

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County  
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 7 p.m.  
Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd, Jens Gregerson, Shelby Barnard, Pat Asbury, Laurie Dolsen, and 11 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Byrd at 7:05 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; a quorum was present; and the meeting was properly posted. Meeting minutes from the December 10, 2019, regular town board meeting and the December 27, 2019, special town board meeting were reviewed previously. JG motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, JB seconded; all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

**Reports:** Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported that the quarterly payroll reports are done and submitted; she is working on year-end documents (W-2s, etc.); preparing for the February 18, 2020, primary; setting up her new office and the phones after the prisoners moved her equipment and files from the office trailer; working on reporting for the VFD retirement fund; working on the Security Elections Grant with a local vendor (Winter Computer Systems), prepping for clean-up day and the April annual meeting; changing addresses with vendors; and notifying/publishing the change of polling place. Treasurer Pat Asbury reported that the highway aids have been received and the property tax money is coming in. Supervisors Shelby Barnard and Jens Gregerson did not have anything to report. Chair Jack Byrd thanked the road crew for steaming culverts due to the warm weather and working on the icy roads—they have been working very hard on the roads lately due to the changing weather. Fire Chief John Melcher stated they are working on the annual February snowshoe races fundraiser and this year it will take place at our town hall and the course will be in the south field. Road crew foreman Brian Conley reported they fixed the flag pole at the town hall after a ton of snow fell from the roof; they have been plowing lots of snow on the roads and the parking lots of the hall and the garage; winging driveways, making a cover for the new town hall air conditioner, working on building a bathroom in the town garage, cutting trees with the prisoners on the Swamp Road, sanding the roads, celebrating Christmas, helped pull a truck driver out of a wreck, putting the steamer together and steaming culverts; cleaning the town hall, hauling Laurie's file cabinets that were purchased, scraping the roads of ice, picking up parts for the grader, starting to rebuild the 140H molding boards; placing cones and then picking up the cones and signs from the rain storm; hauling the new tables and chairs to the town hall from Sams Club, and putting the table/chair carts together. County Supervisor Joe Moen reported the committees he is on have been somewhat quiet: Finance—no report; Forestry—working on the annual plan; Land Use—sale of land, zoning meetings, and ATV routes will be open once the signage is done.

**Bills:** SB motioned to approve the bills as presented; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Plan Commission:** Brian reported that Sandy Waletzko is continuing work on the garbage ordinance (she is currently down South) and they did not meet this month as there were no action items or applications to review.

**Election Inspector Approval:** LD has received interest from 3 more people to serve as election inspectors for a two-year team. LD has been able to connect with two of the three and she is still working to reach the third. All are good candidates to have serve. SB motioned to appoint the additional 2 (3 if LD can reach her) election inspector candidates for a two-year term; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Elections Security Grant Program Update:** LD reviewed the quote received for computers, printers and security support service to be provided by Winter Computer Systems and all prices are reasonable. Discussion followed regarding printers—John Melcher shared that the City of Superior is selling their printer for \$1,000 and wanted to know if we wanted it. Due to tight funds, we will ask if they will accept \$700. SB motioned to accept the quote from Winter Computer Systems as presented and to hold off purchasing one of the printers until we hear from the City of Superior; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. LD will check with Tri-State Business Systems to see if they will do a service agreement with the City's printer if we purchase it.

**Superior Days Donation:** We have received our annual request from the Superior Days Committee for a \$100 donation. They do lobby on our behalf. SB motioned to approve a \$100 donation to Superior Days; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Review/Approve Beaver Contract:** Dan Zuchowski has submitted his annual proposed beaver control contract for approval. It is a good deal and he provides excellent service. SB motioned to approve the annual beaver contract as submitted; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Snow Removal/Snow Event/Road Closure Discussion:** Due to the recent numerous snow storms, residents have been illegally plowing snow across the roads and leaving snow debris which poses a danger to the motoring public, our workers and damage to our equipment. Due to the weather conditions, the debris that is illegally left on the road has caused our equipment to catch it and almost go into the ditch—potentially damaging our equipment and injuring our workers. In addition, people are also narrowing the roadway for the public in some areas when plowing the snow across the road. Residents who do this have been verbally notified and asked to discontinue this illegal practice; however, if the resident has been verbally warned and still continues to leave snow debris on the road, a letter will be sent to them and authorities will be notified and possible citations/fines could be issued. In addition, signs and cones have been stolen that were placed on the roads to warn the public to proceed with caution if there was water over the road or when Mabel Nelson Road was closed. This is also illegal and very dangerous to the motoring public. Residents are asked to be vigilant and notify us if they see our signs or cones being stolen.

**New Town Hall/Fire Storage Garage Status Update:** We are currently in the process of researching for the best price and purchasing a stove and refrigerator as well as a microwave for the kitchen. Various options were discussed (right now, Home Depot has a bundle deal that would work for a decent price). We hope to have them purchased and installed within the next month. SB motioned to purchase the stove/refrigerator bundle from Home Depot; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. SB motioned to also purchase the microwave in the bundle as discussed; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. New tables, chairs, and carts have been purchased, picked up, and set up at the hall. The new tables/chairs will not be available for outside use or rental (they will not leave the hall) but the old tables and chairs can still be used away from the hall if needed. LD asked if the board had reviewed the rental agreement/rules as presented previously and after a brief discussion, SB motioned to approve/accept the Town Hall Rental Agreement and Rules as submitted; JG seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. SB is currently working on putting together a position description for the custodian and once ready, she will forward it to the board for review and approval. Open House Committee—once the kitchen is complete, an Open House for the new town hall should be held. A committee to plan the open house and set a date and time needs to be done.

**Public Comment:** A resident asked if our website was down. LD shared that her private credit card changed and the old one was expired. Once notified recently, LD went in and updated the information and the renewal for the site was processed. Our website was unavailable only for a few days. This was not intentional but simply a change in payment processing. LD shared that the dishes that were packed up from the old hall need to be delivered, cleaned, and stored in the new hall.

The next regular town board meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 7 p.m. JG motioned to adjourn; SB seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk