

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2026
BUDGET WORKSHOP/COUNCIL MEETING
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The September 9, 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:**

- The email from Fillmore County Assessor Office regarding what the yearly assessment charges are for was reviewed. It appears the assessment is based on the number of parcels CRV has
- Overland reported Miner will send Mike Bubany the information needed for the sewer rate study and what the property tax impact will be for CRV residents as it relates to the proposed levy. Bubany will determine what the cost to do these things will be and get back to CRV
- The preliminary levy is at 15.62% for the final levy we can go down but cannot go higher. The backhoe, Police and all CD investments other than for Roads and South Rushford Park have been removed from the budget to get it down to 15.62%
- Miner reported Andrew Hoiness-CEDA, sent an email about the Taylor Family Farm Foundation Emergency Services Grant that is available. Hoiness feels this would be a good one to apply to for the generator. It's a 50/50 match grant. It has not been decided if the in-floor heat will be switched from electric to gas. Ebner will get updated numbers for generators and switching in-floor heat to gas. \$5,000.00 is budgeted for a generator in 2027
- 100 Fund CDs at Rushford State Bank: Equipment \$86,939.73, Bridges \$28,807.56, Roads \$84,768.92, Parks \$21,796.90
- Dessner provided numbers to purchase a new backhoe. The numbers include the government subsidies
 - Ziegler-\$96,000.00. This does not include a 4-in-1 bucket which is about \$10,000.00 but does include \$26,000.00 for a trade in. This includes a 1-year unlimited standard warranty
 - RDO-\$138,858.84. Includes 4-in-1 bucket but does not include trade in, they have not looked at the CRV backhoe. Dessner is guessing the RDO trade-in will be about what Ziegler offered
 - Backhoe prices are about the same with a 4-in-1 bucket included. CRV bought the grader from RDO so yearly RDO inspections could be done at the same time
 - 3-year lease to own-\$3,275.00 per month which is approximately \$39,000.00 per year and after 3 years the pay off would be \$66,652.17. CRV would be responsible for maintenance. This would be more than buying outright without government subsidies and at this time not an option
- To finance the purchase of a backhoe: Not included in 2027 budget
 - Link suggested looking at borrowing \$100,000.00 to see what that would look like. Overland stated a loan should not go past 3 years and should be paid back sooner if possible
 - Suggested to take \$50,000.00 out of Equipment CD, borrow \$50,000.00 and use the \$10,000.00 budgeted for a back-up truck. This would take a back-up truck out of the budget for 2027. Link suggested taking out a 3-year-\$60,000.00 loan which could be paid back sooner if able to, Hart does not like to borrow. Overland suggested talking with Rushford State Bank to see what they can do on a loan.
 - Ziegler has financing available at 9.75%.
 - Hart asked if the MIF CD which is at approximately \$250,000.00 could be used to borrow against. Miner will contact Andrew Hoiness-CEDA to have him check into this possibility and to see if the backhoe would be eligible for the Taylor Family Farm Foundation Emergency Services Grant as it is used a lot for removing trees from roads after storms, clearing culverts so flooding does not happen, loading rock in the winter to put on roads, etc.
 - Ebner stated there might be money coming back from Syverson for the Freightliner repairs that could go into the back-up truck fund or towards the backhoe. Right now the backhoe is more important than a back-up truck. The backhoe is needed for multiple jobs
 - Dessner stated he has concerns because the Freightliner has not made it through a whole winter. Ebner stated he is not concerned, there is a possible another back-up truck option available if needed. Dessner stated the grader is also available if needed in a pinch
 - Ebner stated the other option is to go without a backhoe this year and hope the one we have keeps working but questioned if next year will be any better, if prices would be more and if government subsidies would still be available
 - Dessner will continue to get numbers for the backhoe

- At this time the snowblower will not be sold. Dessner estimates it would sell for around \$500.00 at auction and after the auction fees are paid it was decided to hang on to it for emergencies, tractor weights would be needed to use it
- The reclaimer will not be sold at this time. Dessner has not had an opportunity to use it. Overland suggested Dessner find someone who uses a reclaimer to learn how it should be used. Ruberg suggested using it in the spring before the grass gets too long
- Dessner does not want to look at a different skid steer at this time. The current one uses DEF but to get away from using DEF the machine would have to be smaller and Dessner does not feel a smaller machine would be able to handle the jobs they use it for
- The tractor and ditch mower are the least used pieces of equipment
- Hart stated the Council needs to determine what they want to do and what they need to do. It appears the backhoe is a need because it is falling apart. Relating to the full-time and part-time positions, he feels CRV needs to take care of its employees so they stay and of the two positions the full-time position is more important at this time. Overland stated the part-time position would not happen right away because we would have to find someone first. Ruberg stated we would be hiring someone to groom to take over and asked if someone was leaving or retiring, Overland stated not at the moment but it will happen eventually. Overland stated something has to be done so staff can have time off without taking their work with them or having it all pile up while they are gone, staff gets burned out. Hart stated every year things depreciate and need maintenance. Ebner stated everything has come to a head at one time. Ruberg stated wages as they stand now in the budget amount to about \$300,000.00 which is about 41% of the \$700,000.00, Overland, Hart and Ebner commented that is not unusual for wages and benefits. Ebner stated if CRV does not keep up with wages and benefits employees will move onto other places
- Hart stated if the levy is set at 15.62% knowing it is going to be lowered defeats what is being talked about in buying/doing new things. It is lowered to around 5% the things that have been talked about will not be able to be done. Overland stated he does not feel it will get down to 5%, it will probably be lowered a little bit but getting down to 5% is not going to happen. Link would like to see it below 10% if possible for the final levy. Part of the problem is LGA and Small City Assist keep getting reduced every year by 3-4% and CRV has to make that up. At some point the Farmer's Winn Coop fertilizer plant will be added to the CRV tax rolls which will help
- The final 2026 levy had a 5.77% increase
- Miner suggested moving the F550 snow plow operator \$18.48 pay and substitute snow plow operator \$16.00 pay to the emergency/on call rate of \$23.00 per hour. This is discussed at the Annual Meeting but not done because it had not been budgeted for. Miner also suggested the motor fuel budget should be increased with the cost of fuel being so high
- At this time nothing will be changed for the proposed budget, the preliminary levy is at \$700,000.00. This will be a 15.62% levy increase from 2026.
- Other budget workshops will take place later in the year to determine what the final levy will be

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

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

Next Meetings: Council: September 15, 2026 and October 6, 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 7:37 pm by Link, 2nd by Hart.