

Town of Otter Creek Regular Monthly Town Board Meeting Minutes
Otter Creek Town Hall – E5905 County Road S, Wheeler WI 54772
September 9, 2025 – Immediately following BOR

Attendees:

Chair LeAnn Ralph*

Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*

Supervisor 2 Bob Bernier*

Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier

Guests: Gary Axness, Denise Axness, Chuck Boyer, Natalie DeLeasky, Bruce Snyder

*Board Members

Call to Order regular board meeting at 7:27 p.m. by Chair Ralph.

Approval of Minutes from the August 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting. Motion by Bernier to approve, 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.

Communication from Town Chair – 2026 per capita for SW&R – about \$5,000 less. Board will apply surplus to operating, start replacing compactors. Starting to show some wear, spend about \$100,000 on compactors. \$26 to \$18/person. Colfax Rescue squad not met yet, not sure where the budget is.

Communication from Town Supervisors

Supervisor 1 – Nothing.

Supervisor 2 – status update on cemetery sign, Jeff Dehnhoff, Bob Bernier, Bev Bernier, Renee Carrell sanded, new plywood, applied the front/back aluminum signs. Update on 1180th (Solheim road). Barry Wirth used the box blade on it. Going to get oil from Fleet Farm. Tractor – interest rates may be going down, clerk will check. Update on 730th – road material – start on north end and put 1 ½" rock on, 40 loads, Bob to contact Barry Wirth. Status of equipment: Brush Wolf, Rhino mower, trailer, backhoe.

Communication from Clerk –

- Nuss Truck received final truck repair payment of \$ \$7,762.88 from Rural Ins.
- Wyatt Sell – payment plan of \$236/month through December to pay off \$1180. Nothing received yet.
- DNR has paid their fine of \$165 for road damage
- DC unit of WTA annual banquet Oct.22, 6:30 p.m. - \$18/person, and \$50 annual dues. Clerk will attend.
- Address assignment for Stacey Asmus – N10227 600th St, Wheeler WI (mobile home)
- Clerk to attend WTA training on levy and budget – Sept. 16 – Eau Claire - \$70

Wyatt Sell request – Wyatt is disputing the cost of repair due to his actions on April 2, 2025. No one present to dispute.

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. Carry over to October for discussion/decision.

DNR – Forest Tax Law – lands applied for 2026 MFL entry – 130 acres closed, 90 acres Bob Bernier, 40 acres Andy Johnson

Land Use Permit –

- B-5-2025 issued for Jeff & Jeremy Wildner

Weber July Inspection report – no activity for August

Flatland July Inspection report –

- N9913 550th Ave Insulation passed – Owen
- N11943 County Rd SS EL Service passed – Jordan
- N11943 County Rd SS Under floor Plumbing passed – Jordan
- E5702 1140th Ave New single family dwelling (Cabin) permit issued -Jeff Wildner

Zoning permits -

- Allen & Jolene Miller, E5944 Cty Rd N, Wheeler, sanitary permit – new home
- Levi Wagner, N10999 670th St., Wheeler, sanitary reconnect for proposed bathroom in shed addition, approved permit for shed addition
- Woodwind Park sanitary permit issued by DC for wedding pavilion

Special Assessment request – Sinz to Skaw (former Val Naber home) – N12011 County Rd SS, Wheeler WI

Consideration of purchasing or having a 10-foot box blade built. Talked to Tainter Machine, about the same cost to build as to buy. Would replace the grader for grading roads. Looked at 1180th, the box blade did a great job. About \$7,000. Table to October meeting, Bernier will get pricing in the interim.

Discussion and determination of cost for mowing town hall property. Motion for \$75 for first time mowing, as cleanup of grounds was needed. \$50 for future mowing by Hayes, second by Ralph, MC.

Discussion and determination of ordering salt/sand. Albricht pit is \$15/ton in 2025. 11/23 received 383 tons @\$13.50/ton. Trucking from Lentz was 19 hours, or \$2,105. Table to October.

SUSPEND TOWN BOARD MEETING 8:05 PM – Motion by Ralph to suspend the regular town board meeting to finish out the BOR, second by Bernier, MC.

Motion by Ralph at 8:06 P.M. to reconvene the regular town board meeting, second by Bernier, MC.

Discussion and determination of training plan for part-time road crew. Dustin Kragness wants to look at what we have, plow, what does our grader blade look like, are the blades worn off? Faron and Terry want to come here and get a look at the equipment and see how it works. Get blades through the County. Get the Monroe dealer here along with Faron, Dustin, Terry, Cecil, Bob – Friday/Saturday. Authorize the clerk and supervisor 2 to set up a training date. Can leave the sander on for some of the year. Motion by Ralph, second by Hayes, MC.

Discussion and determination on repair to town shop. \$18,000 to repair, plus \$2,000 electrical. Motion by Hayes to proceed with building repair, Ralph second, MC.

Discussion on proposed data center concerns. Nothing that Otter Creek can do on this at this time.

Discussion and determination on possible update to building ordinance - to require a Land Use Permit for any accessory structure that is connected or will be connected to sanitary sewer or a Private Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (POWTS). Motion by Ralph to update the ordinance, second by Hayes. MC.

PIN transfers (from reg. of deeds) –

- Lynne Nielsen to Dale Schiferl
- Val Naber to MT Sinz, LLC

Treasurer - Review treasurer's report Hayes motion to approve the treasurer's report, second by Ralph. MC.
Auditing of bills for payment. Bills circulated and approved by the Town Board.

Any other business

Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting. Bernier motion to adjourn 8:55 pm, second by Hayes, MC
Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Bev Bernier – 715-658-0131;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;