

**CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026**  
**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**  
**43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167**

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The February 17, 2026 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, Robert Hart and Rick Ruberg; Public Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner, City Attorney Joseph O’Koren, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner

Absent: Travis Link, Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit

**CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT:** Kirsten Zoellner-Fillmore County Journal, Jayme Longmire-CEDA,

**AGENDA** was approved as presented Motion by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ebner, Carried.

**MINUTES** from the January 20, 2026 Annual Council Meeting approved as presented Motion by Ebner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hart, Carried.

**FINANCIALS:** January Receipts \$12,360.14, January Expenses \$114,142.70,  
Outstanding Checks as of 1/31/2026 \$102,121.11, Bank Balance as of 1/31/2026 \$345,893.05  
Receipts as of February 15, 2026 \$1,376.63, Expenses as of February 15, 2026 \$22,811.51  
Estimated February Receipts \$8,000.00/Estimated February Expenses \$53,000.00  
CD’s renewing at current advertised rates

Motion to approve the financials are presented Motion by Ebner, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruberg. Carried.

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

**New Permits:**

- #1751-Jeremiah Smith-Kitchen & Bathroom Remodel-County Rd 27
- #1752-Brett Mattson-New Deck & Pergola-State Highway 16
- #1753-Brian Olson-Grain Bins-State Highway 16
- #1754-Brian Olson-New Home-State Highway 16

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

**ROADS/WATER/SEWER:**

- **Roads/Utilities Update:** Dessner reported:
  - Well #2 new pump and pipes have been installed and everything is looking good. Pumping approximately 11,000-15,000 gallons per day which is close to what Waterscope is showing
  - Roads are sloppy. Potholes were filled on County Line. Most CRV roads have a few potholes including the bottom of Aspen but nothing really bad. A call was received about the dip on Oian Rd, cones were placed to warn/remind drivers of the dip
  - Completed Class A drivers license classes and passed Class A License test
  - Rushford Post office have been asking to have street signs at every South Rushford intersection. The signs were purchased but CRV does not have the tools needed to install them. \$4,000.00 was budgeted in 2026 for tools but will not be received until June 2026. Dessner asked if there was a way to get money now to purchase a 10-piece kit that includes batteries and tools needed from the Rushford Hardware Store for \$799.00 to install the street signs and a shop vac to help keep the trucks clean, he is asking for \$1,000.00. Hart asked if that was in the budget. Overland stated it is in the budget, Hart asked if it is in the budget why can’t it be used, he does not understand that. Miner explained last year \$1,000.00 was budgeted for tools of which approximately \$800.00 was spent Overland disagrees, if when talking about the budget we say it does not start until June then salaries should not be increased until June. Overland stated when the budget is looked at it is figured from January through December, he understands CRV does not receive money from Fillmore County until June but money was put away at the end of last year so there should be money available that could be transferred from a different fund if needed. Ebner asked why money is put away at the end of the year in CD’s when the budget year does not end until June, Graham explained the bank balance is looked at the end of December to determine if there will be enough money to get to June and if so a CD is purchased to show it was purchased in the year it was budgeted for. Hart stated it is confusing to him. Hart asked if there was any way to move money from one account to another so the tools can be purchased, Miner stated the Council can do whatever they want. Any money spent on tools now will be considered part of what was budgeted for 2026

Motion made to allow Dessner to spend the money he needs to get this done Motion by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ebner, Carried.

- **McCarthy Well-Well #2 Repairs-Quote #202913:**

- Quote #202913 for parts needed to repair well #2 was received in the amount of \$8,830.00. It is not sure if this amount includes labor. Well #2 has been repaired

**Motion** made to approve MaCarthy Well Quote #202913 in the amount of \$8,830.00 **Motion** by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ebner, Carried.

- **La Crosse Overhead Door proposal P14426-north side maintenance shed:**

- Ebner stated he met with La Crosse Overhead Door in January to get a cost to put in overhead door sensors and weather stripping for the north side maintenance shed overhead doors
- Estimate to install sensors and weather stripping \$1,350.00 which was under what was budgeted for in 2026
- Ebner stated when he met with them in January he forgot there was not a February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting so he scheduled them to come tomorrow to do the work

