

CITY OF RUSHFORD VILLAGE MINUTES OF September 15, 2026
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
43038 State Hwy 30, Rushford Village, Minnesota 55971-5167

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

The September 15, 2026 Council Meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Mike Ebner at 7:00 p.m. in the Rushford Village Office. Council Members present: Travis Link, Robert Hart and Rick Ruberg; Public Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner, Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit, City Attorney Joseph O’Koren, Treasurer Judy Graham and Clerk Mary Miner
Absent: Mayor Dennis Overland

CITIZENS/OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Hoiness-CEDA, Kirsten Zoellner-Fillmore County Journal

AGENDA was approved as presented Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

MINUTES from the September 1, 2026 Regular Council Meeting approved as presented
Motion by Link, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

MINUTES from the September 2, 2026 Budget Workshop/Council Meeting approved as presented
Motion by Ruberg, 2nd by Link, Carried.

MINUTES from the September 9, 2026 Budget Workshop/Council Meeting approved as presented
Motion by Ruberg, 2nd by Hart, Carried.

FINANCIALS: Receipts as of September 15, 2026 \$2,837.67, Expenses as of September 15, 2026 \$
Estimated September Receipts \$9,500.00/Estimated September Expenses \$41,000.00
CD’s renewing at current advertised rates

- Miner will not have the expenses through September 15th until claims and payroll are done on September 16th

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

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

New Permits:

#1801-Michael Eidenschink-40’x80’ Pole Shed-Benson Lane

Permit Status/Projects in Process/Inquiries/Updates: Pettit had nothing to report

ROADS/WATER/SEWER:

- **Roads/Utilities Update:** Dessner reported
 - Zach from MN Rural Water was down and went through the whole system at the pump house. He helped replace all the lines, diaphragms and stabilized the fluoride a little, working on getting the pumps set to where they need to be
 - Work has not started on fixing the South Rushford Park water hydrant, weather not cooperating
 - Cut ditches on Aspen which held pretty good after the last rain.
 - There was minor tree cleanup after the last storm
 - Johnson is hauling salt today from CD Corp, sand is being delivered. Will get mixed and into the shed before the rain forecasted for the weekend starts
- **Utility Trailer:**
 - Dessner provided verbal estimates for two new steel trailers: 6’x10’-\$2,395.00 and 6’X12’-\$2,495.00
 - This trailer would be used to haul the lawn mower, the current trailer is too big
 - Dessner stated a comparable new aluminum trailer would be over \$4,000.00
 - Dessner recommends going with the larger trailer
 - Link stated it is in the budget and to go with the bigger one

Motion made to approve the purchase of a new steel 6’x12’ trailer for \$2,495.00 Motion by Link, 2nd by Hart, Carried.

- **Mike Bubany-Sewer Rate Study & Impact Analysis of Proposed Levy Proposal:**

- Bubany proposal to do the sewer rate study & impact analysis of the proposed levy is \$250.00

Motion made to approve \$250.00 for Bubany to do the sewer rate study & impact analysis of the proposed levy
Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

OTHER:

- **Andrew Hoiness-CEDA:**

- Hoiness provided information regarding the Taylor Farm Emergency Services Grant. The maximum grant is \$50,000.00 and it is a 50/50 matching grant
- Hoiness does not feel the backhoe would be eligible for this grant. The backhoe is used for emergency situations but the grant has to be for a specific charitable program or project, CRV does not have a specific project for the backhoe
- Hoiness feels the hall/shop generator qualifies perfectly and is lined with what the Foundation has previously granted. Converting the in-floor heat from electric to gas, the generator and the transfer switch would all be one project and falls under emergency services to provide power and heat to residents
- The application deadline is September 30, 2026. Hoiness stated the money could be requested for late 2027 with the project having to be completed within one year. This would allow the Council to budget for the generator, transfer switch and switching the in-floor heat in the 2028 budget. \$1,000.00 has been received from the Rushford Community Foundation for this project
- Ebner will get updated costs to switch the in-floor heat from electric to gas, the generator and transfer switch

Motion to allow Hoiness to move forward with the Taylor Farm Emergency Services Grant

Motion by Link, 2nd by Ruberg, Carried.

- **Rushford Fire Department Mill Rate Meeting-Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 6:00 pm:**

- During this meeting the Rushford Fire Department provides information on their equipment and what they may be needing in the future.
- Ebner, Overland, Miner and Graham plan to attend, Ruberg and Hart are not sure but will try to and Link will not be attending

- **2027 Proposed Levy Resolution #2026-09-15:**

- After multiple budget workshop meetings the Council decided to set the proposed levy at \$700,000.00 which is a 15.62% increase from the 2026 levy.
- Ebner stated this is tentative, the final levy can go down but it can't go up. There will be future budget meetings before the final levy is set
- Link stated this gives the Council options that have been talked about at the budget meetings on the table and different ways to get them without being also stuck in an emergency situation. The Council can work towards that in the next couple months fining it in and not being too low to start with

Motion made to approve 2027 Proposed Levy Resolution #2026-09-15 in the amount of \$700,000.00

Motion by Hart, 2nd by Ruberg. Carried.

- Attorney O'Koren reported Derek Olinger, Bolton & Menk, contacted him regarding the Farmer's Winn Coop Conditional Use Permit. Olinger was not getting the information he needed from Farmers Winn Coop, O'Koren ordered some title work on that to review to make sure the appropriate party is signing the utility easement for CRV. The cost to have this done will be passed along to Farmer's Winn Coop. This will get CRV what it needs, once the information is back from Fillmore County O'Koren will coordinate with Olinger and everything should be able to be finalized for a general utilities easement

OTHER UPDATES / MEETINGS:

- September 17, 2026-Thursday-CEDA Regional Impact Roundtable-New Ulm-9:30 am
- September 29, 2026-Tuesday-Rushford Fire Department Mill Rate Meeting At Fire Hall-6:00 pm

Next Meetings: Council: September 29, 2026 Fire Dept. Mill Rate @ 6:00 pm at Fire Hall, October 6, 2026 @ 7:00 pm and October 20, 2026 @ 7:00 pm at CRV Hall Office

Zoning: October 20, 2026 @ 5:30 pm at CRV Hall Office

Motion made to Continue Meeting to Rushford Fire Department Mill Rate Meeting, Tuesday, September 29, 2026 @ 6:00 pm at Rushford Fire Hall at 7:15 p.m., by Hart, 2nd by Link

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Continued September 29, 2026 Rushford Fire Department Mill Rate Meeting 6:00 pm Rushford Fire Hall

The September 29, 2026 Rushford Fire Department Mill Rate meeting was called to order by Chief Nick Smith at 6:00 pm at the Rushford Fire Hall.

CRV Members Present: Council Members Mike Ebner, Robert Hart; Treasurer Judy Graham and City Clerk Mary Miner
Absent: Mayor Dennis Overland, Council Members: Travis Link and Rick Ruberg; Works/Maintenance Supervisor Darrin Dessner, Planning/Zoning Administrator Jon Pettit, City Attorney Joseph O’Koren

Fire Chief Nick Smith reported:

Financials:

- \$709,000 is the 2025 year end cash and investments total in the Mill Rate Fund #615
- City Administrator Hayden Stensgard reported the wrong contract amount was sent out last year, the plan is to move forward with that amount for now, the difference will not be made up. This is not a contract year
- Will have figures next year for the costs new trucks and various other equipment
- The insurance number attached to residents changed this year, it is now calculated by the miles from the fire hall

Staff:

- Currently the fire department has 29 member. 1-2 may retire soon, would like to have at least 28 members.
- Call volume stays the same but the big calls are dropping. There are really good turn out for fire calls. Have been helping Houston with calls
- Hard to get new people because the first year there is a big commitment for training.
- Training costs reimbursed 2026-\$7,106.00, 2027-\$9,993.00. Small portion of this comes from homeowners insurance

Equipment:

- The Relief Association bought 5 new pagers and 2 new portable radios
- R3 truck has had a lot of work done on turbo issues
- E2 (2006 backup engine)-will be looking at replacing in next 3-4 years
- Sitting good with brush trucks and the tankers are good now the turbo work has been done
- Turn out gear will need to be replaced in 2027 estimated at \$80,000.00. Grants will be applied for. Turn out gear has to be replaced every 10 years
- Air tanks will need to be replaced, big expense
- 90% of the problems are from hard water and what that does to the valves in the equipment. This is a common problem for many departments

Buildings:

- Within the next couple years building remodeling will be needed because there is not enough room in the back portion of the building where the brush trucks are kept. At this time the plan is to remove a wall that is a support wall at an estimated cost of \$90,000.00
- Whenever a new truck is purchased the overhead doors will have to be replaced with larger doors, they no longer lower trucks to fit into the lower doors
- In the future a venting system will have to be put in. To be compliant now the doors have to be opened before the trucks can be started
- If a new fire hall were to be considered there would have to be a facility assessment to see how the current building fits the needs and to determine what other needs there are. The Legislator might be able to help with this cost. No formal discussions have been had. The new Lewiston fire, ambulance and police building cost is 3.4 million

Chief Nick Smith closed the meeting at 6:35 pm

Due to lack of a quorum there was not a Motion to adjourn the Continued September 29, 2026 CRV Council meeting