

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, February 3, 2025 at 6:40 p.m. at the town hall. The meeting notice had been posted January 24, 2025 at the town hall, Kenny's Lawton Bar, 715 Steer and Beer, and published in the January 29th issue of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members (Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastro) were present.

**FEBRUARY 3,
2025
BOARD
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order.

**CALL TO
ORDER**

MSC to move into closed session per WI Stats 19.58(1)(c) to consider employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

**CLOSED
SESSION**

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

Roll Call vote: Ristow Yes; Borner Yes; Billeter Yes

MSC to move back into open session at 7:00 p.m..

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

Roll Call Vote: Ristow Yes; Borner Yes; Billeter Yes

The Chair resumed the board meeting after closed session.

**RESUME
MEETING**

Present were: Tim Lorenz, Greg Thoen, Ron Reigle, Sheldon Huppert, Russ Korpela, and maintenance Tim Westerberg and Don Jakes.

The minutes of the January 6th Caucus and January 6th Town Board meeting had been distributed prior to this meeting and were available at the meeting.

MINUTES

MSC to approve the January 6th caucus minutes and the Town Board meeting minutes. (Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

Clerk presented the January 31st financial report: checking \$6,064.61; LGIP General \$166,615.46; LGIP Machinery \$127,809.55; LGIP town Hall Fund \$111,215.99; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$973,524.90.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

MSC to accept the financial report.

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

Public Comments: Sheldon Huppert again asked if Chair had contacted owner of Sunnyside School. Chair responded the owner has never returned his calls.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Ron Reigle, an architect, commented that the Sunnyside school building is not an acceptable building for renovation as a town hall. He also urged the town board to discontinue collecting garbage at the landfill site as a very small percentage of the town residences bring their garbage. Funded yearly through the town levy, all taxpayers are paying for this and many as well are contracting for weekly garbage pickup. By cutting attendant wages and refuse hauling, the town will have funding for other projects.

MSC the Town of Ellsworth renew its building inspector contract with TF Inspections for another year.

**TF INSPEC-
TIONS
CONTRACT**

(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow)

Maintenance Tim Westerberg reported: 1 – both he and Don plowed snow when necessary; 2 – he has been making maintenance repairs on the equipment; 3 – sorting and cleaning the shop; 4 – did some brushing on the warmer days; and 5 – preparing the container office for the computer; 5 – ordered strobe light from Amazon and installed on pickup

**ROAD
WORK**

Chair Billeter stated the town should consider replacing the 2010 truck with a 2026 truck as it takes a year or more to produce. Consensus of board to proceed with obtaining bids and seeking financing options for possibly 3 years. Patrolman Tim will call for bids.

OTHER ROAD WORK

The board reviewed applications for two driveways: 1 – Peter Onan on west side of 650th Street in the SE ¼ of SE ¼ section 5; driveway requires an 18’ culvert. 2 – Kendra Steffenhagen and Brad Gadiant on north side of 450th Ave in Section 31. The original application for driveway at this location was in 1998 and culvert was installed at that time. Owners know they have to make driveway wide enough for emergency vehicles.

DRIVEWAYS
PETER ONAN
STEFFENHAGEN/
GADIANT

MSC to approve both driveways.

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

Supervisor Ristow reported the Patrolman computer was ordered directly from Dell and everything has been installed on the computer. Total computer and hook up costs were \$2,659.56. The printer has not been purchased but probably need a laser jet scanner-printer. There’s approximately \$800 remaining in computer budget.

PATROLMAN COMPUTER

MSC the Ellsworth Town Board appoint Russell J Korpela to the position of Appointed Clerk effective April 15th contingent upon signing the Appointed Clerk agreement.

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

Chair Billeter introduced Russ Korpela to those in attendance.

APPOINT APPOINTED CLERK

Board discussed purchasing a couple of rolling computer-desk chairs, 6 foot table, and shelving units for the container office.

Motion by Supervisor Ristow to spend up to \$530 on chairs and table at this time.

Motion died for lack of second.

Chair asked Patrolman Tim to obtain prices.

FURNITURE FOR CONTAINER OFFICE

There were not any operators licenses to consider.

LICENSES

The following bills were reviewed for payment: Catalis \$444.15 (Assessor Marketdrive software); Column \$24.16 (meeting notice) Companion Animal Care \$480 (annual fee); Consumer Cooperative \$62 (gasoline); Ellsworth Fire Services \$46,413.00 (yearly assessment); Ellsworth Parts City \$60.54 (parts); GFL \$314.24 (refuse hauling); Ironclad Storage \$500 (rent); Owen Assessing \$660 (assessing contract); Pierce County Clerk \$290.00 (election expenses 2024) Pierce County Journal \$32.25 (absentee ballot notice for primary election); Pierce Pepin Cooperative Services \$ 238.00 (electricity); Swift Current \$77.34 (internet & phone); Waltz Ace Hardware \$299.13 (supplies; LED lights for shop); Lisa Hines \$182.72 (postage).

BILLS

Purchases paid by credit card: computer and hookup supplies \$2,659.56 and garbage bags \$687.90.

MSC to pay the bills. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).

Correspondence: 1 – letter from Chippewa Valley Technical College stating they have board member positions open; 2- clerk distributed the mill rate comparison data for each municipality compiled by the Pierce County Treasurer’s Office and available on their website. 3 – no permits issued by Pierce County Land Management.

CORRESPONDENCE

4 – Clerk inquired who would be attending District meeting and BOR training March 15th at the Florian Garden in Eau Claire. Clerk will register Gordon Borner. Appointed Clerk Russ Korpela will attend the March 17 and 18 virtual presentations.

No animal issues reported.

ANIMALS

Tuesday, May 6 from 7 – 9 p.m. was chosen for 2025 Board of Review.

BOARD OF
REVIEW

Next meeting will be March 3rd at 7 p.m.

NEXT MTG

MSC to adjourn.

ADJOURN

(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner)

Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk