

## Village of Rudolph Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026

Board Members Present: President Kevin Whipple, Trustee Rich Larsen, Trustee Christy Steinle, Treasurer Joanna Mack

Absent: Trustee Erin Whipple and Trustee Darren Reid

Meeting called to order by President Whipple at 6:00pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustee Steinle moved to approve March minutes as typed, seconded by Trustee Larsen; carried unanimously.

Reading of the Bills by Treasurer Joanna Mack: Trustee Steinle approved as read, Trustee Larsen seconded; carried unanimously.

### Public Comments/Concerns:

A resident asked what the yearly charge is for garbage, he had concerns with the high price of the sewer bill. The Board discussed the history of the system and the decision to send sewage to Wisconsin Rapids. We discussed the maintenance on the system and the cost of recent repairs for things that are being flushed down the sewer; wipes and a large plastic PVC fitting, that seized up Pump 1 at the Main Lift Station.

Trustee Steinle updated on John Nigon fixing the Welcome to Rudolph sign and donating his labor. The sign was very crooked and needed some repair. She originally contacted him for a quote, and he fixed it and donated his time. Thank you John Nigon!

### Old Business:

Honor Walk: (Tabled from the March meeting) the donation to the honor walk book that the Legion does. Trustee Steinle motioned to approve donation, Trustee Larsen seconded for \$500 donation; carried unanimously.

Waynes Drains Follow up – They jetted the line on 4<sup>th</sup> Street for the wipe issue. They will work with us to camera our lines on a regular basis, we previously used a company out of Milwaukee to do this every few years. We need an idea of what our lines look like so we can order repairs on any cracked pipe, issues, etc. They charge \$220/hour. We will look at the oldest area around the Grotto Ave to have it inspected. Bittersweet was done 2 years ago and repaired.

Esa Solar Farm: The one-year extension ends this year on the land lease. We will review the lease and what this means for the end of the lease.

Fischer's follow-up: President Whipple asked if we want to have the Attorney follow up on the cleanup process. President Whipple will follow up with the Attorney. Trustee Steinle updated on

the Elmer Blonien funeral (POW remains identified and being returned home) July 24<sup>th</sup>. This town needs to be presentable.

Road Repairs: Trustee Larsen updated on 6 spots in the Village that need repair. President Whipple will call the railroad for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Street issues. President Whipple will follow up on the 6 spots in Rudolph for Wood County to come and repair as part of our 50/50 money. Update on the Hwy C and 34 intersection that will be done June 1<sup>st</sup> by Wood County.

**New Business:**

Mowing Regulations/Weeds: Trustee Steinle, as weed commissioner, can enter anywhere in the village to destroy said weeds, in order to do so, we need to declare Noxious Weeds. Trustee Steinle made a motion in accordance with ordinance 6-1-6A to deem Canada thistle, leafy spurge and field bindweed (creeping jenny), giant ragweed, poison ivy and parsnips as noxious." Trustee Larsen seconded, passed unanimously.

A notice will be posted that these weeds can be destroyed.

Per the ordinance: Any lawn exceeding 8 inches will be mowed by Tony. Trustee Steinle does not want to babysit this project and send numerous letters as was in the past. There is a constant reminder in the sewer bill (quarterly) and online in our ordinance section. It will be mowed by Tony and charged \$150.00. LETTERS WILL NOT BE SENT.

We will post on the website that you have 2 weeks to pick up your storm debris. If it is not done it will be done for you and charged to your final tax bill.

USDA Loan: Update from Kristina via email:

USDA loan total 1.2 million which is what the Village is looking to refinance. Currently the Village pays around 34,000 twice a year with an interest rate of 2.75% (68,000 annually) towards this loan with the CD as backup for financial crisis. At the end of 2025 the sewer account maintained about \$60,000.

Matt from Pathward-

Interest rates can be fixed and reset every 5, 7 or 10-years with the rate calculated based on the U.S. Treasury Index (either 5, 7, or 10-year tenor) plus a spread of 3.75%. Those rates today would be 7.46% for a 5-year fixed, 7.66% for a 7-year fixed, or 7.88% for a 10-year fixed. There will also be a prepayment penalty equal to the length of the fixed rate period, which is typical with guaranteed USDA loans.

Tony from 1st State Bank is working on a quote for us currently.

Josh with National Exchange Bank said Staying close to that 2.7% rate is going to be tough unless you can requalify for the USDA WEP programs or investigate the Wisconsin Programs (CWFP) & (SDWLP) although I don't know if they offer anything retroactively. Current bank rates are going to be in the high 4 low 5% range currently

Kristina is also asking USDA for an extension so that if there is an option we can approve it at the May meeting or deny. We already stated in last month's meeting that we would like to stay around the 2.75% so that we can comfortably start maintaining the sewer lines within the Village. Board members present were agreeable to this plan.

Fireworks Permit: Bob Bradach filled out the form for his firework permit and paid the fee. Trustee Steinle made a motion to approve, Trustee Larsen seconded, carried unanimously.

Bleachers at the Park: Trustee Steinle updated on the poor situation of the bleachers at the Village park. We have 19 teams coming for a tournament at the end of June. New bleachers are \$50,000 per section. Our current frames are in excellent shape, many of the boards are rotten. Trustee Steinle found brand new, aluminum boards leftover from a racetrack project in Indiana. Boards are \$4000 and freight here is \$1100. Fuller Mechanical will install for a price not to exceed \$4800. Trustee Steinle will work with volunteers to paint the current frames. There is money in our park fund. Trustee Larsen made a motion to approve the project, President Whipple seconded, carried unanimously.

Board of Review and Open Book: Open Book is April 29<sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30, Board of Review is May 12<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm. Greg will be here for both. Please contact Kristina if anyone would like to set up a meeting with Greg for open book prior to April 27th.

Street Sweeping – Lars Larsen would be happy to do it for us again. He can do all roads with curb and gutter. The state takes care of Hwy 34.

Emergent Situation: A tennis light at the park broke off at the base and smashed the fence. Trustee Larsen has Jaco coming to look at removing the posts. Trustee Larsen called Chris Zarecki to give us an estimate on the fence repair.

Agenda Requests:

Sidewalks

Sump Pump follow-up for discharge into storm sewer

Sump Pump for Main Lift Station

Swearing in of 3 Trustees

Trustee Larsen made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Steinle. Approved and adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Steinle - Trustee