

City Of Rothsay Council Minutes...

CITY COUNCIL MEETING
115 2nd ST SW, ROTHSAY, MN
APPROVED MINUTES
September 10, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Acting Mayor Joe Tillman opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

1.0 Call to order: The council meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Joe Tillman at 7:00 p.m. Council Members present: Lori Jorgenson, Matt Balken and Darrell Tollefson. Others present: Daryl Schleeter, Bob Larson, Jordan Barry, Eric Larson and Lisa Zimmerman.

2.0 Public Forum: on behalf of the Rothsay Lions Club, Tollefson would like to remind the community of the pork feed taking place on Friday, September 21 at the Rothsay Community Center from 3:30-6:30 p.m.

3.0 Approval of Agenda: after one addition, A MOTION was made by Jorgenson, seconded by Tollefson to approve the agenda. Carried.

4.0 ROTHSAY FIRE DEPARTMENT:

4.1 FIRE REPORT: Assistant Chief Barry reported there were six calls in the month of August. Three fires, three medical and one rescue.

5.0 EMPLOYEE REPORTS:

5.1 BOB LARSON:
• Larson reported the shafts and boards have been replaced at the ponds.
• The requested 4-way stop signs have been installed at the intersection of 1st Street NW and 2nd Avenue NW.
• A television was donated to the Rothsay Community Center.

5.2 JORDAN BARRY:

• Barry reported the bid that was placed on a pickup from Otter Tail County was accepted and is now in the city's possession.

• Barry has been researching prices for a V-Plow for the new city pickup. A receiver hitch will also be added in time.

• With a budget of \$750 for re-shingling the salt/sand shed and city storage shed, one of two buildings requested will be covered.

• The plow truck's exhaust leak has been fixed, along with replacing seals as an oil leak was discovered.

• The first discharge on pond number 3 is towards completion.

5.3 ERIC LARSON:
• Larson reported the city hall's rough plumbing was complete as well as the electrical work. Larson is looking into better energy efficiency for the building.

• Larson will be doing repairs to the flush valves at the Rothsay Event Center as needed.

5.4 LISA ZIMMERMAN:
• Zimmerman reported the City of Rothsay's pay equity report was returned in compliance.

6.0 NEW BUSINESS:
6.1 Otter Tail County Public Health Tobacco 21 Letter Review: Council approved the letter as written, opposing the proposed age increase for tobacco purchase in Otter Tail County.

6.2 Application for Snow Removal: One application was received for the part-time snow removal position. MOTION was made by Jorgenson, seconded by Tollefson to offer the position to George Erickson. Carried.

6.3 Life and Short Term Disability and Long Term Disability Quote: The City received a quote from Al Roth from AT Group in the amount of \$102.74 per month for Coverage. A MOTION was made by Tollefson, seconded by Balken to approve the quote as presented. Carried.

6.4 Prairie Chicken Attraction

Request: A group sent a request to do some landscaping at the prairie chicken statue. The council requested more details before approving.

6.5 Resolution No. 2018-10 Accepting Donations: MOTION made by Jorgenson, seconded by Tollefson to pass the resolution as presented. Carried.

6.6 Variance Request at 222 1st Ave SW: MOTION by Balken, seconded by Jorgenson to approve the variance as presented. Carried.

6.7 Addition to the Agenda: October meeting date change: The regular October meeting will be rescheduled to October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

7.0 OLD BUSINESS:
7.1 Old School Facility: After consideration of the three options presented for the facility, a MOTION was made by Tollefson, seconded by Balken to proceed with option number three. Carried. This option was the original plan for the building consisting of demolishing the classroom portion of the building while improving the remaining portions of the facility. A Request for Proposal (RFP) will be sent out for the competitive bidding process.

7.2 The Prairie Addition: The covenants will be under revision in attempts to gain more attraction to build. Other options were presented as well. More decisions will be made at the October Meeting.

7.3 Clerk Office Discussion: A proposal was presented from Rudh Entertainment for security system relocation. Another estimate will be obtained for a final decision. A MOTION was made by Jorgenson, seconded by Tollefson to approve up to \$4.00 per square foot for flooring. Carried.

8.0 Approval of August 6, 2018 Council Minutes: A MOTION was made by Tollefson, seconded by Balken to approve. Carried.

8.1 Approval of August 6, 2018 Public

Hearing 6:00 p.m. Minutes: A MOTION was made by Tillman, seconded by Tollefson to approve. Carried.

8.2 Approval of August 6, 2018 Public Hearing 7:05 p.m. Minutes: A MOTION was made by Tollefson, seconded by Balken to approve. Carried.

