

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, January 6, 2025 at the town hall after the caucus which began at 6:30 p.m. The meeting notice had been posted December 18<sup>th</sup> at the town hall, Kenny's Lawton Bar, 715 Steer and Beer, and published in the December 25<sup>th</sup> and January 1<sup>st</sup> issues of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members (Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastrom) were present. Also present were Barry Foy, Tim Lorenz, Greg Thoen, Sheldon Huppert, John Huber, Ron Reigle, Mary Brand, Mary Lewien and maintenance Don Jakes and Tim Westerberg.

**JANUARY 6,  
2025  
BOARD  
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO  
ORDER**

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

MSC to approve the minutes.

**MINUTES**

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

Clerk presented December 31<sup>st</sup> financial report: checking \$24,476.84; LGIP General \$134,751.33; LGIP Machinery \$127,392.60; LGIP town Hall Fund \$110,783.83; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$811,347.92.

**FINANCIAL  
REPORT**

MSC to accept the financial report.

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

Public Comments: Clerk Beastrom asked why the transfer station looks like a junk yard as this is just encouraging others to bring their junk. Mary Lewien stated she had just been there and it looks terrible. Chair responded he would talk to the attendant. Sheldon Huppert asked if there has been any further action to check out the Sunnyside School. He had a conversation with the owner of the former Lindgren School and the building is working very well for them. Chair responded the owner of the Sunnyside School never returned his calls.

**PUBLIC  
COMMENT**

Maintenance Don Jakes reported: 1 – they have been making maintenance repairs on the trucks and equipment; 2- No Thru Traffic signs were posted on 490<sup>th</sup> Avenue as well as pedestrian signs; 3- reflectors were placed along the curve on 450<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**ROAD  
WORK**

On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> a single vehicle accident occurred on 610<sup>th</sup> Street just north of address N4240. The clerk was instructed to obtain a copy of Sheriff Report for our records. Pierce County Bridge personnel inspected the bridge after the accident and determined the bridge pier was not damaged. The guardrail was replaced on Monday morning December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Town Maintenance is recording hours and work completed on this bridge following the accident.

**REPORT  
SINGLE CAR  
ACCIDENT  
SUNDAY,  
DECEMBER 22  
610<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

The following is from the accident report: On Sunday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:17 p.m., police responded to a one vehicle crash on 610<sup>th</sup> Street in the Town of Ellsworth. A 2008 Chevy Cobalt, driven by Cody Shannon Patterson, 34, Wausau was traveling north on 610<sup>th</sup> Street when the driver looked at his phone, veered right and left the roadway, striking the bridge guardrail, went air bound, struck the bridge pier and spun to the right. The vehicle overturned and landed on its roof. Patterson left the scene, hid behind a pole shed, and was found walking east on 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The vehicle was towed due to disabling damage. Patterson reported no injuries, was cited for operating motor vehicle without insurance, failure to notify police of accident and operator fail/wear seat belt. He passed the field sobriety tests; however drugs and drug paraphernalia were found in his car.

Chair Billeter consulted the engineer for 490<sup>th</sup> Avenue and he stated the road is straight, driveways are not tightly spaced and it was designed for 55 mph speed limit, Mary Lewien thanked the board for what they have done by putting up the pedestrian walking signs as more are walking on the road as traffic has slowed and the truck traffic has diminished with the No Thru Trucks signs. Highway Commissioner Chad Johnson had also responded to Brad Ristow after reviewing the speed reports from the fall of 2023 and pointed out the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is a major factor in establishing speed limit, was 54 mph so there's not enough support to lower the speed limit.

490<sup>th</sup> AVE  
SPEED  
CONTROL

The board discussed sanding and plowing for town residents. The clerk distributed reports from 2020-2024 listing who had used sanding and plowing services. Consensus of the board to keep doing what we're currently doing especially applying salt sand and sanding when there are icy conditions.

DISCUSSION  
ON SANDING  
& PLOWING FOR  
RESIDENTS

No Driveway applications to consider.

DRIVEWAYS

The position of appointed clerk was advertised on Facebook, town website, two weeks in the Pierce County Journal, Republican Eagle, and Star Observer. Clerk has received two applications. The board will meet Monday January 13<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. to review the applications.

APPOINTED  
CLERK  
STATUS

Clerk reviewed town board responsibilities as outlined by the Wisconsin Towns Association document and the board must confirm planning commission appointments. MSC the board confirm the appointments of Katie Mazac to the ETZ committee and Ronald Reigle to the Plan Commission.  
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

COMMITTEE  
APPOINTMENTS

In the 2025 budget, \$3460 is allocated for the maintenance computer. Supervisor Ristow will proceed with ordering.

MAINTENANCE  
COMPUTER

Possible furniture for the container office could be table, rolling chair, white board.

FURNITURE

No operator license applications.

LICENSES

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Bauer Built \$385.10 (tire repairs); Consumer Cooperative \$105.25 (gasoline); Brad Ristow \$29.99 (supplies for phone installation in container office); Column \$446.47 (publications of Amended No Thru Trucks Ordinance, publishing job opening; caucus & meeting notices); Ellsworth Parts City \$38.99 (parts); GFL \$313.51 (refuse hauling); Helmer Printing \$329.82 (printing tax list); Ironclad Storage \$500 (rent); Owen Assessing \$660 (assessing contract); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$ 175.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$77.12 (internet & phone); Pierce Pepin \$7,427.24 (electricity and internet to container office); Waltz Ace Hardware \$1.33 (parts and supplies); Lisa Hines \$328.25 (postage) and \$12.58 (supplies) and the publication of the job opening \$162.56 for 2 week publication in the Republican Eagle and Star Observer charged on the town credit card and the new order of checks and check envelopes \$637.92 was deducted from the checking account. MSC to pay the bills. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).

BILLS

Correspondence: 1 –Correspondence from WI DOT notifying the town of bridge rehabilitation project over the Isabelle Creek on the east edge of the Village of Ellsworth; 2- no activity with Companion Animal Control in December; 3 – Tony

CORRES-  
PONDENCE

Feuerhelm issued building permits to David Shaut (electrical) and Reed Hannegraf (alterations). 4 – no permits at Pierce County Land Management.

Clerk received phone call on December 12<sup>th</sup> from Travis Holst questioning his invoice for dogs running at large. Clerk replied his dogs were running at large and Companion Animal Control picked up the dogs at 715 Steer and Beer and he had claimed the dogs. Clerk asked him why he hadn't responded until now as he was first notified by letter on November 30, 2023 and has been billed periodically throughout 2024. He stated he has only one dog and denied his dog was running. Clerk informed him since the bill has not been paid, the charge has been added as a special charge to his tax statement and suggested he license his dog – the dog form and information required is with his tax statement that he will receive any day.

ANIMAL  
CONTROL

Supervisor Ristow suggested the town look at getting strobe lights for the pickup truck.

STROBE  
LIGHTS FOR  
PICKUP

Next meeting will be February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m.

NEXT MTG

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

ADJOURN

Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk