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Dennis Cashman – Chairman
Julie Koenig - Clerk

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at the Rockland Town Hall
Called to order at 7:00 p.m.
Adjourned at 8:08

The Clerk, Deputy Clerk, Treasurer and all Board members were present, together with Bob Gerbers, Terry and Mary Vertz, Steve Gander, and Max Lasee all of Rockland, and Mike Knitz from Greenleaf Bank. Glen Schwalbach from the Town of Rockland arrived after the start of the meeting. Chairman Cashman verified with Clerk Koenig that the meeting was properly noticed; the agenda was presented by Chairman Cashman after the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

4), 5) Prior Minute Approvals

Clerk Koenig provided copies of the minutes from the April 16, 2024 Annual Town Meeting. Chairman Cashman asked everyone to take a few minutes to read and review the minutes and then asked for approval. The date at the top of the minutes should be changed from April 14 to April 16. M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024 Annual Meeting with one recommended change. Seconded by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W. Motion carried 10 – 0.

Clerk Koenig provided copies of the minutes from the November 18, 2024 Special Town Meeting of the Electors. Chairman Cashman asked everyone to take a few minutes to read and review the minutes and then asked for approval. There is a correction to Chairman Cashman’s address from 4312 CTH PP to 3114 CTH ZZ. M/M by Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP to approve the minutes from the November 6th, 2023 Special Town Meeting of the Electors with one recommended change. Seconded by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road. Motion carried 10– 0.

6) Set date for the 2026 Annual Town Meeting.

The state has set aside Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm for the Annual Town Meeting. This date was agreeable. M/M by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W to hold the 2025 Annual Town Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. Seconded by Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP. Motion carried 11-0

7) Approval of the Annual Report

The Clerk put the annual report up on the TV screen and asked the members to follow along, as Chairman Cashman walked folks through the report. Mary Vertz, 4312 CTH PP, suggested area codes be added to the cover page of the Annual Report, as well as to fix Terry Vertz’s phone number. The value of all liquid assets is shown as \$1,633,579.71, as of 12/31/2024. The value of all current liabilities is \$28,565.86, which is comprised of new home security deposits. Total disbursements made in 2024 were \$3,044,965.04. Steve Gander asked about the dog license amount. Bob Gerbers clarified that he doesn’t get paid by Rockland taxes, he gets paid

from the building permit fees, so when his salary goes up it is because there was an increase in building permits. Glen Schwalbach asked about the fire protection budget – the fees will go up in 2025 because Rockland's valuation went up. Total expenses came to \$1,040,149.99. Mary Vertz asked what the tax overpayment is, and Clerk Koenig explained that when people overpay their taxes, it is refunded but the number still shows up in the budget. Thirteen new homes were built in Rockland in 2024. Typically there are 2-3 per year. There are currently 5 in 2025. Quite a few homes are being built in the Jossart/Rockland Heights neighborhood. Steve Gander asked if the Town charges for residents to put in a culvert, which it does not. Levy population figures are 1,783. Levy has been kept stable at 1.974/\$1,000. M/M by Steve Gander, 5584 CTH W to approve the 2024 Rockland Annual Report as presented. Seconded by Glen Schwalbach, 1090 Moonriver Dr. Motion carried 11-0.

8) Town Storage Shed

There is \$35,000 in the budget right now for a Town shed. There is concern from residents that this will not be enough, but there are additional contingency funds that may be available for use in that case. Bob Gerbers recommends 24x36 for the dimensions, and to put in a small curb. Residents agree that it should be built large enough to accommodate current and future storage needs. The goal is for construction to begin in July/August. The project will go up for bid, with Max Lasee having expressed interest in building it. Supervisor Lasee suggested asking the Town of Holland about the dimensions of the garage at their new Town Hall. Treasurer Van Dyck asked if the shed will be off the parking lot, which it will. Bob Gerbers thinks stick framing the shed is the best option rather than a pole barn. Supervisor Meeuwsen indicated that if it ever needs to be heated, it would be easier if it was a stick frame. The Town Board will work with Bob Gerbers to get this started.

9) Bridge Fund Contribution

At Ryan Road, there are two culverts that are very badly washed out. Chairman Cashman filled out paperwork today working with Brian Hoskens to apply for emergency funding. Bridge fund is for culverts over 36" in diameter, then the County will pay half. There are four bridges in Rockland, with the Ryan Road bridge being the oldest. It was built in 1959 and it was rated at 65.4%. The Old Martin Rd bridge (1979) was rated at 98.1%, the Wrightstown Rd bridge (1989) was 91.8% and the Midway Rd bridge (1994) was 89.3%. The Ryan road bridge needs work, and Chairman Cashman questions how much funding is put into the bridge before deciding to replace the entire bridge. When a bridge rating reaches 50%, federal funding will pay 80%. Of the remaining 20%, Brown County will pay 10%. Paul Fonteccio with Robert E. Lee is currently looking into the cost of replacing the bridge. Every year about 2 culverts are replaced from the bridge fund. Chairman Cashman recommends putting another \$30,000 into the fund, on top of the \$67,000 in there now. M/M by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road, to put \$30,000 into the bridge fund for future projects. Second by Steve Gander 5584 CTH W. Motion carried 11-0.

