

Town of Otter Creek – October 14, 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

Guests: Chuck Boyer, Erica Kragness, Dustin Kragness, Trent Morning

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 7:07 p.m. on Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Meeting minutes from the September 9, 2025 BOR and September 9, 2025 BOR 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. Motion by Hayes to approve the September 9, 2025 BOR and the September 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting minutes, second by Bernier, motion carried.

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.

670th and S has potholes, 1030th to 670th potholes.

Communication from Town Chair – Chip sealing -13.27 miles that could be chipped sealed. About \$25,000/mile, would cost \$332,000 to chip seal all roads in Otter Creek. Need to decide how much we want to do. Fire board meeting on Thursday, will discuss Town of Tainter coming back into the fire district. Left 15 years ago. Would be about 40% of equalized value. Salt sand is ready, can pick up Monday through Thursday at the Albright pit. 250 ton ordered. Get silage tarp at Synergy.

Communication from Town Supervisors –

Supervisor 1 – tree off of 570th, beaver dam on 1090th backing up.

Supervisor 2 – Glen starting the shed w/o October 20, will be done in one week. Ordered new mirrors for grader – both mirrors were smashed. Removed tree off 1180th. Tractor/mower here October 16, will plan to have roadsides mowed. Barry Wirth is starting at the end of this week on 730th, will use 1 ¼" limerock. Met with Riemer 9/4/25. Wires were really bad, mice had eaten them away, dangerous. Cleaned the shop 9/11/25. Met with Terry Tyrrell, he graded swamp road and 730th. Road sign was broken off on 1070th and 670th – "curve ahead". Phoned diggers hotline, ticket will be complete on Oct. 17. Need to put a new pole up. Worked with Terry and Faron several days looking over equipment and tools. Some type of breather missing on grader. Looking for large tools - no large wrenches including pipe wrench, no shovels, etc. Terry took the bracket for the plow to Tainter Machine to have it fixed/welded as Anderson had removed quite a bit of the metal. Grader door handle needs repair, box blade update will need to be built at Tainter Machine in the Spring.

Communication from Clerk –

- Timber Cutting Permit – Bob Bernier, Don Johnson – need driveway permits
- Too Mixed Up – replacement sanitary permit issued
- Consumer Price Index – 2.7%

- Wyatt Sell – received first payment of \$236
- Intersection of County Road N & S – bad potholes from potato equipment. DC Hwy fixed.
- Concern of mobile home/driveway – no permits requested
- 2025 Gubernatorial Election Academy October 28-30, 2025 via Zoom. \$179 for 3 days

Discussion and possible determination – consider purchasing an 16” to 18” EGO electric chain saw, under \$300, possibly a spade shovel. Motion by Hayes to get the tools that are necessary for the shop, second by Ralph, MC.

Discussion and consideration of changing start time of monthly board mtg to 6 pm. Will change on a trial basis through March, 2026. Motion by Ralph to change monthly board meeting in November to 6 pm, continue through March, 2026, with review of trial period.

Payment to Town Board member – consideration of hourly pay rate for town board member for time spent assisting with wiring of town hall, instructing new drivers, and other duties. Motion by Hayes to pay board members for time spent performing town duties at the agreed upon rate, second by Ralph, MC.

DNR MFL transfer – from previous owner to Mitchell T Sinz transfer of 120 acres closed land

Special Assessment Request – Russell Beebe, 2 parcels - 570th St, 142 acres – buyer is Fanetti

Flatland September Inspection report –

Matt and Roberta Preston N10904 670th St Electric permit for new service to shop permit issued 9-16-25. Service inspection Passed 9-19-25

Chris and Susan Dvoracek E7111 County Rd N Occupancy granted 9-11-25

Curtis Nelson N9878 County Rd N Covered front porch permit issued 9-11-25

Footing inspection 9-12-25

Jeff Wildner E5702 1140th Ave, Under floor Plumbing and frost protected shallow foundation passed 9-11-25

Discussion and determination on possible update to building ordinance – modify to add plumbing permit is required by building inspector. Motion to approve the updated building ordinance by Hayes, second by Bernier. MC.

2025 Levy – payable 2026 – Discussion and possible revision of loan timeframe. 2025 levy was \$134,564. Loan for new tractor/mower, if paid in 5 years levy is \$145,094; if paid in 3 years levy is \$151,235. Interest for 5 years is \$7,650; if paid in 3 years interest is \$5,000. Savings of \$2,650. Motion by Bernier to pay off the loan in 3 years, second by Ralph, MC.

DC Treasurer Agreement – to collect town taxes. Cost increase from \$2.35/bill to \$2.50. 853 parcels in 2024 - \$130 increase. Motion by Hayes to continue to have DC Treasurer collect Town taxes, second by Ralph, MC.

Treasurer - Review treasurer’s report. Motion to accept the financial report by Hayes, second by Bernier, MC.

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

Any other business

Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting. Motion to adjourn at 8:35 p.m. by Bernier, second by Ralph, MC. Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Bev Bernier – 715-658-0131;

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;