

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, July 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. The meeting notice had been posted June 21, 2024 at the town hall, website, Kenny’s Lawton Bar, and published in the June 26th issue of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members (Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastro) were present as well as Maintenance Don Jakes and Tim Westerberg and town residents Tim Lorenz, Sheldon and Janet Huppert.

**JULY
BOARD
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

The minutes of the June meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting and were available at the meeting.

MSC to accept the minutes.

MINUTES

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

Clerk presented current financial report: checking \$21,272.26; LGIP General \$69,779.30; LGIP Machinery \$124,135.35; LGIP town Hall Fund \$107,951.25; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$116,145.95. Clerk reported \$ 31,338.47 Transportation Aid should have been deposited today and town will get 15% of the Shared Revenue third Monday of July. MSC to accept the financial report.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

Public Comment: Sheldon Huppert reported he and Lon Huppert widened Lon Huppert’s field driveways on 610th St to accommodate wider farm machinery and chair acknowledged that was fine.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Maintenance Don Jakes introduced Tim Westerberg, newly hired employee and reported they have been patching, brushing, bridges trimmed, shouldering and the county completed the 2 inch overlay on 490th Ave east of Highway 10. Clerk asked for clarification on time sheet for “ditches” – they cleaned out some ditches where fill had accumulated because of water runoff.

**ROAD
WORK**

At 7:15 p.m. the board had a virtual presentation with Rhonda Burish of OnQ Solutions in Kronenwetter, WI (near Wausau) who discussed the importance of digitizing records. 1 - Digitized records are stored in a secure location which can prevent unauthorized access, theft or loss. 2 – Easier to search for information if they have Optical Character Recognition 3- easier to share data with employees and board; 4 – use less storage space. The large highway record book laying out the roads can also be digitized to easily provide knowledge of widths and when the roads were laid out. She understands we are gathering information on the process and we can reach out to her again.

**DIGITIZING
RECORDS**

The 490th Ave Road construction bids were advertised in the June 19th and 26th issues of the Pierce County Herald. Ayres paid the DNR fee; Clerk has received the permit from the DNR. The bid opening will be July 11th at 9 a.m. Clerk will prepare the road easements for the residents along the 490th Ave project.

**490th AVE LRIP
ROAD
PROJECT**

No additional information for ARIP program.

ARIP

Maintenance reported total cost to replace the signs would be \$5500, but he has signs and will replace what needs to be replaced at this time.

**SIGN
REFLECTIVITY**

Clerk had compiled driveway application costs from several towns, ranging from no Cost to \$500 plus bond. MSC to raise driveway application permit fee to \$200. (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

**DRIVEWAY
FEE**

There were no driveway applications to consider. DRIVEWAYS

There were no operator licenses to consider. OPERATOR LICENSES

However, 715 Investments had completed application for Class “B” Beer and “Class B” Intoxicating Liquors license and would like to reopen by the end of the month. Board can act on his application after July 16th. 715 APPLICATION

Board reviewed Ordinance 2024-3 to proceed appointing clerk. Board will adopt this ordinance at the August 5th meeting. CLERK POSITION

The board will continue discussing scanning the town records and finding more vendors. SCAN RECORDS

Some board members had looked at former Angel’s restaurant location now owned by the creamery as a place to rent for town hall, but the inside has been totally gutted. Sunnyside School was suggested as a potential location. Concensus of board to obtain an estimate for remodeling the 715 Investments building as a town hall. TOWN HALL

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Consumer Cooperative \$ 112.15 (gas); Ellsworth Parts City \$24.98 (parts); GFL \$306.52 (refuse hauling); Pierce County Journal \$242.99 (publishing 490th Ave road construction bid for 2 weeks); Owen Assessing \$660.00 (assessing contract); Pierce County Treasurer \$35.88 (20% of forest aid); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$88.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$74.31 (phone and internet); Waltz Ace Hardware \$91.47 (propane for patcher) (MSC to pay the bills). (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner). BILLS

Board asked maintenance to get bids from Ag Partners and Chippewa Valley for propane contract. PROPANE CONTRACT

Correspondence: 1 –New software will be used for real estate tax collection this year – the estimated fee for using this program this year is \$530. 2 – ETZ land permits approved new home for Mark Steves; 3 – Pierce County land use permits for Mark Erlandson (sanitary); Mark Steves (sanitary); Todd and Tammy Shaw (replacement sign); Brady Schroeder new address sign. 4 – notice of building permits for May: Jeremy O’Neil (solar); Jeff Erickson (electric); Nicholas Crumb (alteration); Erin Pearson (deck), and Myrna Buri (alteration). 5 – Todd and Tammy Shaw complaint about barking dogs at Bryniarski – Brit from Companion Animal Control will follow up; 6 – Gary Huppert from the ATV association says all roads in the county are open for ATV travel unless posted otherwise. No State Roads are open. If our town wants to pull the signs, the club will donate posts to town for doing so. Otherwise notify ATV club and they will pull signs. 7 – River Truck and Trailer is now Premier Truck Group. 8 – Full value of Alcivia manufacturing property for 2024 is \$274,200. CORRESPONDENCE

Animal issues: Chair received call about dogs, but they were in Town of River Falls. ANIMALS

Next meeting will be Monday, August 5 at 7 p.m. NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner). ADJOURN

Phyllis Beastrom, Clerk