10) Garbage and recycling report

144 tons of recyclables were picked up by Harters in 2024, which was 4 tons more than the year before. This does not include shredded paper or aluminum cans that people brought to recycling plants on their own. 1,180 pounds of tires were picked up. Rockland received a grant again for recycling, which helps keep prices lower. Last year at the recycling event, 22,750 lbs material was collected. The amount this year is not yet known, but there were 207 cars that came through. Supervisor Lasee thanked Treasurer Van Dyck for all the work she puts into the Town recycling event. Norsec will no longer be in business, so a different company will need to be used

to take the materials that are collected at future Town recycling events. B3 Solutions was recommended as a possibility. Chairman Cashman stated it would be nice to keep the event going so that fewer things end up in Town ditches. The event was a good day, and 4-H sold out of booyah.

11) Chairman's Report

- Chairman Cashman thanked the Town Board as well as Bob Gerbers for all the work they do for the Town. Everyone works well together. He also thanked the Planning and Zoning Board and election workers for the work they do as well. Clerk Koenig thanked Chairman Cashman – all the leadership and the time he puts into the Town is much appreciated.
- Chairman Cashman picked up fewer tires this year than last year, and he might start posting photos of the tires and other refuse he finds in the ditches so people know they shouldn't be leaving them there.
- Last Thursday the Town Board toured the roads with Scott Construction. Scott Construction's list of recommendations was received today and will be put on the agenda for next Monday's Town Board meeting. The roads overall looked good, and the roads don't get done this year will get done next year. Mary Vertz brought to attention that on Old Martin Rd heading east, on the south side of the road by CTH PP, there is no edge against the blacktop after the culvert. There is just a short section where there is no edge, but it should be looked at. The Town signed up for the LRIP program for Ryan Rd 2 years ago and got a bid last year for \$48,124 that will put down 2 layers of chip seal. This will be done in July. The grant is around \$16,000, bringing the Town's cost down to around \$32,000. The other grant the Town received was the ARIP program for Shirley Rd and Morrison Rd, which will get milled and 4" of asphalt, and gravel shoulders. The Town's portion of the cost will be \$69,000. This will start hopefully at the end of the summer.
- Last fall Bug Tussel started running fiber optic cable through the Town. His contract is through Brown County and they are running fiber optic to the 911 Towers and to the landfill. They are branching off in certain areas of the Town, and residents will be able to hook up (maps are available at the Town Hall). Spectrum will also be running fiber in certain areas of the town. They should be contacting nearby residents if they are able to sign up. Eventually everyone will have it, but it's a matter of time. Supervisor Meeuwsen commented that it doesn't seem right that two providers are running fiber in the same areas of town, so some residents have two options and others have no options. He suggested we approach them about branching out to more areas of the Town.
- The Town uses Greenleaf and Morrison volunteer Fire Departments for fire protection. Morrison FD covers areas east of CTH PP, and Greenleaf FD covers areas west of CTH PP. They work together and help each other out. Chairman Cashman reminds residents that if they are doing a controlled burn, to call the Fire Department for the area they are in as well as the nonemergency police number to let them know about the burn and its location.
- This Saturday is Rockland cleanup day. Chairman Cashman asks residents to walk their ditches and clean up garbage. If there are any tires, call Chairman Cashman to pick them up. He takes loads of tires to the landfill. Treasurer Van Dyck asks if the farmers in the area could use any of the tires that are picked up, and that the Town should ask Frank Hutjens to see what they use. Steve Gander said there is a pile of tires up by the old barn that burned down on CTH W.
- Bob Gerbers brought to the Town Board's attention that the area by Frank Hutjens and the creek there is very narrow, and asked if the road can be widened. He met a trailer going through and there wasn't enough room to pass.

12) Announcements

- Open Book is Tuesday, May 6 from 2pm – 4pm.
- Board of Review is Wednesday, May 21 from 6pm – 8pm.
- The Rockland Rummage sale is Saturday, April 26 and there are 10 people signed up so far.

13) Public Comment

- Glenn Schwalbach, 1090 Moonriver Dr, stated that what was neat about the Bug Tussel deal, they didn't ask Brown County for any money, just a loan whereas the other companies wanted money from the County to put in fiber optic. Also, anyone can use it, it isn't proprietary. Spectrum is paying about \$10,000 for all the borings for fiber install. It is unknown how much Bug Tussel is paying.
- Thanks to Greenleaf Bank for providing refreshments, they did that as long as Chairman Cashman can remember. Dave Kritz has been doing it for many years. He passed away last month, and was a long time resident of Rockland.

14) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Bob Gerbers, 2625 Bildings Road at 8:08 pm. Seconded by Terry Vertz, 4312 CTH PP. Motion carried 11-0.

All minutes have been taken truthfully and honestly and to the best of my knowledge and ability.

Rachel Graner
Deputy Town Clerk

Minutes approved as written / with corrections (strike one) by the Town Electors on Tuesday, April 21, 2026.

Town Elector _____

Town Elector _____