

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2026
BUDGET WORKSHOP/COUNCIL MEETING
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The September 2, 2026 Budget Workshop/Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Dennis Overland at 6:30 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, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner

Absent: Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit, City Attorney Joseph O'Koren

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: None

- **2027 Proposed Budget:** Miner stated the preliminary budget has to be sent to Fillmore County by September 20, 2026. The preliminary levy would need to be approved at a regular council meeting, CRV next regular council meeting is September 15, 2026
- **Proposed Items for 2027 Budget:**
 - Hart questions:
 - ✓ Office assist hours? 25 hour per week at \$25.00 per hour
 - ✓ Adam Johnson listed as part-time? Miner is not able to change that on the proposed budget report but the figures proposed are for full-time 40 hours per week and the benefits
 - ✓ \$150,000.00 for new backhoe? Yes
 - ✓ \$13,500.00 for a back-up snow plow truck, Ebner had \$10,000.00 added to the proposed budget after the last budget workshop
 - ✓ \$88,000.00 for investments: \$25,000.00 roads, \$25,000.00 truck, \$25,000.00 grader, \$5,000.00 bridge, \$6,000.00 riding mower, \$2,000.00 parks. Graham explained in the past CRV had put money away every year to build funds to pay things. The cd's used to be broken down by equipment piece but now all equipment are all in the equipment fund with different cd's for roads, bridges and parks.
 - Overland proposed to reduce the levy by \$223,000.00 by removing \$150,000.00 for the backhoe, \$63,000.00 (truck, grader, mower, parks) in investment purchases, \$10,000.00 for police and reduce the levy amount by \$70,000.00 brings the 2027 proposed levy to \$687,000.00 which would be approximately a 12% increase from 2026. Link stated every 6,062.00 is about 1% of the budget. Overland would like to see investments of \$25,000.00 for roads because chip sealing will need to be done in the near future and \$5,000.00 for the South Rushford Park project remain in the 2027 budget. Overland does not like removing the investments but they can be put back in next year, this will allow the levy to be increased slower over time
 - This leaves the full-time public works and part-time office assistant in the budget. Hart stated filling either position does not have to happen, he feels the full-time public works should be filled first and then search for someone to fill the office assistant position.
 - He stated the roads account needs to be kept up, Overland stated there is \$220,000.00- \$240,000.00 is cd's one of which is for roads. Overland's proposal does leave \$25,000.00 in the 2027 budget for roads
 - Leave \$20,000.00 in the budget for the equipment maintenance budget
 - Backhoe Discussion:
 - ✓ Look at a used backhoe including purchasing, leasing, leasing to own or keep the current one until it no longer runs and deal with it then.
 - ✓ Ebner shared Ziegler was down and looked at the backhoe. The technician stated that for only having 2,000 hours, which is not a lot, it is in bad shape and not worth much. The pins need to be replaced, the main cylinder is bent and has an air leak and needs new packing and the transmission is not working properly. There is no way to know if it would last a couple more years. The technician stated it would take a lot of money to fix it and does not recommend fixing it.
 - ✓ Ebner stated he is all for hiring Adam full-time and bringing someone on part-time, it depends on what the Council wants to do and how they want to handle it, he can go either way. Maybe it could make it a year and hold off for a year and try it
 - ✓ Link would like to see some numbers that would include possibly leasing, not that he is for leasing but he would like to look at all options to see what makes sense. He feels a backhoe is needed either this year or next for sure
 - ✓ Ebner's reason for wanting to get a backhoe this year is he doesn't want to get to the point where a ton of money is put into it and then we turn around and trade or sell it and don't get our money back out of it. His other thought is we just use it and if something happens to it we deal with it then

