

2021 Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at the Rockland Town Hall
Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

The Clerk, Treasurer and all Board members were present together with Bob Gerbers, 7 additional electors, Chief Jeff Pischke of Morrison Fire Department; Mark De Cleene and Bobby Thyne of the Greenleaf Volunteer Fire Department; 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.

4), 5) Prior Minute Approvals

Clerk Koenig provided copies of the minutes from the April 21, 2020, Annual Town Meeting. M/M by Supervisor Lasee, 2259 Lasee Road to dispense with the reading of the minutes, seconded by Mary Vertz 4312 CTH PP. motion carried and the Electors reviewed the printed copies of the minutes. M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road to approve the minutes as written, 2nd by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W. Motion carried by hand vote 11 aye, 0 nay.

Clerk Koenig provided a copy of the minutes from the November 10, 2020, 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 12 aye, 0 nay.

6) Set Date for 2022 Annual Meeting

A recommendation was made to hold the annual meeting at the same time next year, that being Tuesday, April 19th, 2022. M/M by Mary Vertz, 4312 County Highway PP, to hold the 2022 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, April 19th, 20212, at 7:00 p.m.; seconded by Randy Hansen, 5341 Goldust Road. Motion carried by hand vote 12 aye, 0 nay.

7) Approval of 2020 Annual Report

Chairman Cashman presented an overview of last year's report, going over the report page by page. Copies were also made available to the electors for their review. The value of all liquid assets: \$268,339.14 and the value of current liabilities: \$125,010.18, reflecting the balance due from the work on Hickory Ridge. It is a 10 year note. The General Fund beginning balance on January 1, 2020, was \$175,877.85. The General Fund ending balance was \$99,010.16. The Income & Disbursement Summary shows \$2,898816.49 in total income, much of which is in and out (taxes collected for educational and county taxes.) Chairman Cashman went through the report page by page for questions. He reviewed the highlights of the 2020 expenditures including the income disbursements. In addition, the Statements of Taxes and the check register were reviewed.

\$3,068,989.07 of disbursements were made in 2020. Four new homes were issued building permits in 2020, which is below average, however there were many property improvement permits issued for remodel, sheds, or other enhancements. Mary Vertz, 4312 CTH PP inquired about the payments to the school districts. The Clerk explained that the Routes to Recovery Grant provided the opportunity to "gift" our unused funds to local school districts. Those payments reflect exactly that and was used for desktop shields for PPE and for Chrome books. Levy population figures: 1,848 residents. M/M by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W. to accept the 2029 Annual Report as written and presented, 2nd by Bob Gerbers 2625 Bildings Road. Motion carried by hand vote 12 aye, 0 nay.

8) Morrison and 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. Jeff Pischke – Chief of Morrison Fire Department began introductions showing that all 3 gentlemen have extensive experience working in the Fire Department. The crowd applauded them for their service.

Chairman Cashman asked if the burn ban was still in place and was told that it had been cancelled with the recent rains. He then inquired about how the Fire Departments wishes to be contacted regarding controlled burns. The Fire Department responded with the first call should be to the chief who will then notify dispatch to avoid any unnecessary responses to calls. Neither fire department has planned any significant purchases in the next year. Mary Vertz, 4312 CTH PP asked where the contact numbers are to be found and it was determined that they will continue to be in the newsletter on a regular basis.

Glen Schwalbach, 1090 Moon River Drive inquired about the ambulance service. The Fire Departments aren't there for anything other than support. There is a first responder in Wrightstown who covers the lower portion of Brown County. The Fire Departments only go to car accidents if there is injury, to assist with controlling traffic and for safety purposes.

Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road asked about whether the Fire Departments wanted to be included on driveway plans in excess of 300', to which they responded that they do. Chairman Cashman asked about the staffing levels at the Fire Departments, to which they both responded that they could take folks, especially if they are available during the daytime hours. Both crews have enough staff at present. Glen Schwalbach, 1090 Moon River Drive asked them if they still do pipeline training through WPS. They don't use them much, but every year they are offered pipeline training in the spring.

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 boat raffle.

Mary Vertz, 4312 CTH PP, asked about the ISO ratings and what most of Rockland is. Chief Pischke shared that most of the rural is a 6, which is particularly good rating, but Greenleaf is 3 or 4 because of the access to hydrants. Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP asked if Morrison and Greenleaf are called often into De Pere? They responded that they will often backfill the De Pere station if De Pere is fighting a home or business fire. They do help out a couple of times a year. They commended De Pere Chief Al Matzke for being great to work with. De Pere will automatically send their ladder trucks out to structure fires to be among the first on site, as it is difficult to get a truck of that size through the other vehicles that respond after the first few minutes. Greenleaf's tender will go to De Pere quite often as it holds 3500 gallons.

9) Bridge Fund Contribution.

Chairman Cashman indicated that all the Rockland bridges were inspected last year with the following ratings: Midway 89.3, Old Martin 98.1, Ryan Road 72.3 and Wrightstown Road 91.8. Ryan Road has wooden wingwalls that should be replaced with concrete to make the structure more sound. All of these bridges had signage needs and brush removal needs, which Chairman Cashman addressed last week. He shared that the Brown County Bridge Aid projects need to be a minimum of 36 inches in diameter and submitted for aid by the end of this month. There are 2 culverts between Ryan and Garrity that are 48 inches in diameter and side by side. The costs have gone up significantly so every possible option is being evaluated. Once the county approves the project, the town contracts the repair and pays the bills. The town then submits the receipts and proper paperwork to the county, the county inspects the job and then reimburses the town for 50%, less a small admin fee. At present the value in the bridge fund is \$42,558.

