

TOWN OF RHINE -ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES  
Tuesday, April 18, 2017

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Annual Meeting of the Town of Rhine was called to order by Chairman Ron Platz at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at the Rhine Town Hall. Town Clerk/Treasurer, Lexann Hoogstra, recorded the minutes.
2. **Pledge to the flag.**
3. **Compliance with Open Meeting Law:** The notice was posted on Thursday, April 13, 2017. It was published April 7 and April 12, 2017.
4. **Proceedings:**
  - a. **Verification of attendees:** There were 5 electors present who were verified by reading the Sign in List and a show of hands. Note: Town Board Supervisors, Jon Rost and Todd Purkey were unable to attend.
  - b. A motion to have routine voting done by a show of hands was made by Frank Zimmermann. Second by Al Feld. No discussion. No nay votes.
  - c. The minutes of the November 17, 2016 Annual Meeting were provided to the electors. A motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Frank Zimmermann. Second by Al Feld. Discussion: None. Motion carried with no nay votes.
  - d. A motion to dispense with reading the Annual Financial Report word for word was made by Frank Zimmermann. Second by Paul Booher. Discussion: None. Motion carried with no nay votes.
  - e. **Questions regarding the Annual Report:** None.

Chairman Platz explained we used the same accounting firm as in the past. He and the treasurer met with Paul Corson earlier in the day. Corson has asked to attend a TB meeting to explain the annual report and offer suggestions on how to simplify bookkeeping and to discuss committed funds. He suggested combining the 3 CD's. The Cemetery and Park Fund Checking accounts have not been used for check writing in some time. He has some suggestions for those accounts.

Chairman Platz reviewed page 4 of the report which covers excess revenues. We operated at a slight deficit last year. It's not an issue because of the reserves we have on hand. Some of the deficit was for the collection site expenses and increased legal fees and road expenses.

Page 9 was also reviewed. It covers the town's long term debt, which is a long term obligation for the fire station. Platz reviewed the balance on that loan. The loan matures in 2018. A balloon payment will be due at the end of 2018. However, the Village of Elkhart Lake is renegotiating the loan at most likely a better rate than the current loan's rate of interest.

Page 10 was reviewed. This covers committed fund balances. These funds have been set aside for numerous things such as town hall improvements, roads, fire protection, cemetery and park funds, and contingency money. Paul Corson would like to suggest a different way of showing

these records, what is available in the funds, and how to protect them in the future. Platz mentioned the need to purchase a new fire truck with a 100 foot ladder. It takes approximately one year from the time of ordering to receive the truck. We should have most of our obligation for this truck set aside by then.

Zimmermann had a question about the contingency and how much we put aside for fire last year.

Paul Booher mentioned that he doesn't see anything wrong with keeping the committed funds listed separately as they currently are. He sees no reason to lump them into one sum total. Booher also questioned the reasoning for combining the 3 CD's. The accountant will attend a later meeting to explain his ideas and suggestions.

A motion to approve the 2015 Annual Financial Report was made by Paul Booher. Second by Frank Zimmermann. No discussion. All in favor. Motion carried with no nay votes.

**5. Old Business:** None.

**6. New Business:**

Booher asked what happened to the old annual meeting when you could ask anything. Platz and the clerk reviewed minutes from previous years. Last year public comments were invited under new business. Booher would like to see a new item (public comments) added to the agenda next year. Zimmermann mentioned that the "new business" covers it, so there is no reason someone can't make comments.

Zimmermann asked about approving the roads budget, which was done at the last board meeting.

No other new business.

**7. Swear in newly elected officials:** Chairman Ron Platz and Supervisors Al Feld and Jon Rost have previously been sworn in by the Clerk/Treasurer.

**8. The next Annual Meeting** will be Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 7:00 PM at the Rhine Town Hall.

**9. Adjournment:** At 7:20 PM, a motion to adjourn was made by Judy. Second by Frank Zimmermann

Respectfully submitted,  
Lexann Hoogstra, Clerk/Treasurer  
Town of Rhine