8.3 Approval of August 13, 2018 Special Meeting Minutes: A MOTION was made by Jorgenson, seconded by Tollefson to approve. Carried.

8.4 Approval of August 27, 2018 Preliminary Budget Hearing Minutes: A MOTION was made by Tollefson, seconded by Jorgenson to approve. Carried.

9.0 Present & Approve August Financial Statements and Hand-Payables: MOTION by Jorgenson, seconded by Balken to approve as presented. Carried.

10.0 Present & Approve September Accounts Payables: MOTION by Jorgenson, seconded by Tillman to approve as presented. Carried.

11.0 MOTION to adjourn by Jorgenson, seconded by Balken, and carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

EDA Highlights
Fitness Club: Tillman researched two options on a new rowing machine. MOTION by Tillman, seconded by Tollefson to approve the purchase. Carried.

RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT THE ROTHSAY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY IS A SEPARATE ENTITY FROM THE CITY OF ROTHSAY AND HAS ITS OWN FUNDING. THE CITY DOES NOT FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE EDA.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Lisa Zimmerman,
City Clerk/Treasurer
(October 22, 2018)



**Been There!...
...Done That!
Now I'm
Looking
Back...
Hunting Colorado**

By: Gene Prim

A Blown Opportunity On Another Bull...

We were picking our way up the backside of Wapiti Peak. Somehow or another the 2014 season was slipping away on me and I was the only one in our cabin without a bull down. This was the last day that I was slated to hunt with Russ Behrman who was driving the truck. We had one youth hunter with us who was after a cow. I had the only live tag for a bull and Mick Baumann was getting photographic evidence whenever he thought it would be embarrassing for me.

The trip up the backside of Wapiti brought back many memories. One was of a large bull we talked about last week. Another memory was the second year I hunted the ranch and had George Bosick for a guide. While driving through the thick cedars we suddenly had a herd of elk go past the truck and hang up in the thick stuff. We were out of the truck and looking for a good set of antlers. "There, that one, the one just coming out from behind the tree," George had coached. I looked at the bull and he sure didn't look like a shooter to me. Turns out there is more than one tree in Colorado with an elk hiding behind it.

"Not that one, this one," George had said, pointing at a big, big bull. But by the time I had pulled off the bull I had been looking at and got over to where George was looking, the entire herd slipped out of sight and into the cedars.

I also recalled a shot I had made on top of this hill only a couple years before. The bull itself was nothing memorable but it had been an awfully good shot, right at 400 yards. Then several more to close the deal. But it was still a pretty darned good first shot.

Now we were trying to find ranch owner Rex Tuttle's son a cow and me a bull. We did not see a lot on the way up the hill which probably pointed towards pushing the elk off the top one too many times. They were tired of being run off and were feeding elsewhere.

We checked out several of the usual suspects as far as places elk hang out without much luck. We then pushed off to the south and east a little further than I had ever been. We drove over a few sagebrush plants and made our way to a knob overlooking a big sage and cedar meadow. "That patch usually holds a bull or two that don't want to leave Wapiti," Russ said. "They can be a real bugger to push out of there but let's give it a try."

My instructions were to stay up high and near the truck and watch the corners of the sagebrush flat. To my right was wide open country for 800 yards in any direction. The right corner of the cover was about 400 yards out and that is likely where they would break out I was told.

That they might cut to the left was also a possibility. If that happened the distances were about the same at the extreme ends of the meadow. About halfway across was a deep ravine. Russ said if they chose that route they would likely be in sight for only a short time and then duck into the ravine. Russ took the youth hunter and made a big swing around the sagebrush flat in an attempt to chase anything in there back towards us.

It seemed like a very long time that Mick Baumann and I stood outside the pickup waiting for something to happen. More than likely it was under a half hour but it seemed longer. I had seen one cow break out the side of the sagebrush on the right hand side. In seconds she was over a hill and gone from sight. Then there was a shot from down in the sagebrush. That shot was followed a few minutes later by another. That sounds good. They must have found a cow, hit it and killed it with the second shot.

But the shooting had done more than kill a cow. It had also spooked a herd of a half dozen bulls out of the sagebrush. None of them were great for antlers, mostly yearling raghorns. But there was one pretty decent bull in the bunch and another almost as big, both nice 5x5s. They had come out of the bottom on the left hand side of the sagebrush. They were definitely headed for the ravine.

I felt it was too far to take a shot at a walking elk so I grabbed shooting sticks and headed down the hill, trying to cut the distance and maybe get a chance at them in the ravine. I had a pretty good angle on them unless they took off at a dead run.

I had closed the distance by about half when the first elk popped up over the lip of the ravine and then dropped back down again. I immediately stopped and set up the shooting sticks hoping for an opportunity. Then there he was, right on the far edge of the ravine, the best bull of the bunch. I hit the cow call, he stopped and came to attention. I thought he was steady in the crosshairs when I squeezed the trigger.

As sometimes happens, the recoil off the solid sticks throws the muzzle high after a shot. That is what happened here. One minute I've got a good sight picture and the next second there is nothing there. The bull was gone. Probably a good thing. He's likely at the bottom of the canyon dead.

I waited for several minutes and then saw elk exiting the ravine on the uphill side. There was probably a makeable shot at one of them as they made their way to the top of Wapiti but I couldn't see if the biggest bull was with them. I didn't want two elk down so I held off shooting at them. After several more minutes I walked to where the bull had been standing when I shot.

I got to the edge of the ravine and saw . . . nothing! There was no bull at the bottom. There was no sign of running elk churning up dirt. And the fresh snow gave no indication of a hit. No elk. No hair. No blood on the ground. Mick had made the journey to the bottom of the hill and we both looked for some time in the area without coming up with any sign of a hit.

Maybe it was a miss. I had not heard the solid "thummmmp" of a hitting bullet. And there was no visible evidence of a hit at the site. Russ soon joined us and he and the youth hunter helped look for signs of a hit where I directed. Nothing! Another blown opportunity?!?!?



When the going gets tough, the tough . . . well they put on chains is what they do. None of the trucks ever leave home without them as you never know what the conditions will be. While the Evil Behrman struggles with putting the chains on I offer helpful advice which many times seems to go unappreciated.

REGIONAL REPORT
Rothsay, Minn.
2018 Fall
Edition

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FOSSE TRANSPORT

We Do The Driving...

- We transport the most valuable cargo - your children on our school buses
- Semi transports for grain and general commodities
- Charter bus service available to school events or small groups

Contact Paul Fosse - 218 867-2256

Farm Files...

Carol Poppel, County Executive Director
Wilkin County FSA
Telephone: 218 643-1536 Ext. 106
Fax: 218 643-8823

We have experienced some staffing changes in the Wilkin County office recently. Kathy Steiner, Program Technician, has retired after a 20-year career of dedicated service to our agency and the farmers in Wilkin County. Many thanks to Kathy for all she has done for so many. We wish her all the best as she starts this new chapter in her life. As a result, we are now advertising for a full time Program Technician position through October 30. Check the classifieds this week for more information or contact Carol Poppel at 218-643-1536 or carol.poppel@mn.usda.gov.

USDA Launches Trade Mitigation Programs

USDA launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to unjustified trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP).

USDA provided details in August of the programs to be employed. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will administer the Market Facilitation Program (MFP) to provide payments to corn, cotton, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers. An announcement about further payments will be made in the coming months, if warranted. USDA is currently working to determine how to address market disruptions for producers of almonds and sweet cherries.

The sign-up period for MFP is now open and runs through Jan. 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at www.farmers.gov/mfp. MFP provides payments to cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported.

A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

| Commodity | Initial Payment Rate | Est. Initial Payment** (in \$1,000s) |
|--------------|----------------------|---|
| Cotton | \$0.06/lb. | \$276,900 |
| Corn | \$0.01/bu. | \$96,000 |
| Dairy (milk) | \$0.12/cwt. | \$127,400 |
| Pork (hogs) | \$8.00/head | \$290,300 |
| Soybeans | \$1.65/bu. | \$3,629,700 |
| Sorghum | \$0.86/bu. | \$156,800 |
| Wheat | \$0.14/bu. | \$119,200 |
| Total | | \$4,696,300 |

**Initial payment rate on 50% of production

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

For more further information or to locate and contact local FSA offices, interested producers can visit www.farmers.gov

Wheelage Tax Funds Makes Long Term Impact

Perhaps you have received your vehicle tab renewal form in the mail and wondered where the wheelage tax is used. All the wheelage taxes collected in Otter Tail County stay in the county and are used for county highway projects only. The funding of Otter Tail County's transportation infrastructure is vital for residents of a county with 1,070 miles of paved roads.

The wheelage tax was first reviewed by a 25 member plan steering committee while developing the Otter Tail County 2040 Transportation Plan. The wheelage tax was one tool to increase funding for the Highway Department to implement projects and maintain the vast amount of highway miles in the county. The steering committee, after receiving public input from fourteen public meetings, recommended the Board of Commissioners pass a resolution authorizing a wheelage tax in Otter Tail County.

On July 21, 2015 the county board, by resolution and outlined in Article 14 of the Minnesota Constitution, levied a wheelage tax for "highway purposes." The fee authorized for wheelage tax is capped at \$20.00 and is paid with license tabs. Otter Tail County is one of fifty-three other counties in

Minnesota to authorize the wheelage tax. Several area counties including Clay, Norman, Pope and Stearns have implemented the tax.

"The wheelage tax is an important source of funding that our county needs to maintain the infrastructure that is essential for our residents, visitors, farmers and business owners," stated Board Chair Wayne Johnson. "With increasing costs for highway construction and maintenance, we had to utilize this funding tool. All of the funds are used in the county and allow us to complete much needed improvements like the highway 84 project in New York Mills."

Funding for highway projects has not kept pace with the growing costs and improvement needs. This source of funding allows such improvements to be made in a timely manner according to the needs outlined in the long-range comprehensive County Transportation Plan.

"This means a lot to the highway department as it allows projects and plans to move forward faster because of the funding," remarked Rick West, OTC Public Works Director.

To view the OTC Transportation Plan and the Resolution Authorizing Wheelage Tax please visit: <http://www.co.otter-tail.mn.us>

Independent School District #850 School Board Minutes

September 10, 2018
Board of Education Regular Meeting

The Board of Education of Rothsay Independent School District 850 held its regular meeting on September 10, 2018, in the District Meeting Room at the school. Chairman Justin Phillips called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Board members Chad Larson, Kevin Brenden, John Reber, Mike Metzger and Jesse Christ also were present, as were Superintendent Wade Johnson, Principal Emily Sternberg and District Secretary/Bookkeeper Diane Haugrud.

Metzger made a motion to approve the agenda; Brenden seconded this motion, which carried on vote.

Superintendent Johnson read the mission statement "To prepare our students to become responsible citizens and life-long learners."

Larson moved to approve the minutes of the regular August meeting; Christ seconded this motion, which carried on vote. The school mailer and Rothsay Regional Report will publish the minutes.

Reber made a motion, which carried on vote followed by Metzger's second, to approve the financial reports and to authorize the fiscal agent for ISD 850 to pay accounts payable and hand payables in the following amounts: General Fund - \$214,000.77, Food Service - \$2,365.63, Community Service - \$10,868.07, Building Construction - \$37,005.00, Trust Fund - \$0.00, total - \$264,239.47. The student activity account balance is \$69,354.68.

Wade Johnson presented the Superintendent/Secondary Principal's report.

Emily Sternberg presented the Elementary Principal's report.

Trevor Hone gave the Activities Director Report.

The Technology Report was given.

The Tiny Tigers/TCC Report was given.

The Preschool Report was handed out.

No board committee meetings were held.

Enrollment is at 282.
Reber moved to set the 2018 pay

2019 Preliminary Levy at Maximum. Larson seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

Brenden moved to set the date for the Levy Hearing during the regular December board meeting on December 10, 2018 with the Levy Hearing taking place at 7:00 p.m. Metzger seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

Christ moved to approve Alex Reber's resignation with the board's thanks. Larson seconded this motion, and it carried on vote. Reber abstained.

Phillips moved to approve the para-professional contract with Trista Tostenson. Brenden seconded this motion, which carried on vote.

Larson moved to approve the 2018-2019 MREA Membership at a cost of \$1,438.00. Brenden seconded this motion, which carried on vote.

Reber moved to waive the Columbus Day Holiday as a school holiday and hold our regular October board meeting on October 8, 2018. Larson seconded this motion, and it carried on vote.

Metzger moved to change the school calendar and the graduation date to Friday, May 24, 2019, at 7:00 pm. Larson seconded this motion, which carried on vote with Brenden voting no.

Brenden moved to remove Allen Stockman from the Imprest Fund, Student Activity and Osmondson Accounts at Farmers State Bank. The authorized signers for the Imprest Fund - Diane Haugrud, Bookkeeper, Neil Kusler, Business Manager and Wade Johnson, Superintendent. The authorized signers for the Student Activity Fund -- Diane Haugrud, Bookkeeper, Stephanie Curtis, Secretary, Wade Johnson, Superintendent and Emily Sternberg, Principal. The authorized signers for the Osmondson Account - Diane Haugrud, Bookkeeper, Justin Phillips, Chair, Chad Larson, Clerk, John Reber, Treasurer, Wade Johnson, Superintendent and Neil Kusler, Business Manager. Director Metzger seconded this motion, which carried on vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Chad Larson, Clerk
Approved October 8, 2018
(October 22, 2018)