

Town of Otter Creek – February 11, 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

Guests: Gary Axness, Denise Axness, Chuck Boyer, Renee Carrell, Crystal Seehaver, Tyler Daigle, Pat Sand, Riley Rice

*Board Members

REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING

The Regular Town Board Meeting was called to order by Chair Ralph at 7:02 p.m. on Tuesday, February 11, 2025. Meeting minutes from the 1/14/2025 Caucus and Regular Board Meeting, and 1/21/2025 Reconvene of Caucus 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 1/14/2025 Caucus and Regular Board Meeting, and 1/21/2025 Reconvene of Caucus meeting minutes as presented, Bernier 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 – Dunn County has started the Comprehensive Land Use update, survey coming for town board to fill out, landowners with 30 acres or more will get the survey. It is not all that unusual for towns not to have their own comprehensive land use plan. If you are making certain decisions, such as shoreland zoning, etc., then you have your own plan. There will be quadrant meetings for towns to meet.

Communication from Town Supervisors – nothing.

Communication from Clerk – 2025 elections – February 18, 2025 Primary and April 1, 2025 Spring Election. Moved \$11,000 into equipment fund to cover 2024 contribution. Woodwind Park – conditional approval for 6,000 sq ft shell of complete building. ADUs – Town of Dunn has some concerns with ADUs.

Discussion and possible decision on Walt Ruben fire bill repayment schedule, principal and interest. The board agreed that there are unusual circumstances with this fire. The board is in agreement to waive the 2% interest on the unpaid balance if certain conditions are met. The board is setting monthly payments of \$285/month for the next 24 months. If Mr. Ruben does not want to pay \$285/month, then 2% interest dating back to November 29, 2024, which is the date of mailing of first notice. The monthly payments of \$285 are due the first of each month, if Mr. Ruben misses 2 months before Nov 1 2025, the unpaid balance goes on taxes with interest. If Mr. Ruben makes payments starting March 1, 2024 and then misses 2 months after Nov. 1, 2025, the unpaid balance goes on the Nov. 1, 2026 tax bill with 2% on the remaining balance. Motion by Ralph to accept this payment plan, Bernier second, MC.

Discussion and review of Land Use Permit for Tyler Daigle (Pat Sand) mobile home ADU. Chair read feedback from building inspector. Motion by Hayes to approve the LUP, second by Ralph. MC.

Discussion on possible purchase of used trailer. Supervisor Bernier presented the feedback on what the truck can haul, what a trailer can haul, and issues with using a truck of our size for hauling. The board is taking no action on the purchase of a trailer.

Review and update Town of Otter Creek Building Ordinance regarding mobile home courts and variances. Clerk to update the Building Ordinance to remove Section 5 verbiage regarding mobile home parks/courts and Section 7 verbiage regarding the town board approving variances. The proposed Building Ordinance will be presented, reviewed, and if approved, signed at the March regular board meeting

WTA District Meeting – BOR training, legislative updates \$65. Saturday, March 15, 2025 - The Florian Gardens Conference Center, Eau Claire. Virtual 3/17/2025.

Consideration and possible approval of fuel contracting for April 1, 2025 through November 30, 2025, \$2.79/gallon off-road, \$3.11/gallon on-road for 1500 gallons. Motion to approve fuel contracting by Ralph, second by Hayes. MC.

Weber Inspections – November report

1/20/2025	Gunderson	Final Inspection/Occupancy	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Final Inspection/Occupancy	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Insulation	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Rough HVAC	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Rough Plumbing	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Rough Construction	Passed
1/27/2025	Nelson	Footing	Passed

Discussion on Feb 3, 2025 plow truck incident. The patrolman had an incident with the plow truck backing into a power pole at the intersection of County Road S and 1150th, west side of the road. Supervisor Bernier and the patrolman took the truck to Tainter Machine, there was no estimate written, patrolman estimates about 2 hours labor involved to fix truck damage, which is cosmetic. They talked with Tom at Tainter Machine. The patrolman stated he backed up, stepped on brakes, and kept going because of icy roads, and the truck hit the edge of the ditch. It was one of those odd things you can't get away with. Rural Insurance said to get an estimate. The stainless steel tube on the truck was bent, the sander is fine. County Road S was not plowed going west, the road was slippery with the snow. Backing up to push in the town road snow and the truck went straight back. First time this has happened. Pole was leaning and cracked. Dunn County replaced the pole the same day and will send the bill to Otter Creek in late March.

Patrolman - Report from Patrolman on Road Work/Equipment. Truck had an engine light on, the patrolman called this morning and discussed over the phone. They fixed the codes, they put a winter front on it, which is a covering over the front of the grill. There was moisture in the throttle body from too much cold air coming through, \$300 for the covering.

- Any road materials ordered
- Any supplies purchased
- Any equipment needing repair
- Any damage to roads by nature or man

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

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

Any other business – none.

Closed Session – Motion at 7:58 p.m. to go into closed section 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 – town patrolman hours. Patrolman has stated he does not have enough work to do. If the patrolman is not willing or is physically unable to complete tasks on the physical demands checklist, the hours may have to be reduced. Motion by Ralph, second by Bernier, MC.

Open Session – Motion at 8:30 p.m. 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 -- town patrolman, which resulted from the closed session. Motion by Ralph, second by Bernier. MC.

The March agenda will have a closed session to continue the above discussion.

ADJOURN - Ralph moved to adjourn the monthly meeting, Bernier second, MC. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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;