

The Ellsworth Town Board met Monday, March 3, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall/shop (W6068 490th Ave). The meeting notice had been posted February 21, 2025 at the town hall, Kenny’s Lawton Bar, 715 Steer and Beer, and published in the February 26th issue of the Pierce County Journal. All Town Board members (Chair Billeter, Supervisors Ristow and Borner, Treasurer Hines, Clerk Beastrom) were present. Also present were: Greg Thoen, Tim Lorenz, Barry Foy, Sheldon Huppert, Wally Hines, RJ Duden, Russ Korpela, Don Jakes and Tim Westerberg.

**MARCH 3,
2025
BOARD
MEETING**

Chair Billeter called the meeting to order. Don Jakes led in the Pledge of Allegiance. The minutes of the February 3rd meeting had been distributed prior to the meeting and were available at the meeting.

**CALL TO
ORDER
MINUTES**

MSC to approve the minutes.
(Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow.

Clerk presented the January-February tax collection summary – the town received \$321,985.65 of the levy, The town will receive a portion of the remaining levy amount of 171,630.76 in April as Lottery credit and the remainder at August Settlement. The town also retained \$4,858.70 of the Managed Forest Law Taxes.

**FINANCIAL
REPORT**

February financial report: checking \$20,652.33; LGIP General \$167,217.45; LGIP Machinery \$128,366.08; LGIP town Hall Fund \$111,630.39; Cash on hand \$25, Money Market \$308,786.43 (\$50,000 loan and \$258,786.43 town funds).
MSC to accept the financial report.
(Motion by Brad Ristow, seconded by Gordon Borner).

Clerk reported Gordon Borner and Russ Korpela are registered for virtual Board of Review and Legislative report on March 17 and 18 and Russ Korpela and Tim Westerberg are registered for WTA Road School April 21-23 at the Dells.

No one offered public comment.

**PUBLIC
COMMENT**

Maintenance Tim Westerberg reported: 1 – he has been brushing, 2 - cleaning and organizing the shop on cold days; 3 – has been mapping and adding signs in the computer; 4 – attended Haz Mat training on February 27th at the Law Enforcement Center; 5 – has requested truck pricing; 6 – Don Jakes replaced the heating element in the water heater.

**ROAD
WORK**

Maintenance and Chair Billeter reported they haven’t received any truck prices yet. Only have price from Universal of \$128,000 for new box, wing, plow, lights.

**OTHER ROAD
WORK**

Chair also stated Ed Rohl picked up from Pierce County a 26 x 18 culvert and two apron end walls for the Onan driveway. Ed Rohl will be billed for the culvert when the Town receives the bill from the county.

ONAN CULVERT

Clerk advised that one of the general sessions the town attendees will hear at the WTA Road School is establishing a 5-10 year road plan. Any roads under consideration for improvement must be on a 5 year road plan. Clerk distributed the 2017 road plan and of the six roads considered, three had been completed. The board will set a date to complete a road tour.

**5-10 YEAR
ROAD
PLAN**

There were no driveway applications to consider.	DRIVEWAYS
Patrolman Tim Westerberg presented pricing for office furniture. Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow to proceed with purchase of two office chairs, white board, bulletin board, door mat, table approximate cost \$600.	OFFICE FURNITURE
Board discussed having a rural mailbox or PO Box for town address. MSC to contract for a PO Box at the post office. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow). Clerk also reminded the board of the need of a container at the town hall for part deliveries.	ADDRESS PO BOX CONTAINER FOR DELIVERIES
There were no operator licenses to consider.	LICENSES
Clerk had spoken with representative at DNR who stated the town could sell the landfill property; it has to disclosed on the deed that it the property was used for solid waste disposal; and DNR is to be notified of new owner and DNR will also be in contact with owner. Selling the property does not release liability from the town for placing waste in the landfill. The DNR current policy is not approving any enclosed structures or residential type development on closed landfills due to concerns of gas migration. Clerk also clarified with the DNR that the Town’s current wood burning site has been in the same location since licensed in 1974-75 and that the actual landfill site is located farther south and sent them a partial copy of the survey map completed at the time of closing showing the location of current woodburning site and former landfill site.	FORMER LANDFILL PROPERTY
Maintenance Don Jakes encouraged the board to keep the recycling containers at the landfill site. If they are not monitored or in a secure location, people will dispose of their garbage in the recycling containers.	
The following bills were reviewed for payment: Chippewa Valley Energy \$ 839.37 (diesel fuel); Column \$55.86 (printing two notices); Consumer Cooperative \$63.01 (gasoline); ES&S Election \$845.00 (licensing and maintenance of election equipment for Feb 2025-Jan 2026); Ellsworth Parts City \$29.99 (parts); GFL \$316.41 (refuse hauling); Ironclad Storage \$500 (rent); Owen Assessing \$660 (assessing contract); Pierce Pepin Electric \$334.00; Swiftcurrent \$77.34 (internet and phone); Waltz Ace Hardware \$54.97 (supplies); MSC to pay the bills. (Motion by Gordon Borner, seconded by Brad Ristow).	BILLS
Correspondence: 1 – letter from ES&S Elections with contract for licensing, maintenance and support fees. We purchased the equipment in October 2020 with a one year warranty and ES&S has maintained the equipment 2-3 times since purchase. Typically at the expiration of the warranty, a hardware, maintenance, and licensing agreement is put in place. They recently discovered that this was not done. A two year agreement has been received for our signature as well as a bill for February 2025-January 2026. The next billing for this 2-year agreement will be in February for the February 2026-January 2027. 2- letter from Darrell’s Septic inquiring about driving on posted town roads – clerk instructed to reply requesting that they safely drive in the middle of the road as much as possible; 3- Emergency contacts were updated to submit to Emergency Management. 4 – Pierce County Unit meeting will be Thursday March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Maiden Rock Town hall; 5 – letter from Pierce County Land Management and Pierce County Land Conservation inquiring if the town wants to participate in the Farmland	CORRES- PONDENCE

Preservation program. 6 – Received transfer of 38 A of MFL lands to Michael and Malia Bombardo in Sections 24 and 25.

Brad Ristow reported he had attended the Pierce County Economic Development meeting. Topics addressed: need for affordable housing; improved roads and bridges; ETZ is very confusing and impacts the residents living in that zone; need more planned developments. He also shared briefly about a 700 acres solar farm proposing to locate in Town of Hartland.

PIERCE CTY
ECONOMIC

No animal issues reported.

ANIMALS

Election – Tuesday, April 1
Annual meeting – Tuesday, April 15 at 7 p.m.
Open Book – Wednesday, April 16 7 – 9 p.m.
Board of Review Tuesday, May 6 from 7 – 9 p.m.

UPCOMING
DATES

Next meeting will be April 7 at 7 p.m. Elected board members and appointed clerk will complete their oath of office.

NEXT MTG

Chair Billeter thanked Don Jakes for his nearly 25 years of service as Town Patrolman for the Town of Ellsworth and presented him with a plaque in recognition of his service. Don started on June 27, 2000 and submitted his resignation as full time employee February 1, 2025 and then started the position of part time employee.

DON JAKES
PATROL

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

ADJOURN

Phyllis J Beastrom, Clerk

An assortment of cupcakes and crackers and cheese were offered to all present in honor of Don's retirement.