**Motion** made to approve proposal P14426

**Motion** by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruberg, Carried.

**OTHER:**

- **Jayne Longmire-CEDA-Monthly Report:**

- Report was reviewed
- Longmire stated she is in the process of completing 3 grant applications for a generator. The FEMA application has been completed which required a lot of information. Longmire is currently working on an AARP grant for \$20,000. She completed the MiEnergy grant application and will be submitting it. These are the programs that are open now CRV qualifies for. Longmire stated it usually takes a couple of months to get the results of the applications. There are a couple of other programs CRV might qualify for but they do not open up until later this year

- **Jayne Longmire-CEDA-Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Revised Application & Guidelines:** Longmire reported:

- A RLF project review committee consisting of Glen Kopperud, Robert Hart and Travis Link was formed with Longmire and Miner as advisors.
- Longmire had a lot of help from O’Koren in revamping the current process for businesses to apply for revolving loan funds. Longmire recreated the application to make it easier to read and understand and revised the guidelines that were developed in 2012 when the fund was established and funds were received from the State because of the flood. This is the next steps in revamping the entire program and process to get it out to the public and businesses
- The RLF project review committee will review and approve any applications that come through. At this point Longmire is presenting what they have approved for the application and guidelines for the Council to review
- Overland stated he thought everything looked good and was much easier than it was, Longmire stated it was less intimidating
- Longmire shared her draft of an ad that could be used in various forms of advertising. Longmire will be contacting the local banks to let them know what funds CRV have available so banks can refer people to this fund who might not qualify or need a big bank loan or just need a gap loan. Longmire stated CRV is different than most cities because we have less businesses than a larger town or city and there is not a business district but hopefully there will be a few people interested to start lending out the money. Once the final drafts have been approved she will get everything onto the website to share with the public
- Overland asked what was needed from the Council at this time. Longmire stated technically there is nothing to approve unless O’Koren had questions or wanted to bring something to light
- O’Koren asked if there was a deed requirement that they would need to be approve of any modifications to the guidelines, Jayme stated no, as long as we have everything that was in the previous guidelines that pertained to the revolving loan fund in the new guidelines. O’Koren stated some cities have an application fee, usually \$100.00 to help recoup the costs associated with office staff/Longmire time. O’Koren’s fees are billed to the loan recipient directly so the \$500.00 is a flat fee that covers the loan agreement, promissory note, personal guarantee, mortgage and anything else they will be needing and other fees for recording fees, mortgage registration tax will be added on so if the City wants any fee associated with this they may want to consider an application fee to recoup some of the cost to the city regardless if the city approves the application or not. The applicant would pay \$100.00 to apply with no guarantee of approval, the intent is for the RLF committee to come back with a recommendation to the Council and the Council would make the final decision to approve or deny the application. Overland stated this way people would have skin in the game right away so they are serious about getting a loan. O’Koren stated there would be no documents signed or recorded if they are not going to bring the cash to close so to speak
- Longmire suggested the application be adjusted to say \$100.00 application fee instead of the \$500.00 which lumps everything into one. O’Koren stated it could just list the \$100.00 application fee he would coordinate with the borrower and the city so the city would provide a cashiers check he would hand to the borrower after everything is signed and they would deposit their cash to close with that amount. Hart stated he would hate to charge a fee for a loan that was not approved, O’Koren stated it could be refundable. Longmire stated she is already being paid through the CEDA contract so CRV would not be losing money if she is approving or

denying an application, she could initially approve or deny it before it goes to the RLF committee for their review, Hart stated this could be confusing if Longmire approves and the RLF committee denies an application. Longmire stated she could review and if she preapproves it then it would be sent to the RLF committee so that way if she does not preapprove the application the applicant would not be charged the application fee. Overland suggested Longmire could do a preliminary look at the application to see if it is worth sending up to the RFL committee which is where the cost would start. Longmire will revise the application to reflect an application fee charge if an application is prescreened and sent to the RLF committee for review

- Miner stated the Council should approve the application and guidelines. Longmire felt the RFL committee had already approved them so they did not have to be approved by the Council but she was not sure. O’Koren stated the Council should approve it but asked if everyone had a chance to review it and if they have not it does not need to be approved today, everyone should read through this and understand what you are agreeing to. Miner suggested Longmire make the change to the application regarding the application fee and bring it back to the Council to review. Hart stated is at this time the Council approving the process not guaranteeing anyone a loan. O’Koren stated the Council is approving the rules and suggested for the Council put themselves in a lender position, if they were lending money what kind of details would you like to see from someone on the application. O’Koren feels he and Longmire have covered most of it there are always things that can come up. Longmire stated compared to other RLF applications and guidelines this one is pretty detailed with quiet a few guidelines and requirements and she thinks it’s good

**Motion** made to table further discussion until the application is updated **Motion** by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruberg, Carried.

- Longmire will make the change and asks the Council to review the documents and let her know if there are any other revisions that need to be made. She will send the revised application to Miner to send to the Council. She will not be able to do anything with marketing until everything has final Council approval
- Overland asked if Longmire could help with ordinances. He said Planning and Zoning were looking at the subdivision ordinance and asked her to look at the subdivision ordinance, Longmire stated she will look at other city subdivision ordinances to see what they look like too. The water and sewer ordinances should be looked at and possibly updated. Hart questioned the need for zoning permits for certain things, Overland suggested Hart talk to Planning and Zoning to get the history of why things are done. Hart will talk to Pettit

• **O’Koren Question Follow Up:** Questions from January 20<sup>th</sup> meeting:

- If zoning permit fees are revised does there need to be a public hear?
  - O’Koren recommended there be a fee schedule ordinance that lists all the CRV fees charged to residents. This puts everything in the same location, a public hearing is needed to implement. Miner provided a draft fee schedule for review
  - O’Koren suggested water and sewer utility fees remain with the water and sewer ordinances but Council could have them in the fee schedule ordinance
  - The fee schedule ordinance would be reviewed at the annual meeting, a public hearing would only be required if revisions are made. If a public hearing is needed to make revisions the public hearing date would be set during the annual meeting, there would be a cost to publish the public hearing notice, O’Koren stated a summary could be published to reduce the cost
  - O’Koren stated when CRV enacted the alcohol and gambling ordinances language was included that said the Council can set the fees as determined on their fee schedule, which is common for most cities. Because CRV did not have a fee schedule ordinance this could be implemented if the fee schedule ordinance is adopted
  - Planning and Zoning will be reviewing their fee schedule. O’Koren suggests waiting until all fees are reviewed and set before the fee schedule ordinance public hearing is held
  - No action taken
- Would a public hearing be required to change Council pay from per meeting to per month if the rate of pay was not changed and can it be done now or have to wait until after the General Election to be in effect?
  - Miner stated if this change is made there are multiple things to get in order before that is done
  - O’Koren stated his concern is there could be a tendency this could be abused, you could have a council member that attends one out of three meetings and statute allows removal after three missed meetings
  - Switching to a monthly salary is not a problem, O’Koren’s recommendation is to adopt it for the following calendar year
  - Zoom meeting requirements have changed, now a person does not need to be in a public place during a zoom meeting but requirements regarding how voting is done by roll call, posting notice of zoom meeting, everyone has to be able to see and hear each other are a few of the things still required. O’Koren stated technology has made it easier but it would still be extra things for staff to get set up
  - Overland asked if holding a zoom meeting to allow a council member to zoom in would mean the public would be allowed to zoom in, O’Koren questioned why the public would not be allowed to zoom in if a

council member was zooming in. O’Koren stated the only requirement is one person has to be in the actual physical location of the meeting site so if four members are gone and one person and the public are at the actual meeting site location the meeting can still be held

- O’Koren stated the change could probably go into effect at any time but his recommendation is to have it go in to affect after the first of the year and Ordinance #9 would need to be updated to reflect the change which requires a public hearing so those publishing requirements would need to be met.
- No action taken

- **Trailer:**

- Ebner stated a used 12-foot long, 6-7 feet wide aluminum trailer has been found. It needs new tires but does fall within the amount budgeted for 2026. Contact has not been made with the owner, they are not ready yet to do so but if they do they hope to lower the price because of the tires. Overland asked if there was anything that is not needed that could be sold, the F450 and a trailer have been sold. Ebner stated they will continue to look and bring it back to the next meeting. Dessner stated there is stuff out there they have found and they will keep the Council informed

**OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:**

- March 12, Thursday-8:30 am to 4:00 pm-Miner Floodplain Training-Rochester
- March 24-27, Tuesday thru Friday-Miner at Clerks Conference-Brooklyn Center
- April 8, Wednesday-8:30 am to 3:30 pm-Safety Loss Control Workshop-Rochester

**Next Meetings:** **Council:** March 3, 2026 and March 17, 2026 @ 7:00 pm at CRV Hall Office  
**Zoning:** March 17, 2026 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

**Motion made to Adjourn** Regular Council Meeting at 7:45 pm by Hart, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ruberg.