

Town of Otter Creek – September 12, 2023
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 Roberta Preston

Outgoing Clerk/Treasurer Bev Bernier

Patrolman Gary Anderson

Guests, Chuck Boyer, Gary Axness, Denise Axness, Randy Simpson, Ken Satter

*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, September 12, 2023. Meeting minutes from the 8/8/2023 Regular Board Meeting were not read by Clerk as Ralph and Bob 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 8/8/2023 Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented, Bernier seconded. Motion carried.**

Public Comments – None.

Dunn County Unit WTA Wednesday, October 25, 2023 at Tainter Church. Doors open at 6:00 p.m., meal at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting will follow at approx. 7:15-7:30 p.m. Registration due Oct. 11. Clerk Bernier attending.

Update on grader repair – lights and oil leak. Oil leak was a hose, finished repairing by Miller-Bradford. They checked wiring, front lights. The part above the oil leak went out. Took out the floor to get underneath. Put in one ground wire, was not real tight so put in new ground wire. This was the main problem. All lights now work.

Discussion and possible action on front tires for the town's grader. New tires, \$1,496.21 each, with mounting. Used grader tires, about half tread, \$300 plus \$300 for mounting and \$150 for mileage to go pick up the used tires. Used tires need to run chains to steer it, causing vibration which affects the lights. Motion by Hayes to buy new front tires for the grader, second by Bernier. Not getting Alliance tires. We will get pricing from multiple places. Place in New Richmond for tire changing is very reasonable. Pumps charged Ridgeland \$160/each for tire change last year. Motion by Ralph to spend up to \$3,000 for tires. Ralph amended the motion to spend up to \$3,500 for both tires, Hayes second. MC.

Discussion and possible action on sale of the town's grader. Hard to justify selling this grader and then buying an older one with more hours. We put \$12,000 in it, lights, new tires, about \$18,000 total. If we sell it, we would not put new tires on it. We should follow our process for equipment replacement when necessary. We use the backhoe a lot, that may be something we replace sooner than the grader. We will not be taking any action on selling town grader.

Discussion and possible action on alternatives to the town grader. No action.

Update on solid waste and recycling. SW&R fund balance at the end of 2023 is likely to be \$300,000. Per capita is likely to decrease from \$28.06 to around \$25. \$40,000 to replace a compactor, they are used and refurbished. They will check to see if two more are available for parts. We will be going to clear plastic bags for garbage. Approved a \$1/hour raise for SW&R workers, from \$16 to \$17 effective 1/1/2024, with review at the next meeting. \$3,600/total increase per year with this raise. Hours will be same for summer and winter in 2024. Do public education on recycling. Clear bags can be ordered on-line and at the collection site.

Update on Colfax Rescue Squad (anticipated assessment of **\$21,170.58**, representing an increase of \$6,832.66. Per capita of \$40.02 -- 2023 per capita was \$27.52 with wages of \$12, \$13 advanced and \$15.50 for full time, per hour. Annual meeting was August 30. Village board recommended 1 of the 4 budgets presented. They had 3 of the 30-hour-week people, now going to 40 hours/week. Option D, 4 FT EMTs. We are getting an increase in Stated Shared Revenue, additional \$38,575. Can only be used for transportation, emergency services, infrastructure, not administrative costs. Put some of this into the Fire Truck Equipment fund and use some for increase in Rescue costs. Total budget \$619,484.00 for Colfax Rescue squad.

Certified Survey Map review for Chris Anderson, surveyor Brandon King. Land Division

2023 population for Otter Creek from the Census is 529. This represents a change of 31 persons (6.22%) since the 2020 Census. Eight people increase since 1/1/2022 estimate. 419 voting age.

Consideration of the Emergency Operations Plan and the accompanying templates. Motion to approve the EOP by Bernier, second by Ralph, MC. Ralph moved to adopt the resolution approving the resolution for line of succession, Bernier second, MC.

Consideration of pay for residents providing town service. We currently pay mileage. We pay for large trees cut/moved after severe weather. Liability concerns. Nothing will change at this time.

Bridge and approaches for Hwy SS – Once DNR determinations are complete, and Dunn County knows what the DNR is doing with the approaches, is when Dunn County Zoning could take action. County will inform town of the determination and boundaries when received. Nothing further communicated to the Town.

Wis Towns Fall Conference – Eau Claire - 9/19/23. Webinars 9/11 to 9/14. Preston attending virtually, Bernier attending in-person 9/19/23.

Issued bartender licenses to Too Mixed Up, 8/25/23, five approved, one held. Issued four additional licenses 9/11/2023. Bartender licenses for Montana Bazille, Joshua Posey, Cole Cropp, Shawna Stone, Sara Anderson, Laura Buerger, Jay Fish, Mallory Pigman, and Nathaniel Root-Holloman. Motion to approve nine operator's license by Ralph, second by Bernier. MC.

Damage on 710th Street from logging operation – assess and bill to David (Curt) Hakes logging. Subcontractor did the damage and the bill will go to him. Ralph and Anderson looked at the damage. 24'x24' area to be repaired. Estimate of \$3,155 from Senn. Patrolman hauled in rock, which will be added to the billing. Gary has about 5 hours, plus material. Machinery, grader for two hours, total of \$1,500 for time/materials, plus \$3,155 for Senn = \$4,650. Can be billed triple damages if the board decides so. Send invoice to subcontractor and David Hakes logging as FYI. Motion to accept the quote from Senn Blacktop for repairs on 710th Street by Hayes, second by Bernier, MC. Motion by Hayes for the Town Board to assess \$1,500 to haul in gravel and fix

the approaches for the two driveways on each side of the road, for time/materials by Patrolman, second by Bernier, MC.

Driveway Permits: Mark Warner D 4 2023 and Bob Bernier D 5 2023. Warner must back-in to driveway, haul routes to County Highway. Brandon Biddle's driveway, if there is a lot of dirt moved and we get a lot of snow, can wash. Need to replace culvert, build driveway up a bit on the end and put berm up. Ralph said to do the least restrictive, if this does not solve the problem we will need to review in the Spring.

Timber Cutting Notices:

Robert Nelson, County Road N, Wheeler; Logger: Travis Anderson
Mark Warner, 1170th Ave, Wheeler; Logger: Travis Anderson

Special Assessment requests –

Property Address: E6233 County Road S, Wheeler, WI 54772

Current Owner: Jacob R. Madsen

Buyer: Lucas Gunnar Christensen

Property Address: 670th Street, Wheeler WI 54772

Current Owner: Eric Watkins

Buyer: Unknown

Property Address: E7535 970th Ave, Colfax WI 54730

Current Owner: Brenda Falk

Buyer: Unknown

Review list of landowners that have applied for 2024 MFL designation – comments by 9/19/2023. No comments.

Review 2023 Municipal Levy Limit Worksheet, payable 2024. We need to decide if we include any increase in Fire Department assessment if this would change. Meeting Oct. 12.

Updates from Fred Weber – Ron Kitchner building permit issued 8/2/2023. Land use permit issued by town, payment received.

Patrolman Report – Culvert is in, blacktopped, other load of blacktop on 1180th and 690th. Someone took 4 cones. 4x4 cloth "work ahead" sign taken. Took another sign out of ground, but did not take. Anderson to phone Sheriff's department to inform them of thefts. If someone got hurt because of missing signs, report would be helpful. Old culvert – Gary's brother would like it. The culvert does not fit anywhere else. Town will load it, his brother will haul it. Motion by Ralph to leave to the discretion of patrolman to dispose of the old 690th avenue culvert, Hayes second, MC. He is mowing right now. Grader fuel is ½ empty, need number 1 in truck tank for winter, will wait to do winter blend. Bernier will call for grader fuel. Got 4 grader blades today. Bernier will see what is left on the town diesel fuel contract.

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

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

Any other business – letter sent to Brent Carpenter regarding driveway/culvert by Clerk. Clerk updated life insurance, adding Preston and Bernier, will remove herself at year-end. Dairy State Bank is getting account information set up to add Preston, will contact Preston and Bernier when ready for signing. Bernier will stay on account until year-end. ***Fence in the town right-of-way put on agenda for October. State law shows an encroachment.***

Clerk reviewed the finances.	Equipment Account -	\$61,024.36
	Tax Account -	\$48,109.72
	Checking Account -	<u>\$84,220.06</u>
	Total of all accounts	\$193,354.14

ADJOURN - Hayes moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, second by Ralph. MC. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Roberta Preston, Clerk/Treasurer

CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS IN ORDER OF CALLING:

Gary Anderson – 715-658-1483;

LeAnn Ralph – 715-308-6336;

Bob Bernier – 715-577-6310;

Cecil Hayes – 715-577-6334

Roberta Preston – 715-382-3630;

Town Shop - 715-658-1319;