

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2025
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The September 2, 2025 Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dennis Overland at 7:00 p.m. in the Rushford Village Office. Council Members present: Mike Ebner, Travis Link, Robert Hart and Rick Ruberg; Public Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner, Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner
Absent: City Attorney Joseph O’Koren

AGENDA was approved with the addition of a part-time employee Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ebner, Carried.

MINUTES from the August 19, 2025 Regular Council Meeting approved as presented Motion by Ruberg, 2nd by Link, Carried.

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: Kirsten Zoellner-Fillmore County Journal

FINANCIALS: August Expenses \$161,333.26, August Receipts \$12,141.39
Outstanding Checks as of 8/31/2025 \$78,322.57, Bank Balance as of 8/31/2025 \$274,632.91
Estimated September Receipts \$10,000.00/Estimated September Expenses \$43,000.00
CD’s renewing at current advertised rates

Motion to approve the financials are presented Motion by Ebner, 2nd by Ruberg. Carried.

PLANNING / ZONING–Pettit: New Permits /Inquiries/Updates;

New Permits:

- #1729-Johnny Bellock-Re-Roof House-State Highway 43 S
- #1730-Johnny Bellock-Re-Roof Garage-State Highway 43 S

Permit Status/Projects in Process/Inquiries/Updates: Nothing new to report

ROADS/WATER/SEWER:

- **Roads/Utilities Update:** Dessner reported:
 - The lift station dialer numbers have been changed. He will be call first, Rick Lee second and Dennis Overland third
 - Fluoride levels are continuing to be monitored
 - STS Plumbing completed the work on the Goodrich Street storm drain. A new pump was installed and repair work on the existing pump was done
 - Dessner contacted Minnesota Rural Water (MRWA) regarding the Lyle Johnson curb stop. It was requested the water be shut off but Dessner has not been able to locate the curb stop. He had multiple people help try to find it. Zach from MRWA will be here Friday to locate it. Dessner stated MRWA provides help at no cost. Currently the water is shut off before the meter in the house
 - Road ditch mowing and grading will need to be done
 - Miner and Dessner spent time cleaning the ditches and trimming low hanging trees on Airport Rd to make it better for mowing and snow plowing
 - The speed sign has been moved in South Rushford
 - The plan is to extend the new culvert on Dunn Ln this week weather permitting

- **McCarthy Well Pump Performance Inspection Report:**

- Dessner reported everything looks good on the report. He believes he has found the keys needed to open the tower

Motion made to accept the report as presented Motion by Hart, 2nd by Link. Carried.

- **Fillmore County Storm Disaster Update:**

- Miner reported Ebner and she attended the meeting in Preston on August 20th
 - It appears CRV would be able to hire a tree cutting service to remove trees that were damaged during the July 29th storm and the cost can be turned in for reimbursement.
 - Ebner took pictures to document which trees were damaged and need to be removed
 - Miner will contact HSEM and send them the pictures to make sure these expenses will be covered before someone is hired

OTHER:

- **Truth In Taxation (TNT) Meeting-December 2, 2025 @ 6:45 pm:**
 - This gives residents the opportunity to talk with the Council about the proposed tax levy before the final tax levy is set

Motion made to set the TNT Meeting for December 2, 2025 @ 6:45 pm Motion by Ebner, 2nd by Ruberg. Carried.

- **SEMLM Fall Event-October 30, 2025-5-8:30 pm-SE Service Coop-Rochester:**
 - This is notice of the SEMLM fall event. CRV did not attend the summer event in Albert Lea
- **Part-Time Employee:**
 - Ebner stated he would like to see a part-time person hired this fall. There is plenty of work to do and it would be nice to have someone to cover if Dessner is on vacation or if Dessner/Pettit are gone and snow plowing needs to be done
 - Miner stated a seasonal position was included in the 2026 budget at 20 hours per weeks for 52 weeks at \$20.00 per hour. Seasonal can be for 5 months and then there would have to be a 30 day break before they could be eligible for another seasonal position. Seasonal allows CRV to see how an employee does, if they are not a good fit they are done after 5 months, if they do a good job they could potentially be hired as a part-time assistant and receive benefits
 - Ebner questioned if 20 hours per week would be enough and suggested 25 hours per week, Link agreed 24-25 hours per week would probably be better. Dessner stated if there was a huge storm the assistant would probably go over 25 hours for the week. Miner stated you cannot predict when a storm will happen and if needed they could go over 25 hours and maybe cut back the next week.
 - Hart stated we can't burn Dessner out, there is a need for part-time help. Link agreed, someone is needed to help out or cover when Dessner is off
 - Discussion regarding a seasonal employee include the time after 5 months until they can be hired back, people may not be able afford to not get paid for a month, if they are a good employee they may find other work. They might have another part-time job that would interfere with the CRV job. Seasonal is a good way to evaluate an employee without paying for benefits right away. Seasonal gives CRV an out after 5 months if the employee is not a good fit
 - Link suggested going with part-time right away with a 6-month probationary period. Ebner stated he is not against this. Link feels this would be the best way to keep a good employee
 - Hart suggested budgeting 25 hours per week for 52 weeks at \$25.00 per hour for a part-time employee. The wage would be determined by experience but for budgeting purpose to use \$25.00
 - Pettit stated anyone applying for this position should be made aware there is no room for advancement, it will remain a part-time position

Motion made to advertise for a part-time public works/maintenance assistant for an average of 25 hour per week, at CRV Pay Grade 5 \$20.87-\$28.37 Motion by Link, 2nd by Hart. Carried.

- Miner will put together a newspaper ad for Overland to review
- **2026 Preliminary Budget:**
 - Miner stated adjustments were made to include increases to Harter's trash, Engelson Auditing and .88% was added for Family Leave with the understanding the CRV rate probably will not be .88% and CRV is responsible for only 50% of the rate unless they want to pay more
 - Ebner would like the tool budget increased to \$4,000.00 and \$3,500.00 for a small aluminum trailer for the mower.
 - It will need to be determined if a mowing service contract will be continued or if CRV will take over the mowing once a part-time person is hired. Ruberg stated he thought part of the reason for hiring a part-time person was to do the mowing, Ebner stated at the rate CRV is paying now it might be less than what CRV would pay to do it themselves once the wage and machine are figured in
 - \$106,000.00 is budgeted for CD's
 - Miner will update the part-time employee hours, wage and benefits and other added items
 - Miner stated the budget was at a 9% increase before the additional items were added

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

- September 4-8, Thursday-Monday-Miner Out of Office

Next Meetings: **Council:** September 16, 2025 and October 7, 2025 Regular Council Meeting @ 7:00 at CRV Hall Office
Zoning: September 16, 2025 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

- Overland stated he will not be at the September 16th meeting

Motion made to Adjourn Regular Council Meeting at 8:03 pm by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg.