

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 2, 2025
TRUTH AND TAXATION (TNT) MEETING 6:45
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 PM
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Truth and Taxation Meeting

The December 2, 2025 Truth and Taxation Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dennis Overland at 6:45 p.m. in the Rushford Village Office. Council Members present: Mike Ebner, Travis Link, Robert Hart and Rick Ruberg; City Attorney Joseph O’Koren, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner

Absent: Public Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner, Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: Ray & Marie Steichen-Residents

- Ray and Marie understood this was not the time their property values concerns would be addressed this meeting is to see where CRV tax dollars are being spent. The spring is when Fillmore County has open book meetings to discuss property values, they plan to attend.
- Hart shared his concerns about what is happening with property values, how those values are determined and why it appears residential property values are being affected by recreational land values. Hart feels evaluations should be compared to similar properties not by taking an older house and comparing it to a newer house in that area. Hart encourages all residents to contact the Fillmore County Assessor Ryan Rasmussen with their concerns
- Steichen stated he was told by Fillmore County they got behind on appraising properties and for the last year and a half they have been out hitting it hard to get caught up. Hart stated this they have had 3 new assessors in the last 3-4 years
- The proposed CRV 2026 levy showed a 14.5% increase over the previous year. The Council has been working to reduce it and at this time it has been reduced to 5.77%

Motion to Close Truth and Taxation Meeting and open Regular Council Meeting at 6:58 pm

Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

Regular Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The December 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; 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 as presented

Motion by Ruberg, 2nd by Ebner, Carried.

MINUTES from the November 18, 2025 Regular Council Meeting approved as presented

Motion by Link, 2nd by Hart, Carried.

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: Ray & Marie Steichen-Residents, Kirsten Zoellner-Fillmore County Journal

FINANCIALS: November Receipts \$7,557.69, November Expenses \$40,368.43,
Outstanding Checks as of 11/30/2025 \$22,974.95, Bank Balance as of 11/30/2025 \$156,702.09
Estimated December Receipts \$302,810.00/Estimated December Expenses \$117,000.00
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:

#1750-Michael Eidenschink-28’x36’ Enclosed Shed-Benson Lane

Permit Status/Projects in Process/Inquiries/Updates:

- Pettit reported he received a permit application from Dominic Jenkins but it is not complete so he will be contacting him. The Fillmore County sewer permit has not been issued so construction of the building cannot start but they will be doing some site work

ROADS/WATER/SEWER:

- **Roads/Utilities Update:** Ebner reported for Dessner:
 - Water and sewer are good
 - Some grading and tree trimming got done before the snow
 - The Freightliner was towed back to Syverson Truck on Monday. It appears the same issue with the frontend that was fixed this past summer happened again. Syverson has been in contact with the company they bought the parts from about the warranty on the parts. Parts will not be available right away so they are not able to give a timeframe as to when we would have the truck back. The last time it was at Syverson Truck for at least 6 weeks. Ebner talked with Syverson Truck and Universal Equipment about renting a plow truck but neither of them have anything at this time. Ebner stated the guys did a good job on the roads with the equipment that was available. Pettit did his roads and then helped with other roads, Darrin used the grader to plow the county roads which takes longer to get the roads done
 - Ebner stated he has talked with Syverson Truck by phone and they have been good, their issue is trying to get the frontend company to hold up to the warranty side of it, the parts that were put in before are less than 4 months old. There are no parts available it has to be made
 - Link questioned if renting a truck might be an option. Ebner stated there are lease companies out there.
 - Ebner stated when he talked to Universal they gave him a lead on a truck, if that does not work out Universal said to let them know.
 - Ebner stated Darrin has been plowing with the grader and Adam has been following up putting down rock so the F550 is doing double duty right now
 - Pettit reported the F550 did a good job on the hard surface roads but does not get down to the gravel on the rural roads. Pettit likes the truck and it is easier to operate. Pettit stated on the rural roads it is not wide enough and it does not get down to the gravel to get the job done, Ebner stated that is where they need to use the grader with the bullets which is slower. The tires do not seem to have the tread like the F450 did and because this was a wet, slippery snow they put chains on. Ebner stated he had a set of chains they used and suggested chains for the F550 should be purchased, Link agreed
 - The four-wheel drive had not been used since it came back from Syverson Truck this summer until the snow storm. The truck was being used right, the all-wheel drive kicked in and the rear locking differential used for tough pulling was not in at the time. As soon as they heard noise coming from the frontend they brought it back to the shop and parked it and let it thaw out, there were a couple of error codes on the dash
 - Link stated he is open to renting a plow truck depending on what Syverson Truck says about the Freightliner
 - Ebner questioned if CRV insurance through LMC would cover the cost of renting the truck or if the company who supplied the parts would cover that cost. O’Koren stated it would depend on what the warranty says. Ebner will ask Syverson for a copy of the warranty

