

Minutes to be approved November 11, 2024.....

Town of Rockland October 14, 2024 Board Meeting

Rockland Town Hall @ 7:00 P.M.

Chairperson Rosalie Geiger called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. Additional officials present were Mike Havlinek, Tim Thor, Paula Winkel, Laurie Miller, and Road Superintendent, Keith Brandes. Laura Henze was present as the recording clerk. There were four citizens and five visitors present. Motion made by Mike Havlinek and second by Tim Thor to approve the secretary's report as posted and printed. Motion carried. Motion made by Tim Thor to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried. **The agenda was followed as printed and posted.**

Public Input: Nothing to report.

Reports and Communications: Illegal use of golf carts remains a concern. A copy of the reminder that was placed in the newspaper will be sent out to community leaders to ask for their support in communicating this message. A letter from the Town was sent to a resident that had rocks in their ditch asking for it to be cleared. Rocks in the ditch can cause damage to Town ditch cutting equipment. B & B metals sent a letter to local municipalities stating that lithium batteries co-mingled with other metals are a serious fire danger. The Town Recycling Center has a separate area for lithium batteries. Dog licensing for those that had dogs last year and still have this year are complete. WISLR report work is in progress. The drop box located outside the Town of Rockland's front door is available for return of absentee ballots as needed as long as completed ballots are returned by the deadline of 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, November 5, 2024.

Valders School Referendum: Superintendent, Kristin DeTroye, accompanied by a school board member, presented Valders School District's needs and operational shortages. Included in the operational referendum, which is on the November 5th ballot, is approximately one and one half million dollars recurring for four years. Informational sessions are available to the public at several places and times and more information can be found on-line or by calling the school.

2025 Budget Inputs Fire and EMS: 1. Reedsville EMS Budget and Contract: Niki Stolzheim presented proposal for 2025. Motion made by Mike Havlinek and second by Tim Thor to approve the \$200.00 increase for the total budget year on year for services with the 2025 cost of \$6325.00 to Town of Rockland. Motion carried. 2. Collins Fire Dept. - Keith Brandes: Collins Fire Dept. proposes an increased cost of \$4850.00. The 2025 requested cost for services is \$138,550.00. Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek to approve this cost for services. Motion carried. 3. Reedsville Fire Contract: Town of Rockland board members approved the \$1000.00 increase requested by the Reedsville Fire Dept. Cost for services. 2025 cost will be \$41,000 (includes fire dues). Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried. 4. Valders Ambulance Budget and Contract: There is an option for a one year, two year, or three year contract to receive Valders Ambulance services. Board discussed pros/cons. The three year contract locks in a \$2.00 increase/person (based on total population) for three consecutive years so cost will be \$36.00/person (2025), \$38.00/person (2026), and \$40.00/person (2027). Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek to approve a 3 year contract with a total cost of \$35,784.00 in 2025. Motion carried. All contracts will be signed following the meeting.

2025 Town Assessor Contract: Tennessean Appraisal LLC submitted an \$8000.00/year contract for assessor services. Mike Havlinek made a motion and second by Tim Thor to approve the two year contract for '25 and '26. Motion carried.

Revaluation Update & Board of Review: Reminder meeting is October 16 from 5pm to 7pm.

Set Dates for Budget Hearing and Special Electors Meeting: The Public Hearing will be November 18 at 6:00 p.m. to review the proposed 2025 Town of Rockland budget. Immediately following that meeting, there will be a Special Electors meeting to vote on adopting the 2025 budget.

Appointment of Clerk /Treasurer and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer: A motion was made by Mike Havlinek to appoint Paula Winkel to the role of Clerk/Treasurer and Laurie Miller to the role of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer for the Town of Rockland for three years. This clarifies the duration of appointments for these roles in the Town going forward and is effective October 14, 2024. Motion second by Tim Thor and Motion passed.

Approval of Changes to Banking Authorizations: Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek to approve the following user authorization changes at Collins Sate Bank. Linda Gilbertson (retired Clerk/Treasurer) will be removed from authorized user/signing privileges and Laurie Miller (Deputy Clerk/Treasurer) will be added as an authorized user for the Town. Motion carried

Cemetery Ordinance: Mike Havlinek led continued exploration of ordinance language and options regarding how the EUB cemetery management can/will be conducted by the Town of Rockland going forward. An effort to locate records of previously buried and previously purchased deeds will be made.

Road Superintendent Report on Roads/Culverts/Signs: Keith Brandes reported two culvert permits were given this month. The County completed ditch work on Moschel and Thunderbird Roads. A Railroad sign was replaced on Quarry Rd. Keith identified new tires being needed on three snow plows. He will provide estimates to the board. Some additional grass cutting was done for the Village of Reedsville.

Constable Report: Not present to report.

Vouchers Approved: Motion made by Tim Thor and second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried to approve payments of vouchers #22103 to #22131 and EFT's in the amount of \$14,388.77.

Upcoming Events: A calendar of key activities occurring in October and November was distributed.

Topics for November 11, 2024 Board Meeting: Continue cemetery discussion and 2025 budget building updates.

Convene Into Closed Session Per WI Statute 19.85 (1) (c) For Review of Non-Elected Employee Salaries: Motion made by Mike Havlinek to go into closed session at 8:40 p.m. and second by Tim Thor. Motion carried.

Reconvene into Open Session: Tim Thor made a motion to end close session and reconvene into open session at 9:10pm. Mike Havlinek second. Motion carried.

Finalize Employee Wages: Tim Thor made a motion to increase all non-elected Town employee wages by \$0.50 per hour in 2025. Second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried. As the constable role is an elected position like Board members, wages will be determined by residents at the Annual meeting. Mileage reimbursement will follow IRS guidelines for 2025.

Meeting Adjourned: Tim Thor made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Second by Mike Havlinek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Laura Henze, Recording Clerk, Town of Rockland, Manitowoc County