- ✓ Ebner suggested looking at purchasing a loader for the tractor so it could be used for loading rock and removing trees as well as ditch mowing. The cost of the bucket was estimated at \$5,000.00.
- ✓ Link asked if we used the current backhoe and something happened to it would it be possible to get a loader for the tractor to get through the season? Ebner stated if the tractor had a loader it could be used for loading rock and if in a pinch a backhoe was needed a mini-hoe could be rented just about any place. The backhoe is used to remove trees from roads and pulling trees down road banks. Dessner stated if something happens to the backhoe it will be a lot easier to find one to rent than it was to find a plow truck to rent
- ✓ Ebner and Link would like to get numbers for leasing for one year and two years just to know what is available. Hart suggested the lease to buy option. Link suggested maybe leasing will make it possible to get a backhoe and get full-time and part-time people hired.
- ✓ Ziegler will be sending numbers for the council to look at, Dessner will contact them
- ✓ Dessner provided numbers for various used 2023 backhoes but was not sure these would have the lease or lease to own option. Backhoes all 2023 model XE: 123 hours for \$126,800.00, 700 hours for \$124,000.00, 200 hours \$126,800.00. Prices could be determined by what each machine has for options. Should get one with a pin on bucket in the front and a pin on bucket in the back for different attachment options
- Overland questioned what the snow blower might be worth. Dessner stated on auction probably \$500.00. It was purchased about 8 years ago for \$3,000.00 and was only used about 10 hours, since then it has not been used. Ruberg suggested if it is going to be sold it is getting to the season to do it
- Ebner asked if there will be any tax benefits from the new fertilizer plant in 2027? Hart was not sure but he did not think the total benefits would show on the taxes until 2028 after it is completed, assessed and added to the tax roll. There could be some value there for this year
- Hart stated they don't worry about cutting LGA or Small City Street Assistance (TAA) which puts CRV between a rock and a hard place because we need to make up those cuts which means having to increase the levy. He doesn't feel the levy needs to be increased 60%, that's ridiculous but 10%-12% might be needed
- Ruberg asked how things are looking for the 2026 budget. Miner stated as of right now things are looking ok. Graham stated if the \$88,000.00 that was budgeted for investments in 2026 are purchased at the end of the year there will not be anything left. Ruberg stated if we go in the hole this year that will need to be made up next year. Hart stated the \$88,000.00 can't be cut every year, it needs to stay in the budget. Overland stated maybe for 2026 the whole \$88,000.00 would not be used to purchase investments. Ruberg stated some of the it is CRV is trying to catch up from mistakes made over the last couple years which is costing CRV, there is always going to be maintenance costs but not taking care of equipment causes problems. Ebner stated once the backhoe is replaced CRV should be in good shape as far as equipment for some years and CRV should be able to start playing some catchup. Hart questioned if CEDA could find funding to help
- \$5,000.00 is budgeted for a hall/maintenance shop generator. Ebner stated according to STS Plumbing and Norman's Electric the cheapest way to do it would be to change out the electric heater, put in a gas heater and buy a residential automatic generator. It was estimated the generator cost would be \$25,000.00 with a transfer switch instead of \$40,000.00-\$50,000.00. A couple of years ago the estimated expense to change from electric to gas was \$5,000.00. To save money on the electric bill it was suggested to consider changing from electric to gas and then look at what type of generator would be needed. A gas heater has a much faster recovery time on reheating time after the doors have been opened
- **Items to be considered in the future:**
 - Replacing the chairs in the community center. This would be 100 folding chairs and a rack to store them in. Estimated cost \$5,000.00. Suggested the Rushford Community Foundation, MiEnergy or AcenTek might have grants available for this, CEDA could look into this
 - Overland would like to have Mike Bubany do a sewer rate study and at the same time run the budget numbers to see how the budget would affect citizens taxes

Motion made to set the next Budget Workshop/Council Meeting for Wednesday, September 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm at the CRV Office **Motion** by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

- September 17, 2026-Thursdays-CEDA Regional Impact Roundtable-New Ulm-9:30 am

Next Meetings: **Council:** September 1, 2026 @ 7:00 PM, September 2, 2026 Budget Workshop @ 6:30 PM & September 15, 2026 @ 7:00 pm at CRV Hall Office
Zoning: September 15, 2026 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

Motion made to Adjourn Budget Workshop/Council Meeting at 7:22 pm by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg.