

Rushford Annual Town Board Minutes  
Thursday, April 20, 2017

The Town of Rushford 2017 Annual meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 by Chairman Tom Egan followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present for all or part of the meeting was 20 persons per attendance record on file, although several others were present, but did not sign in.

Alexander Craig swore in the 2016 – 2018 officials. Thomas Egan – Chairman, Jerry Schoonover & Patrick Kafer as Supervisors, Peggy Hendricks – Clerk & Kathryn Lewis – Treasurer. Not present was Shawn Edinger – Town Constable.

**Guest Speakers:**

- **Jay Treleven – Fire Chief of Omro-Rushford Fire Department** – Chief Treleven has been serving as Chief for 10 years. The Department is healthy. Other departments are struggling with volunteers. The members do not get paid for what they do. The department has been around for over 125 years. They are one of the very few in the state that is totally volunteer. The training hours that they must go through is a lot. It is over 96 hours to start out as a fire fighter and then extra training such as hazmat, etc. The membership is 53. This last year has been outstanding as far as recruitment. They have 9 gentlemen that will finish probation and state certification test. 12 new members have joined. Anyone interested in joining can call Tom Egan or Jay at 658-3333. The department does need first responders. For fund raisers, they have the 10-week, 20 gun raffle, the street dance on June 9<sup>th</sup> and will be involved in Breakfast on the Farm on June 10<sup>th</sup> held at Omro Dairy. The CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) burns started April 15<sup>th</sup> and will continue through May. In 1991, the first responder program started. He thanked the Town Board for being so supportive through the years. It was asked how much time is invested in being a first responder. Jay said the bi-annual recertification is 30 hours. He does not know for initial hours, for the state keeps changing things. He thinks it is around 100 – 110 hours. When he first started, it was 85 hours. It was asked what the breakdown of ownership was for the fire department. It is evenly broken down between the Town of Rushford, Town of Omro and the City of Omro. Pat Schoonover asked if he thought it was equal between the 3, for the Town of Omro and the City of Omro is larger and the Town of Rushford is paying the same. Jay stated that some departments do things differently, but in this case this has worked extremely well. For example, if you have a house fire in the City of Omro, you will get 3 engines, a unit, all the guys will show up and auto-aid. The Town of Rushford will get the same. The cost is the same. The types of major runs are pretty even. The City does have more runs and miscellaneous calls mainly because of the care centers. Tom Egan said that this has been discussed several times.
- **Attorney Blazel:** The projects he is working on currently is subdivision platting and road & alley closures in Waukau. Pat Schoonover said there has been discussion on recyclable leaves, etc being hauled in. The resident applied for a variance to have this out on his property and then there were people complaining of getting sick from stirring the material up. He wondered where the liability was for the Town on this and where someone goes if the Town is not enforcing the ordinances. Tom Egan said John Blazel was involved with one of the parties, so he can not be involved in this. Peter Culp is our attorney for this. Attorney Blazel stated he is not

handling this case. Another Attorney is representing the Town and he has begun working on this. Pat Schoonover said that he feels the Town does not treat all the same. Some people might get a permit, and someone might not for the very same thing. Attorney Blazel said certain types of permits or variances depend on certain facts and circumstances on the outcome. A variance is different, for you must prove you have unique conditions on your lot that does not apply to other lots. Schoonover feels it comes down to name recognition. He feels that because of the legalities of Blue Belle, the Town ended up paying for the subdivision. Kafer stated that the Town's insurance paid for this. The only thing the Town had to pay is the deductible and that the Town did not pay for the subdivision.

***Motion by Schoonover, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kafer to retain Attorney Blazel for the April 2017 – April 2018 term. Motion carried.***

- **Brandon Bonfiglio - Waushara ATV/UTV Association** - presented the updated ATV-UTV route to the Board for the ordinance. The Club would only assign that main route, and then if others do not live on the route, only residents could use non-route roads to get to the route. In the last week, they have had quite a few cities, Town and villages approve an ATV-UTV ordinance. Tom Egan asked if he has talked to everyone who is on the route. Brandon said that everyone they have talked to has been very supportive. There are time limits (6 am – 10 pm), restricted the speed and where you can go. It was asked if they got approval from the County yet. The answer was no until the Townships approve their routes, then the Town and County can work that out together. Mr. Blazel will go through the ordinance and report back. Tom Egan asked the Town if this is something we should follow through with. The majority of the residents' present agreed that the Town should approve the route. Russ Lee feels that abuse might happen because it is all roads. He is very concerned about the speed. He would like to have more people aware of this ordinance. The Town has a one year trial and then it would be reviewed yearly. Pat Kafer is not for opening all the roads in the Township. Brandon did redo the ordinance to have only the roads the board had requested earlier. It was suggested to have a Public hearing for this. The residents would like to vote on this tonight. Attorney Blazel said even though this is an annual meeting of the electors, it is a Town Board decision. The Town residents can do many things at an Annual meeting, but passing legislation is not one of them. Pat Schoonover thought maybe there should be an article in the Omro Herald. The Board had discussed voting on this at the May meeting and also publishing this in the newspaper. It was mentioned that a lot of people do not get the newspaper anymore. Pat Kafer said the pending ordinance says no one under 12 could be on the route. He was wondering what the age is to have a safety certificate. The ordinance was written up with the DNR's limitations. It was stated that a person can start taking the course at 11 ½ years. It does not become effective until they are 12. Between the age of 12 – 16, a safety certificate is required, and they must be with someone 18 or older.

***Motion was made by Cory Craig to be on the agenda at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting and a vote taken. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Allen. Motion carried.***

- **Larry Timm, Town Assessor** was not able to attend but he wanted everyone to know that all assessments notices have been mailed out and open book & Board of Review dates have been set. If you have a question on your tax bill, you can talk to Larry at the Town hall on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 2 – 6. Board of Review will be on May 19<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 7.

Tom Egan reported the Friends are working on some of the pot holes but it has been very wet. They did get a new machine this year so they can do chip and seal.

Peggy Hendricks went through the 2016 Annual Report Booklet that she prepared. This includes the financial annual report, 2016 annual meeting minutes, informational pages, 2017 Budget Summary and a recycling calendar. Hendricks stated that recycling helps the Town with a recycling grant. In 2015, the per capital collection was 99.43#/person. In 2016, the per capital collection was 127.34#/person. The standard is 82.4#/person, so the Town of Rushford is doing very well with recycling.

It was asked why we pay the technical colleges taxes on the tax bill. He feels we are subsidizing tuitions. Kathryn Lewis said that levy has been going on way before she was treasurer. Tom Egan said that FVTI and Morine Park is County owned and that is the reason for the levy.

***Motion by Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lee to approve the minutes of 2016 annual meeting. Motion carried.***

**Open Discussion**

It was asked if the Town had heard anything from Attorney Culp. Hendricks said that she did receive and email stating that he had received all the information that he needed from the Town.

***Motion Pat Kafer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russel Lee to adjourn the meeting at 8:15. Motion carried.***

Respectfully Submitted by Peggy Hendricks, Clerk