

2019 Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 16, 2019 at the Rockland Town Hall
Called to order at 7:01 p.m.
Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

The Clerk, Treasurer and all Board members were present together with Bob Gerbers, 16 additional electors, Joe Daul of the Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department; Robert Fandrey of Greenleaf Wayside Bank; Chairman Cashman verified with Clerk Koenig that the meeting was properly noticed; the agenda was presented by Chairman Cashman after the pledge of allegiance was recited.

Chairman Cashman introduced the Supervisors and others who serve the electorate.

4), 5) Prior Minute Approvals

Clerk Koenig provided copies of the minutes from the April 17, 2018, Annual Town Meeting, and the Electors reviewed the printed copies of the minutes. M/M by Randy Hansen, 5341 Goldust Road, to approve the minutes with no corrections; seconded by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W. Motion carried by hand vote 16 aye, 0 nay.

Clerk Koenig provided a copy of the minutes from the November 13, 2018, Special Elector Meeting.

M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road, to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Terry Vertz 4312 CTH PP. Motion carried by hand vote 16 aye, 0 nay.

6) Set Date for 2020 Annual Meeting

A recommendation was made to hold the annual meeting at the same time next year, that being Tuesday, April 21st, 2020. M/M by Terry Vertz, 4312 County Highway PP, to hold the 2020 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Randy Hansen, 5341 Goldust Road. Motion carried by hand vote 18 aye, 0 nay.

7) Approval of 2018 Annual Report

Chairman Cashman presented an overview of the document, going over the report page by page. Copies were also made available to the electors for their review. The value of all liquid assets: \$314,004.98 and the value of current liabilities: \$187,068.44, reflecting the balance due from the work on Hickory Ridge. It is a 10 year note. The General Fund beginning balance on January 1, 2018, was \$246,841.07. The General Fund ending balance was \$162,717.65. The Income & Disbursement Summary shows \$2,975,511.48 in total income, much of which is in and out (taxes collected for educational and county taxes.) Bonnie Simonar, 5259 River Oaks Drive, asked what percentages of the income makes up the town's budget. Chairman Cashman responded that roughly 10-11% of the taxes collected are for the town's use and that a review of the bottom of the property owner's tax bill should show the breakdown of where the funds go, mostly to the County and school districts. Chairman Cashman went through the report page by page for questions. He reviewed the highlights of the 2018 expenditures including the income disbursements. In addition, the Statements of Taxes and the check register were reviewed.

\$3,053,634.40 of disbursements were made in 2018. Ten new homes were issued building permits in 2018, which is above average. Last year, Rockland had 8 new homes. Levy population figures: 1,834 residents. M/M by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W, to accept the 2018 Annual Report as written and presented, 2nd by John Kahl, 3546 State Hwy 57 . Motion carried by hand vote 19 aye, 0 nay.

8) Greenleaf Fire Department Presentation

The conversation began by identifying that both the Greenleaf and the Morrison Fire Departments serve the Town of Rockland. Greenleaf handles everything on the west side of CTH PP, and Morrison handles everything on the east side of CTH PP. They support each other in their efforts. The Greenleaf Fire Department holds their annual fundraiser – the Fireman’s Picnic, on the 3rd Sunday in July (21st). Morrison Fire Department’s fund raiser is in a week from now with a spring raffle. The Greenleaf Fire Department is now on Facebook so check them out.

Joe Daul, Fire Chief from the Greenleaf Fire Department read from a prepared statement. Chief Daul informed the electorate that there are three topics he will cover. The new ISO Rating, a review of the calls from last year, and the return to 1 full mil for fire services (which were temporarily reduced to ¾ mil years ago).

No funding is provided at the national level to assist with new standards or mandates put on fire departments. The three agencies who regulate fire departments are the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA), and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Protective clothing must be replaced every 10 years to meet an NFPA standard even if it was never used. This costs the fire department approximately \$13,000 a year. As an example, helmets will be replaced next year at a cost of \$14,000. NFPA requires that fire hoses be replaced every 10 years, and that cost is approximately \$3,500 per year. A few years ago, the department spent \$139,000 to replace self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA’s) and tanks to meet NFPA standards. These need to be replaced every 15 years so the department is budgeting \$12,500 (includes a 2% increase) per year to complete this task. Since firefighters are exposed to blood borne pathogens, standards require that they must be vaccinated against the Hepatitis B virus. This series of 3 shots, blood draw and immunity testing costs about \$250 per firefighter. Some younger firefighters received this vaccination as children, so they do not need to go through this series again. Firefighters with certain medical conditions cannot participate in emergency operations so physicals are given to each new firefighter at a cost of \$100. The fire department recently upgraded their “jaws” unit to handle the stronger metals now found in newer vehicles. CDL’s are not needed for fire truck drivers in the State of Wisconsin but will likely be required in the future at a cost of \$400 per firefighter. As a side note, all firefighters have just completed an Emergency Vehicle Operators Course. This was done so firefighters can recognize distracted drivers, how to react to them and how to handle certain driving situations.

ISO is an assessment company that conducts field surveys based on response. This provides a community with a fire rating, which influences a property owner’s insurance premium. The only way to reduce the ISO rating is to reduce the threat, which is influenced by the fire department, water supply, what the town has for ordinances and building inspections done during the construction process. Greenleaf Fire Department was audited last year and improved from a Class 6 to a Class 5 rating. ISO said that this is a phenomenal rating when you consider that water needs to be hauled and is not delivered by a municipal water supply. Chief Daul went on to say that an unheard-of Class 4 rating was missed by 59/100’s of a point. Greenleaf responded to 80 incidents this past year in its jurisdiction.

Years ago, Greenleaf lowered its rate from 1 full mil to ¾ of a mil due to lower costs. A few years ago, while still at that rate, they started giving back the last quarterly payment. The time has come to go back to 1 full mill and that will take effect in 2020. The final amount will be set in October or November when the budget is set. The fire department has no choice but to follow the standards and mandates placed upon them and their present budget simply cannot meet those costs. This new rate translates to \$25 more per year per \$100,000 of valuation. Supervisor Lasee added that he was fortunate enough to tour the A question Greenleaf Fire Department a few years back and they are very well prepared, and he was impressed.

A question was raised regarding the budgeted figures and the annual disbursements to the fire departments by Dan Jelinek, 5437 Tower Road. It appears that the expenditures went down from 2017 to 2018. Clerk Koenig explained that the 2% fire dues are a result of money collected by the State and then given to the town which then needs to be distributed to the fire departments by statute. Because it goes through the checkbook, it shows up as a disbursement. It is not budgeted, nor invoiced, but a pass through. The fire departments budget no longer reflects grant money, as there is no certainty around whether a grant will be received.

Thank you to our area fire departments for all the help and support they provide our community.

9) Bridge Fund Contribution.

The Old Martin Bridge had the guard posts replaced and the deck joints caulked in 2018. Also with the Tetzlaff Road widening, culvert work there was done with County Bridge Aid. The town's bridges were inspected by the county last fall. The bridge with the lowest rating is the Ryan Road Bridge which is now at 72%. Minor maintenance will be done on all four bridges later this year.

The Bridge Fund matched by the county applies to culverts that are a minimum of 36" in diameter or bridges themselves. The current balance in Rockland's fund is \$93,851.82. Last year funding was requested to repair the culverts on Old Martin Road at the east end, expected to cost \$30,000. The work associated with that project will cost maybe as much as \$100,000. Over the last 2 or 3 years, the town has asked the electors for funds to be put into this account for the work that needs to be done. M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road, to put \$20,000 into the bridge fund for future projects. Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W 2nd. Motion carried by hand vote 19 aye, 0 nay. Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP, asked whether the flooding caused any damage to Wrightstown Road's bridge. Chairman Cashman said it was checked and is good.

