Ken Larsen, 2nd by Pat Kafer to adjourn the meeting at 8:55. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk