

Town of Otter Creek –Budget Meeting
Special Town Board Meeting to adopt tax levy; and
Regular Town Board Meeting - 6 p.m. - 11/11/2025
Otter Creek Town Hall – E5905 County Road S, Wheeler WI 54772

Attendees:

Chairman LeAnn Ralph*
Supervisor 1 Cecil Hayes*
Supervisor 2 Bob Bernier*
Clerk Treasurer Bev Bernier
Guests: Residents: Gary Axness
Non-Resident: Chuck Boyer,

*Board Members

BUDGET HEARING

The Budget Hearing Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 6:01 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. In attendance were three board members, plus one resident and one non-resident. Clerk had posted notices on the Town Hall door, the Town Website, two additional places within the Town, and published the proper notice in the Colfax Messenger.

The 2026 proposed budget was presented by Bernier, Clerk-Treasurer, and some discussion followed. After some discussion, there were no changes to the budget as it was presented. Revenue and expense budget for 2026 of \$390,437. Ralph made a motion to adjourn the Budget Hearing Meeting at 6:12 p.m. Hayes second, MC.

Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

The Special Town Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ralph at 6:13 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. All people as noted above were in attendance, plus advertising as noted above was done so as stated. This year's allowable tax levy for Otter Creek is \$120,413, with an increase of 0% for net new construction, bringing the levy to \$120,413, less \$291.26 in personal property aid, plus \$14,442 general obligation debt for the town truck payment, and \$16,670 for the new tractor/mower totaling \$151,235 for the 2025 payable 2026 allowable levy. This is compared to \$134,564 in 2024, payable 2025, as allowed by the State of Wisconsin.

Hayes made a motion to accept the 2025 Town Tax Levy as \$151,235 allowable figure to be used in the 2025 budget pursuant to Section 60.10(1)(A) Wis. Stats. Gary Axness seconded the motion. Approved – 5. Opposed – 0. MC.

Ralph asked for a motion to adjourn the Special Town Meeting at 6:20 p.m. Hayes made a motion to adjourn, Bernier seconded the motion. Approved – 5. Opposed – 0. MC.

Respectfully submitted – Beverly Bernier, Clerk/Treasurer

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 6:21 p.m. on Tuesday, November 11, 2025. Same people were in attendance, plus advertising had been done as stated above.

Meeting minutes from the October 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting were not read by Clerk Bernier, as Ralph and Bernier reviewed the minutes prior to tonight's meeting and agreed that the minutes did not need to be read. **Ralph motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Hayes seconded. 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 & forth discussion is not advised. NONE.

Communication from Town Chair – discussion and possible decision regarding road projects for 2026 and 2 year road plan. Discussed later in meeting. Town of Tainter is considering bringing half of their town back into the Colfax Fire District. Equalized value would be used to determine cost.

Communication from Town Supervisors –

Supervisor 1 – nothing

Supervisor 2 – provided re-cap of follow up regarding missing tools. Update on beaver removal, update on town shop repair, status of equipment, status of roads

Communication from Clerk –

Zoning permit for Woodwind park's wedding/event pavilion. The original pavilion was built in 2023 and the bathroom addition is in-process.

Tax collector bond \$100 to cover a maximum of \$400,000 of taxes collected for Dunn County levy.

Mitchell Sinz Certified Survey Map – house and 5 acres excluding ROW.

Pay Adjustment - Consideration and possible approval of pay adjustment for the town clerk treasurer. Motion by Ralph to approve pay adjustment, second by Hayes. Bernier abstain. MC.

Town Shop Repair cost - Discussion and possible amendment of October 14, 2025 motion to approve cost of \$18,000 for Glen Schindler to repair town shop, amendment to \$20,000 based on additional repair costs necessary. Motion by Hayes to approve, second by Ralph. MC.

Budget - Adopt the 2026 budget and 2025 tax levy to be paid in 2026. Motion by Ralph to adopt the 2025 tax levy to be paid in 2026, second by Hayes. MC.

Salt Shed - Consideration and possible approval of building a salt shed for storage of salt/sand. Defer discussion to April to determine the amount of salt/sand remaining. Motion by Ralph to defer to April, 2026, second by Bernier, MC.

Road Plan – discussion and decision on 2026 road plan and 2 year road plan. Need to apply for LRIP, application due this week. This is going forward, chip sealing, crack filling does not count. The amount is just over \$16,000. Paving qualifies and if we put at least 4" of gravel on the roads for a 10 year road life. Discussion to put limerock on 670th, put out for bid and apply for LRIP for 2026. Two year road plan to

include chip sealing, crack filling. Motion by Hayes to approve 2026 road plan for 670th St., add at least 4" of gravel, second by Ralph, MC.

WTA dues increase - \$50 WTA dues increase in 2026. Also, for the approximately 400 towns that are not TAC members, please plan for required TAC dues of either \$0.25 per person or \$250, **whichever is less**. \$130.75 for Otter Creek. Motion to approve the WTA and TAC dues by Ralph, second by Bernier, MC.

DC Humane Society contract increase – Discussion and decision on participation of continuing contract with DC Humane Society - 2026 contract price per capita increase from \$2.09 to \$2.15. 535 residents x \$2.15 = \$1,150.25, quarterly payment of \$287.56, total of \$38.37/year or \$9.59/quarter. Motion to approve by Bernier, second by Ralph. MC.

Flatland Inspections –

N11943 County Rd SS Scott and Melissa Jordan basement rough inspection all trades. Passed.

Service inspection after 200amp changeout passed 11-6-25 permit closed. E6503 1090th avenue, Katherine Wilson

Special assessment request – Owner - Kurtis J. Hagen and Jennifer L. Hagen, E7246 County Road S, Wheeler, WI 54772. Purchaser – unknown.

Rodent Control – discussion and decision on utilizing rodent service. Clerk to contact rodent control.

Driveway permits – Don Johnson – logger is Travis Anderson. Bob Bernier – logger is Goettl Logging. Haul route is 1180th Avenue to County Road SS. David Godfredsen, 730th St – logger is Vandervoort, Ladysmith WI.

Treasurer - Review treasurer's report. Motion to approve treasurers report by Hayes, second by Bernier. MC.

Auditing of bills for payment

Any other business – Fire extinguisher. Clerk to research alternate source.

Adjournment of Regular Board Meeting . Motion to adjourn 7:40 p.m., Bernier, second Ralph.

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

Beverly Bernier – 715-658-0131; Town Shop - 715-658-131