10) Town Hall Maintenance

This past year a new floor was installed in the Town Hall, two air conditioners were replaced, the logo was added to the wall, and Terry Vertz added two new voting booths for use and built a counter in the kitchen and a sign-in ledge at the front door. A range was added to the kitchen, and the Rockland 4-H donated a TV (the town paid for the installation). The parking lot should be sealed and re-stripped in the next year.

11) Garbage / Recycling report

Treasurer Van Dyck presented a summary of the garbage and recycling activity. The Town had 174.34 tons of recyclables in 2018, which comes to 190.12 lbs per person. A grant was received again for 2018 in the amount of \$2,405.14. This was used to offset expenses. At the Rockland Recycle Day last year, a total weight of 14,236 pounds of electronics was collected and 8,667 pounds of major appliances. A grant was applied for again in 2019. Rockland residents have done well with recycling, but a reminder that plastic bags of any kind cannot be in the recycle bins. Please bag your garbage in the garbage bin. The Rockland 4-H Recycle Event this year is Saturday, April 27th from 8:00 am to noon. Bring will take anything with a plug. A bake sale and booyah is also planned for that morning.

12) Chairman's Report

Chairman Cashman stated that it was a rough year for snowplowing and ice, especially in the months of February and March. Rockland is now over budget in the snowplowing account by approximately \$5,000. Weight limits are in effect. At the end of the month, the Board, along with Scott Construction, will be conducting the annual road inspection (April 26th). In May, the board will review the list of roads that

need work and try to decide which to do with the available budget. A new home going in on New Plank was the site of road damage from cement trucks driving on soft roads.

Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road stated that some of the roads that were put in by developers were 8-10 years old and had their cracks sealed in 2017 to extend their lives. Glen Schwalbach, 1090 Moonriver, asked what the status of CTH ZZ would be. Chairman Cashman indicated that will be a 4-5 year project. Brown County will be doing it in pieces, and the final piece of ZZ in Rockland is a few years out. CTH PP will be done this year, and CTH W was pushed back several years.

Chairman Cashman expressed gratitude to the Planning Commission, and the Board of Appeals. He thanked Bob Gerbers as Zoning Administrator/Building Inspector. Bob is always helping out in some capacity. He also thanked the Town Board, the Clerk and the Treasurer. Clerk Koenig then thanked Chairman Cashman for the amount of work he does on behalf of the town.

13) Announcements

Chairman Cashman reported that the Rockland Rummage sale starts April 27th. Contact Dorothy Cashman if you want to join. Rockland Clean-Up day will also be that day. Please walk and clean up the ditches near your properties if you can. Dennis will take any tires you might have. A conversation took place with an idea to implement a fine of \$1000 for anyone who litters.

Thank you to the folks at Greenleaf Wayside Bank for the beverages and snacks and to Robert Fandrey for bringing them by.

14) Other public comment

Bonnie Simonar, 5259 River Oaks Drive asked about the newsletter article referencing no unlicensed vehicles in the yards. Chairman Cashman stated that only one is allowed. He will follow up with Bonnie after the meeting to get more information. If citations need to be issued, they will.

Tom DeCleene, 3197 Old Military Road, asked if it's legal for UTV's to be on the roads. He indicated that many local communities have already approved their ordinances. The Planning Commission discussed this topic a while back and decided that because of the signage restrictions and cost, along with the need to enforce the ordinance, that it would be tabled for a while. Chairman Cashman asked for an advisory vote in favor of passing a UTC ordinance: 11.5 in favor, 1.5 against.

Adjournment

M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road, to adjourn; Randy Hansen, 5314 Goldust Court 2nd. Motion carried by voice vote. Adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

All minutes have been taken truthfully and honestly and to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Julie Koenig
Town Clerk

Minutes approved as written / with corrections (**strike one**) by the Town Electors on Tuesday, April 21, 2020.

Town Elector _____

Town Elector _____

DRAFT