

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes  
Wednesday, April 17, 2019

The Town of Rushford 2019 Annual meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 by Chairman Tom Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for all or part of the meeting was 12 persons per attendance record on file, although several others were presented, but did not sign in.

Nicole Bahn swore in the Town elected officials and Jay Treleven, Fire Chief for the Town of Rushford.

#### **Guest Speakers:**

- **Jay Treleven – Fire Chief of Omro-Rushford Fire Department** – Chief Treleven has been with the fire department for 36 years. He reported on the hoover craft. Their present one is 25 years old. The motor is being built in Omro by Motor Goodwin. SPS though the State of Wisconsin – explained as the OSHA for Fire Departments, they rewrote a lot of the law and their standards. The new law went into implementation this year. There are a lot of changes, so they got a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to come in to look at the Department to give strengths and weakness and to give recommendations. There will be a report done and any changes that need to be done, will be implemented. He also explained the new changes with the training hours which are required for First Responders and Fire Fighters. There are presently 40 firefighters. With SPS 330 law, it has changed training hours to 96 hours and 30 extra hours are required by the state to be certified. Chief Treleven explained LOSA, which is a length of service award. To receive, you have to be vested – 15 years. The fire department is strictly volunteer. Tom Egan extended thanks for the Fire Department for all they do.
- **Officer Kyle Schoonover from Winnebago Co Sheriff Office** was present to answer any questions from residents. He was questioned about the K-9 who just turned 8. Usually they would be retired at 9-10 years depending on health. At that time, the handler has the option of purchasing the dog for \$1. They have a fund though donations for the dog expenses. Tom Egan said the UTV route from Eureka to Waukau on Hwy K will be presented to the County. He asked what problem they saw in that. Schoonover had talked to administration on this and their stance on this is as long as they are following the laws, they are OK with this. The main concern is the safety and the different types of vehicles on the road. It was asked how many K-9's are in the area. The Sheriffs office has 3, Omro has 1, Oshkosh has 2 and Fox Crossing has 1. Every agency helps out the other. The minimum staffing of officers is 5 though out the County, 4 between the hours of 3 am – 6 am. The County is broken up into 5 different sectors.
- **John Groth – Winnebago Co Highway Department:** Mr Groth gave the Town their bridge report for the year and went through the projected Department of Transportation projects for the coming year within the County. The DOT maintenance projects includes a lot of ditching and bridge maintenance. All Town roads took a beating though out the years. When the County has road work scheduled, the priorities start with State projects, which separate trucks are used, County projects then Towns. They purchased a new excavator, track excavator and mulching brush machine. It was asked who to contact for a culvert on a county road, which would be the County Highway department. Pat Schoonover asked if they would be willing to put in a bid to snowplow for the Township. Mr. Groth said they have Maintenance contracts with the Townships. They do not put bids out and they do not have a pickup truck for snowplowing. Tom explained that they did the Town road tour with Mr. Groth.
- **Chuck Freund - Freund Excavating:** They have been snowplowing for the past 6 years in the Township and they appreciate the opportunity. This past season consisted of 32 snow events, on 2/24 there was a huge wind storm that had 50 mph winds and 1" of snow, they had 6' drifts on about 5 roads in the Township. That was one of the worst storms they have seen. A lot of residents are

pushing snow in the road. This is a safety concern. They are looking for alternatives to salt and possibly using a "broom" for intersections. Pat Schoonover said he has heard a lot of complaints. He does not think a pickup truck should be used for snow. Freund said that is the only equipment that will fit the Town roads. Friends said then a Town supervisor or Chairperson should have been contacted. If timing is a problem, that depends on the storm and it is best to contact a board member. Pat Schoonover stated he thinks that road maintenance work is terrible. When a concern is told to a Board member, the concern is addressed. It is always best to contact someone from the Board. Pat Schoonover thinks the Town should rethink who does the maintenance work. He feels the cost is too high. Mr. Freund said they charge a fair price. They do not charge for any hand tools, chain saws or small tools.

- **Larry Timm – Town Assessor:** Mr. Timm has mailed out around 800 notices to home owners for there is an increased assessment in the Town. The Town has to be 90-100% in range of assessment level and in 2018 we were at 84%. If we are below 90% for a certain period of time, the State could force a revaluation of the Town, which is very expensive. There will be a 10% adjustment on each home. The total increase will come to 11.7 million. This should make the Town mill rate go down. There has not been an adjustment on homes for 19 years.

***Motion by Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Schoonover to appoint Attorney John Blazel for the Town attorney until April of 2020. Motion carried.***

Clerk Peggy Hendricks went through the annual report booklet along with the PowerPoint presentation. The booklets will be available at the Town hall entry way.

***Motion by Dan Stokes, 2<sup>nd</sup> Pat Schoonover to approve the minutes of 2018 annual meeting. Motion carried.***

Tom Egan expressed sympathy to the Chuck Mier family in behalf of the Town Board.

***Motion Dan Stokes, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Schoonover to adjourn the meeting at 7:35. Motion carried.***  
Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk