

Town of Otter Creek – June 17, 2025
Otter Creek Town Hall – E5905 County Road S, Wheeler WI
Regular Town Board Meeting – 7 p.m.

Attendees:

Chair LeAnn Ralph*

Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*

Supervisor 2 Bob Bernier*

Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier

Patrolman Gary Anderson - ABSENT

Guests: Gary Axness, Denise Axness, Chuck Boyer, Renee Carrell, Serge & Veronika Zazovsky

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2025. Meeting minutes from the 5/13/2025 BOR and Regular Board Meeting were not read by Clerk as the Town Board reviewed the minutes prior to tonight's meeting and agreed that the minutes did not need to be read. Hayes motioned to approve the 5/13/2025 BOR and Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented, Ralph second, MC.

Public Comments - Public Comment is limited to 3 minutes. As per the state's Open Meetings law, there will be no back and forth discussion with the town board. The state Attorney General's guidance is that board members can ask clarifying questions but that back and forth discussion is not advised.
Corner of 730th and S – stop sign is gone. Need replaced. S and W road signs are missing. Clerk will phone County to see if they have an extra stop sign to pick.

Communication from Town Chair – Update on Innovation planning grant for Fire & EMS services. Clerk to forward email to Chair about money available.

Communication from Town Supervisors – update on building repair estimate. No estimate on building. Supervisor Bernier to speak with Gary to put material against the wall.

Communication from Clerk –

- maintenance of effort (MOE) filed by Clerk with DOR on June 8, 2025 with information from EMS and Fire Department.
- Sunlight Report – request for meeting notices. Was single individual from Sheboygan, who has AI generated images of the "staff". This does not appear to be an actual news media entity, and there is a legal decision pending from Wisconsin Counties Association legal counsel, in conjunction with the Wisconsin Towns Association legal counsel, who are working on drafting a response.
- Fire bill received in the amount of \$1,418.34 for the Chris Apelgren fire on 4/12/2025, 1180th Ave/Co Trk SS. Clerk sent billing to Apelgren.
- Scott & Melissa Jordan zoning permit issued for N11943 Cnty Rd SS, Wheeler. Town & Country Modular Home w/garage
- Clerk signed DC Holding Trunk Maintenance/Monitoring Agreement for Woodwind Park 6/5/25
- **Veronika Zazovsky – Special Exception Request** – proposal for commercial kennel on their property. Veronika shared their proposal so the board can express an opinion

regarding a special exception. She bought 2 parcels 3 years back, submitted permit for new structure 18x42, plan on using part for kennel for dogs. Opened in 2011. Small operation. Don't want to use small kennels. Want letter of support from Otter Creek. Have 3 active females, use frozen semen for males. All German Shepherd. Currently zoned general ag. 18x42 building, with some storage, some office space, 6x6 on both sides, several areas. Not open to the public, not day care, these are their dogs. Have orchard, barn, for AKC compliance they have to separate the females. Have commercial kitchen at some point for orchard. Want some flexibility, may be farm store later and not kennel. Put the building very close to the home. Need to apply for special exception with Dunn County, who will notify all the neighbors. Veronica advocates for ethical practices, service animals, helps with the vet practices. People wait nine months to get a puppy. Many go into special program, not law enforcement, some are service animals. 95% of dogs go out of state. Dogs go through two types of training before release. Only 27 dogs in the US like theirs. Town Board has to express an opinion, motion, and support. Same general ag zoning, this would be a special exception. Going to start this summer on the building. **Motion by Bernier to support the special exception, second by Ralph. MC. Clerk to send meeting minutes to zoning.**

DC issued sanitary permit – Scott and Melissa Jordan of Chippewa Falls – sanitary permit for N11943 County Rd SS. 19.84 acres. Zoning permit also issued.

Driveway assignment - E6080 County Road S, Wheeler WI – Joshua and Grace Goodreid from Boyceville. Formerly owned by Cory Reisdorf. 14.93 acres

Tavern License renewal – renewal documents and payment received from Too Mixed Up (\$649 + \$350 = \$999) and WoodWind Park (\$649). Notice of Application published in Colfax Messenger June 4, 2025. Board to review for approval of licenses. Motion to approve the tavern license for Too Mixed up by Bernier, second by Ralph, MC. Motion to approve the tavern license for Woodwind Park by Ralph, second by Bernier, MC.

Operator's License approvals – 12 Operator (bartender) licenses for 5/23/2025 through 6/30/2025:

Chad Boyd, Elizabeth Sieben, Caleigha Asmus, Campbell Cassellius, Michelle Clark
Nadine Hintz, Amber Moen, Lauren Pechman, Crystal Seehaver, Halle Thomas, Tiana Frank, Nola Tyrrell,
Motion by Bernier to approve operator's licenses from 5/23/25 to 6/30/25, second Hayes, MC.

and 18 Operator's licenses for 7/1/2025 through 6/30/2026:

Tiana Frank, Mary Flatland, Nathaniel Root-Holloman, Joshua Posey, Mallory Pigman, Chad Boyd, Elizabeth Sieben, Caleigha Asmus, Campbell Cassellius, Michelle Clark, Nadine Hintz, Amber Moen, Lauren Pechman, Crystal Seehaver, Halle Thomas, Paul Frank, Meagan Frank, Nola Tyrrell. Motion to approve operator's licenses from 7/1/25 to 6/30/26 by Bernier, second by Ralph, MC.

Cemetery sign – \$1200 to \$1400 to build new cemetery sign. Tainter Machine cannot sand blast or paint the existing sign. Previous quote from Vintage sign shop – quote for design & repair of cemetery sign \$425. This would be two separate aluminum panels with a vinyl design applied, we would install them directly to the existing sign panels and just cover it up. The sign frame needs to be sanded or sand-blasted and then re-painted and is not on the estimate.

Renee Carrell will speak with Stout to see if they can sand/paint the metal. Clerk to ask Vintage how long the vinyl design will last. Motion to accept quote from Vintage sign shop by Ralph, Cecil second, for \$425. MC.

Security cameras – discussion and possible outcome on upgrading current security systems at the town hall. Clerk and Sup Bernier meeting with Chris of Tru Lock Security Wed 6/18.

Weber May Inspection report – no activity for May

Flatland May Inspection report – no activity for May

Pat Sand ADU/Site visit – Dunn County conducted site visit 5/20/2025. Report submitted 6/17/25 from Dunn County.

Cutting notices –

- Aaron Runk, logger is Goettl Logging (D6-2025)
- Michael Schendel, logger is Goettl Logging (D7-2025)

Physical Address Reassignment – Allen and Jolene Miller – Current address of E5918, County Road N, Wheeler, effective May 28, 2025 will be replaced with the address of E5944, County Road N, Wheeler. Vacant land has permitted driveway located on the far west side of the property. Recently, the property has transferred ownership and the new landowners have relocated the driveway approximately 300' east of the existing driveway. Previous owners Kinney, Bauer, Stelter, Dakota Smith. 10.41 acres

Special Assessment request – Val Naber owner to Todd Sinz buyer - N12011 County Rd SS Wheeler, WI.

PIN transfers (from reg. of deeds) – Val Naber to Zaffiro LLC, 40 acres

Patrolman - Report from Patrolman on Road Work/Equipment. Chair read report from Gary Anderson, attached in minute book.

Treasurer - Review treasurer's report. Motion by Hayes to accept the treasurer's report, Ralph second. MC.

Auditing of bills for payment. Bills circulated and approved by the Town Board.

Any other business

Closed Session – Motion to go into closed session pursuant to Wisconsin state statute 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – Discussion and possible action on handling mowing, plowing, grading. Motion by Ralph to go into closed session, second by Hayes, MC.

Open Session - Motion to convene into open session and to take action appropriate to Wisconsin state statute 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility – which resulted from the closed session. Motion by Ralph, second by Hayes to reconvene into open session.

ADJOURN - Ralph moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, Bernier second, MC. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

Gary Anderson – 715-658-1483;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Bev Bernier – 715-658-0131;

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;