Over the last several 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 Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP, to put \$30,000 into the bridge fund for future projects. Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W 2nd. Motion carried by hand vote 12 aye, 0 nay. Chairman Cashman indicated that the town could also apply for emergency projects if anything came up.

10) Broadband

Clerk Koenig thanked the public for taking the broadband speed test on the county's website. The pandemic brought to light just how inadequate the connectivity is in Rockland. And often when potential residential buyers are looking to Rockland, access to internet is a big requirement. At present many options are being investigated to see what the best plan for the Town of Rockland might be. The town has been meeting with the county to see how their efforts could be leveraged to assist Rockland in getting broadband. Because it is so expensive, and some areas might be difficult to cover with broadband, a number of options are being investigated to be sure we use our resources and grant opportunities as wisely as possible. A combination of improved technology options is being looked at to improve for everyone, not just a few. The American Recovery Act has allocated \$187,000 to Rockland for use in this endeavor.

Glen Schwalbach, 10090 Moon River Drive, shared that he attended the county broadband sub-committee meeting Monday evening and that many providers were in attendance as were other area town chairmen. Brown County is trying to serve as a clearing house and a negotiator to bring parties together. Most of the providers know each other and are accommodating to each other. There is a consulting firm (NCE) that seems to specialize in working through the options. Apparently, they are aware about where the fibers are and available access. The county is looking at potentially using the Fox River Trail as the throughway to bury cable to get to the new landfill and the digester. This gives Rockland a unique opportunity to see about picking up some of that capacity. He also referenced that Bug Tussle has been using a different financing option that could result in money being refunded to the municipality. The Town of Morrison could see their investment back in as little as 18 months.

Ideal Technologies (Wrightstown) has made a proposal to get something started with the American Recovery Act funds. They would use the funds from the federal government, and each home would be charged \$500 to run the fiber from the road to their home and have it brought inside. Routers would be the expense of the homeowner. Mary Vertz, 4312 CTH PP shared that T-Mobile is starting to do internet over a 5G network.

11) Garbage / Recycling report

Treasurer Van Dyck presented a summary of the garbage and recycling activity. The Town had 150.06 tons of recyclables in 2020, which comes to 162.4 lbs per person. This is down slightly, though Mary feels much of that is due to many people no longer taking a printed newspaper. A grant was received again for 2020 in the amount of \$2,408.52. This was used to offset recycling collection expenses. This last weekend, at the Rockland Recycle Day, 197 vehicles came through and over 3 trucks loads of materials were collected. Thank you to all who brought items and to all who helped at the event. If during the year you want to get rid of any appliances, TVs or computers, they may be taken to NORSEC which is located on Prosper Road. Another event is planned for April 2022. Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W stated that he has also had success with the business on Creamery Road, and they will pay for scrap.

12) Chairman's Report

Chairman Cashman stated that the Board, along with Scott Construction, has conducted the annual road inspection (April 16th). In May, the board will review the list of roads that need work and try to decide

which to do with the available budget of \$170,000 It never seems to be enough.. This spring has been easy on town roads and we are grateful for that.

A TRIP award was granted to Rockland for work to be done on School Road. The town will rework one mile on School road between W and Morrison Road. Two culverts were replaced last year. Once this project is done, the town will get approximately \$14,000 back as a result of the TRIP program.

Two large culverts were replaced on Midway Road last year in anticipation of the rebuilding of the road between State 57 and CTH PP. The town was the only town in Brown County to win a grant from the state's Multimodal Local Supplement program. The program is estimated to cost \$544,000, of which 70% will be paid for by the state. Because this project is coming quickly, at the last Town Board meeting, an engineering agreement was signed with Tetra Tech to get the project on the shelf. If the infrastructure bill is passed by the House and Senate, the shovel ready jobs could be moved to the front of the line.

County Highway ZZ will be open in the fall, will close again in the spring for the last section to be completed and cleaned up and then will be finished in the fall of 2022. County Highway W will also get more work as Brown County has shuffled their project deck to move W ahead in the schedule. It will be done over 3 years and will start from north of Wayside between the Z's.

There is a small culvert on Mar El Road along State Hwy 57 that has rotted out and also needs to be replaced. The state says they won't handle that as it's under Mar El. In the next days/weeks you'll see potholes being filled in.

13) Announcements

Chairman Cashman reported that the Rockland Rummage, the Clean Up Day and the Recycling day were all held last Saturday. It was noted that may have created too much traffic on town roads to safely do garbage clean up. Perhaps next year they won't all be on the same day.

Chairman Cashman expressed gratitude to the Planning Commission, the Board of Appeals, and the election inspectors. 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 them all for the amount of work they all put in, especially Chairman Cashman for the amount of work he does on behalf of the town. Chairman Cashman then shared that he received a call from a lady who had a peacock in her tree and wanted him to catch it. The clerk also thanked Treasurer Mary Van Dyck for being so easy to work with. And a special thank you to the folks at Greenleaf Bank for the beverages and snacks.

14) Other public comment

Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP, said that he learned from Norb Scray that if there is a dead deer along the road that the county needs to be called to pick it up. Chairman Cashman said the county charges for that on town roads but will pick it up if it's on a county road. However, if it's in the ditch and not on the road, it might just stay there.

Adjournment

M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road, to adjourn; Glen Schwalbach, 1090 Moon River Drive 2nd.
Motion carried by voice vote. Adjourned at 8:23 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 19, 2022 .

Town Elector _____

Town Elector _____

DRAFT