

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2025
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The October 7, 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; Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit, City Attorney Joseph O’Koren, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner

Absent: Public Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner

AGENDA was approved with the addition of hall rentals on meeting nights Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ebner, Carried.

MINUTES from the September 16, 2025 Regular Council & September 23, 2025 Continued Fire Department Mill Rate Meeting approved as presented Motion by Ruberg, 2nd by Link, Carried.

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: Kirsten Zoellner-Fillmore County Journal

FINANCIALS: September Expenses \$42,101.23, September Receipts \$9,997.89
Outstanding Checks as of 9/30/2025 \$19,482.56, Bank Balance as of 9/30/2025 \$183,689.56
Estimated October Receipts \$39,000.00 (F450 Sale)/Estimated October Expenses \$40,000.00
CD’s renewing at current advertised rates

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

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

New Permits: None Written

- Pettit reported there are several permits in process. Still getting permits applications from July wind storm

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

ROADS/WATER/SEWER:

- **Roads/Utilities Update:** Ebner reported for Dessner:
 - Fluoride and chlorine levels are constantly in the required range. Testing once a week
 - South Rushford park water hydrant had a leak and needed to be replaced. When they dug down another leak was found. Both leaks were fixed and a curb stop was installed
 - Quarterly fluoride report came back within recommended range
 - South Rushford hydrant flushing will take place the week of October 13-17
 - Rock was brought to and leveled out at Dunn Lane and culvert markers were placed
 - Working on mowing road ditches
 - F550 was brought to Brown’s Tire for DOT inspection
 - Park Inspections done on both parks. Boards had to be tightened at hall park and swing seat had to be replaced at South Rushford park. Ebner donated the swing seat
 - Dessner will be attending the MMUA safety meeting on October 14th in Spring Grove from 1-3 pm
 - Will be getting sand, salt and rock ordered for winter use

OTHER:

- **Part-Time Public Works/Maintenance Position Update:**
 - Miner reported 2 applications were received
- **Rushford Fire Department 2026-2027 Contract:**
 - 2026 and 2027 fire contract will remain the same as it was for 2024 and 2025
 - Contract amount for 2026 and 2027 is \$24,638.13 per year

Motion to approve 2026 and 2027 Fire Department Fire Mill Rate contract Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

- **2025 Audit Quote:**

- Audit quote from Engelson and Associates states it will not exceed \$11,500.00
- Hart asked if CRV can ask for other quotes. Miner explained this was done a couple of years ago and it was found Engelson and Associates was a lot cheaper than other quotes received

Motion to approve Engelson and Associates quote not to exceed \$11,500.00 **Motion** by Hart, 2nd by Ebner, Carried.

- Overland stated it doesn't hurt to get quotes from others every few years, Graham stated in the past someone else did the audit but it has been Engelson for a while now and they are easy to work with

- **SEMLM Meeting-Thursdays, October 30, 2025-Rochester 4-8:30 pm:**

- There is not a registration or meal charge for this meeting
- Ebner, Link and Ruberg will not be able to attend. Miner plans to attend, others will let her know if they plan to attend as soon as possible

- **MN Family Paid Leave:**

- This will be effective 1/1/2026
- Elected and appointed officials will be included
- Council will need to do the following
 - **Decide how to split premiums.** CRV is required to pay 50% of the premium. The Council will need to decide if they want to pay more than 50%. If CRV pays more than 50% any amount above the required 50% is required to be added to the employees W2 at the end of 2026
 - **Set up a clear notification process.** This will be how the employee lets CRV know they are applying for Family Paid Leave
 - **Decide whether to allow supplemental payment:** Family paid leave will pay 90% of an employees wage. The Council will need to decide if an employee can use PTO/ESST to top off their payment from Family Paid Leave so they will receive their full pay. If CRV does not allow PTO/ESST to be used to top off then an employee who wants to get their full pay will have to use their available PTO/ESST.
 - **Set and intermittent leave policy.** Employees can take leave in small blocks or time rather than all at once. It will need to be decided what the shortest block of time an employee can use-from one minute to up to one day. CRV can also decide how much time can be taken as intermittent leave. Employees can take up to 12 weeks at 40 hours per week if they qualify. If an employee qualifies for the max of 20 weeks of leave in a year, CRV can decide if that additional time can also be taken intermittently, or if it must be taken in one continuous block
- Link asked how much leave can be taken in a year. An employee can take 12 weeks per for one event and if they qualify up to 20 weeks per year.
- Link asked if cities would require employees to use PTO before applying for Family Paid Leave. Miner explained most cities were going to allow employees to use PTO to top off the Family Paid Leave amount
 - **Short Term Disability (STD).** Council will need to be decided if CRV will continue with the STD policy.
 - Miner stated most cities, at this time, plan to continue with their STD insurance which can be used to top off the Family Paid Leave payment
 - Overland stated STD can only be used for disability things it could not be used for anything else. Example-Dad wanting to take time off for the birth of a child would not be covered by STD but would be covered by Family Paid Leave
 - Link questioned if this will be needed when Family Paid Leave starts. Does STD cover something Family Paid Leave will not. Miner stated she did not think STD would cover something that above what Family Paid Leave covers
 - Miner and Overland will get together to look at what the best option would be
 - The 2026 premium will be reduced from \$32.80 to \$16.40 per month, this is the total monthly cost for both full time employees.
- Hart asked what the cost will be for Family Paid Leave. Miner stated CRV will find out in November if we will be considered a small employer and if so the rate will be less
- Link questioned if everyone in Minnesota had to do this. Yes, except contractors, self-employed and Native American Tribes. Those that are self-employed do have the option to enroll in Family Paid Leave
- Miner stated information will come out before it becomes effective
- Ebner stated he does not understand why the Council has to be part of this. Overland stated as of right now they are still included. Overland stated ESST decided not to include elected or appointed officials at the last minute

- **Hall Rental on CRV Meeting Nights:**

- A request was received to rent the community center the same night and time of a Council meeting
- Miner asked the Council to decide if they want the community center available to rent during meeting nights.
- Miner stated if they were to allow rentals during a council meeting they needed to keep in mind while one rental might be quiet and not a problem the next one could be for a child's birthday party which would probably be loud. You could not allow one and not allow the other
- CRV community hall rental rules and regulations say: Priority of use. The City shall have first priority for all governmental activities. The priority for all other uses shall be determined on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Overland stated to keep things simple he would prefer not to have rentals during CRV meeting nights not only because it could be disruptive but also because the community center might be needed if there is a large group at the meeting
- Link asked if there are a lot of requests for rentals on meeting nights. Miner stated no, there was a request once before and when they heard it was a meeting night they rented the hall for another time

Motion made not to allow community center rentals on CRV meeting nights **Motion** by Hart, 2nd by Link, Carried.

- **Budget Review:**

- Miner asked the Council to provide ideas of what could potentially be removed from the budget to reduce the levy amount
- Hart proposed eliminating the CEDA contract and hiring them on a as needed basis, remove the trailer and cut back on the tool budget
- Link agrees with Hart regarding CEDA and questioned if a generator is really needed. Miner stated she learned FEMA does have generator grants, none are available at this time. Miner will sign up to get notified when FEMA generators grants become available
- Ebner stated he would like to see the trailer stay in the budget for a little longer and stated a new trailer could be purchased for \$3,200.00 or there could be a good used ones available too
- Miner stated to get down to 7.5% the levy amount would have to be reduced to \$615,455. This would cut \$40,000 out of the budget. Link stated by removing the generator and CEDA contract it would bring the levy down to around 7.5%
- Overland stated if CEDA was to be hired on a as needed basis it would be more expensive and should be included in the budget
- Miner suggested looking at the Harter's contract to see if there is something that could be done to reduce that cost. Graham stated there are a couple other trash contractors that would like to be notified when the trash contract is up for renewal. The Harter's contract is for 5 years, we are going into year 3. Miner suggested a survey to see what the citizens think is needed. It was stated the residents like not receiving a monthly bill for trash and the reason CRV started trash pickup was to keep trash from being thrown into road ditches and from burning their trash. Pettit stated trash is the only service he receives from CRV. Hart stated he could probably share with someone because he does not generate much trash
- Miner asked the Council to continue looking at options to reduce the levy, the final levy will need to be set the last meeting in December

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

- October 19-24, 2025-Sunday thru Friday-Miner vacation
- October 30, 2025-Thursday 4:00 pm-8:30 pm-SEMLM Meeting-SE Service Coop-Rochester

Next Meetings: Council: October 21, 2025 Ben Bernard Solar Array Public Hearing @ 6:45 pm and Regular Council Meeting @ 7:00 at CRV Hall Office and November 4, 2025 @ 7:00 pm at CRV Hall Office

Zoning: October 21, 2025 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

- Ebner stated he will not be at the October 21st meeting, Link may not but will try to be. Overland stated there has to be 3 at the meeting so the others will need to be there

Motion made to Adjourn Regular Council Meeting at 7:29 pm by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg.