



Board Meeting at Loken's Inn Conf. Room November 7, 2022

Call to order: President Terri Benson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Board members Jack O'Donnell, Nancy Snyder, Kari Meyer, Jackie Becker, Anne Spartz, and Sally Ryman were present.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the October 3 board meeting were emailed in advance. Moved by Nancy, seconded by Jack, to approve the October minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Jack reported the following balances through October 31.

- Checking – \$61,065.37 – includes \$50,000 Arlin Falck grant, \$1,000 MiEnergy grant, and \$1,515 from the Rushford Peterson Valley Chamber of Commerce for their annual contribution (office space, phone, internet)
- Savings – \$1,129.92 (0.28 interested added)
- Money Market – \$13,481.61 (\$2.86 interest added)
- TOTAL - \$75,676.90 on October 31

Jack noted he had paid the following bills since October 31: \$42.80 to MiEnergy, Grinnell insurance \$2,402, resulting in a balance today of \$58,620.57 in the checking account. He said insurance went up 14% from last year, but we earlier received a \$299 refund resulting in about the same overall amount. The water damage claim in 2020 didn't seem to affect our cost, and last year we installed the heat sensor and drained everything except the women's restroom fixtures to avoid a recurrence. Jack will contact Brad Woxland about draining the fixtures by November 15.

Terri asked the board to think about what we should do with the Arlin Falck grant funds and be prepared to decide in December, possibly putting them in a separate checking account, a CD to earn some interest, etc.

Moved by Sally, seconded by Nancy, to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Large Grant Review – Todd Grover, our architect from MacDonald and Mack, joined us via Zoom. He stated the peer review comments were saying the project was appropriate and documents were appropriate. The reviewer didn't have any negative comments about the scope of the project. The reviewer's comments were about the budget. When he listened to HRAC committee, which includes people from different backgrounds, they didn't get to this grant. When they ranked them, this one was low enough to not make into the first round of reviews. A lot of the people on HRAC aren't construction people or architects, some are historical society collections managers and curators. The one architect on the committee was very favorable, but noted that many of the specifications on when and how this was going to take place weren't included in the application or budget section. We'll need to include that in the next round. Grants staff will talk about it at their spring meeting. In the meantime, Todd will have some discussions with grants staff to clarify their process, not specifically for our project.

Regarding including the roof in next year's application, Todd said we might want to say we have this amount of money allocated to the building for a contingency – earmarked hopefully to replace the roof. It would show we can support the project if needed, since the priority is for the structure to get completed.

Todd was asked if we could replace the roof with asphalt rather than wood shakes. We would need to have a conversation with grants staff about whether we could put an asphalt roof on it with our own money and what

the implications would be for future grant requests. MNHS would not fund an asphalt roof as that is not what was original to the building. He reported that the Eden Prairie Convent House wood shingle roof was \$104,000.

Jack asked about the possibility of doing the roof before the foundation. Todd's biggest concern is putting people on a roof with a compromised structure. Also, spending money on roofing before tackling the big issues isn't recommended.

Todd will get us quotes on wood vs. long-lasting shingle (main roof, overhang, soffits, etc.) by the end of the year. He'll work with the grants staff and Sally on updates for the July application and will follow up in March about this.

What's Happening at RAHS

1. **Newsletter** – Nancy has written an article about the Pfeiffer Brewery, and Kari has written one about theaters in Rushford. Last year we sent out more than half electronically. We printed more copies than were used, so we won't be printing as many for this edition. We'll be using a copy machine to print them and will be able to easily make extra copies as needed. We're looking at a new format with a larger font, more pictures, varied column sizes to fit the articles, and color. The board liked the two-page sample of the fresh newsletter format, and the consensus was to move forward with it.
2. **Membership fee changes** – Terri asked if we should change the membership fee structure to a sponsorship structure. After much discussion the consensus was to have: donor levels of platinum (\$500+), gold (\$100-499), silver (\$50-99), bronze levels (\$0-49), no membership fee. Also mention on the form: memorials, whether they want their donation public or anonymous, remember us in your estate even if it is a small amount, donations make great presents, and whether they have Thrivent dollars to donate.
3. **Business Tour** – Nancy S. has a 3-ring binder of articles and pictures for people to flip through that night for the old Grace Place building, and she will bring the Droivold books with her for reference. Jackie will cover Stumpy's and will try to get Stumpy to be there. He can tell the story of how Mr. Cady started it September 20, 1974, and when he purchased it, etc. Nancy Rustad, Diane Luhmann, and Nancy Snyder are working on info for the three Horihan buildings. Jack is coving the Mill Street Mall. Sally and Terri aren't having much luck finding the history of the Jessie Street Java building and will continue looking. (Note: A couple days after the meeting Preston Colbenson sent us a picture of the JSJ circa 1900.)

The open house style tour is November 17 from 5:30-8:00. Board members should bring photos, books, a welcoming smile, and a timeline of building's past. Wear a Rushford Lager or RAHS blue t-shirt. Sally will print some RAHS business cards to hand out.

4. **Minutes** – Kari requested that minutes be emailed to RAHS members Nancy Rustad and Diane Luhmann. Sally explained that she initially sends a draft to board members to review and those who were present can reply with corrections. When Terri sends them out with the agenda, it is the final copy. Terri said she emails to Nancy R. and Diane separately. It was decided that starting this month, the minutes will be posted to the website, RushfordHistory.org.
5. **Fillmore County Historical Society Tree Display** – The board declined the invitation from FCHS to provide a holiday tree or table setting for their Christmas display.

Adjournment: Moved by Sally, seconded Jackie, to adjourn at 8:05 p.m. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, DECEMBER 5