OTHER:

- **2026 CEDA Contract:**
 - Overland asked for this to be tabled. He has been talking with Ron Ziegler, CEDA CEO, and would like time to get more information

Motion made to table until more information is available

Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

- **Polling Place Resolution 2025-12-02:**
 - Miner reported every year CRV has to pass a polling place resolution stating all CRV elections will be held at the CRV hall located at 43038 State Highway 30

Motion made to approve Polling Place Resolution 2025-12-02 as presented

Motion by Link, 2nd by Hart, Carried.

- **R-P School February 10, 2026 Special Election at CRV:**
 - Information received from the R-P School regarding the February 10th election that will be held at the CRV hall was provided for review. CRV will not be responsible for conducting this election or expenses relating to it
- **CRV MN Paid Leave Law Policy:**
 - A copy of the final Paid Leave Law Policy written by Paul Ness was reviewed. Council did not see anything that needed to be changed. This will be added to the Employee Reference Guide

Motion made to adopt the MN Paid Leave Law Policy as presented

Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ebner. Carried.

- **CRV Holiday Pay Plan Revised:**

- The current version of the part-time employee holiday pay section in the Employee Reference Guide was confusing and unclear. It states partial pay for hours regularly worked but Adam Johnson works 3-8 hours days not 5-5 hour days so after researching Ness revised the Holiday Pay section by removing reference to partial pay and clarifying how Holiday Pay is determined
- Paul Ness provided a revised Holiday Pay Plan for Council review. Council did not have anything they felt needed to be changed
- Adam Johnson's regular schedule is to work 8 hours on Monday, Tuesday and Friday

Motion to approve the revised Holiday Pay Plan as presented

Motion by Hart, 2nd by Link. Carried.

- **Budget Review:**

- After removing \$30,000.00 for a generator and \$20,000.00 from cd's the proposed levy is at \$605,455.00 which is a 5.77% increase over last year
- Hart questioned if the budget included the new MN Paid Leave Law. Miner stated it does and was figured at .88% which is more than CRV will pay
- Ebner stated the CEDA contract is still in the budget as of right now
- Link questioned what has been done in past year in regards to cd's. Overland stated nothing was budgeted last year for cd's. Graham stated generally we have to wait to the end of the next year to decide what will be bought if there are funds available. Overland stated budgeting for cd purchases is something that has not been done in the past.
- The proposed levy was set at a 14.5% increase which has been reduced to 5.77%. Hart stated if the CEDA contract is not renewed that would drop the levy to about 5%
- Suggestions to reduce it further included possibly reducing the CEDA contract and Link suggested reducing the total bridge and equipment cd's from \$61,000.00 to \$55,000.00 and leaving the road cd at \$25,000.00. Link understands and supports the need to put money into cd's for the future but questioned if that amount could be reduced a little more to help keep the levy down for the residents
- The final levy will need to be set at the December 16, 2025 meeting
- Ebner reported the STS Plumbing cost to install the maintenance shed north side tube heating should be less because the reconfigured it and less material was used. Norman's Electric installed a plugin which took 1 hour

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

- January 6, 2026-Tuesday-**No** CRV Council Meeting
- February 3, 2026-Tuesday-**No** CRV Council Meeting-Caucus night

Next Meetings: Council: December 16, 2025 and January 20, 2026 Annual Meeting @ 7:00 pm at CRV Hall Office

Zoning: December 16, 2025 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

Motion made to Adjourn Regular Council Meeting at 7:31 pm by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg.