

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County  
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.  
Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Stacy Fornengo, Laurie Dolsen, and 6 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Jack Byrd, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly posted. Meeting minutes from the January 10, 2023, meeting were reviewed previously and no changes were made. RP motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented, JB seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

**Reports:** Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported all the tax information (W-2's, 1099's, etc.) have been completed and distributed; year-end reporting is also completed; the Census information for the VFD retirement has been completed and submitted for the year; she has completed the Clerk's portion of the self-certification for the VFD 2% Dues; absentee ballots continue to be processed (in-person voting, online, etc.) and election preparation for the February 21 Spring Primary is being done; Annual Meeting preparation and Form CT preparation are currently in process; and the February Tax Settlement will be completed soon. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported she has been working on taxes, taxes, taxes as well as preparing for the Snowshoe Races. Supervisor Randy Polson reported he has been busy assisting with the Snowshoe Races (i.e., donations, raffle tickets, etc.). Supervisor Dana Dolsen was absent—no report. Chair Jack Byrd reported he has been out checking the roads; working with Stack Brothers to fix the furnace (blower motor finally arrived and is in); and thanked the road crew for fixing Holmes Road. Fire Chief John Melcher was not present but it was reported that the DNR Refresher training was held yesterday (February 13) and the stairs to the office roof in the fire hall are done and look nice—thank you. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley reported they have plowed the roads as needed; plowed the bus/garbage truck turnarounds; sanded roads as needed; worked in the shop; cut overhanging trees from the roads; assisted at the Kelleher fire on Swamp Road using the backhoe; installed new batteries in the fire department pumper truck; winged back the snowbanks; worked on the fire department stairs; replaced the throttle cable on the 140H grader; plowed the church parking lot for lifetime resident Arvid Stromquist's funeral; completed the 250-hour oil change and sample on the new grader; installed the new steamer unit on the shop truck; and worked on the BIL grant and other warranty paperwork. County Supervisor Joe Moen was not present—no report.

**Bills:** The bills were reviewed and RP motioned to pay the bills as presented; JB seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Plan Commission:** The Plan Commission met on Monday, February 13, at 2:30 p.m. to review correspondence received and the application for a Zoning change by Greg Dolsen/Dana Kelleher from F1 to A1. After review/discussion, the PC recommends the board approve the zoning change. Regarding work on the Lake Access Ordinance, the PC would like clarification and/or confirmation from the board if they should continue working in this ordinance (is it really needed?) as it will take a lot of work and will be a long process to prepare (i.e., define what is green space, prepare a template from scratch, research, etc.). No decision was made as the full Board was not present. A recent article in the WTA newsletter covered information on town Plan Commissions and a current town resolution from 2010 states member terms are for 3 years—we should post to see if there is any interest from residents who want to serve on the Plan Commission. LD will complete this. Regarding the Fiscal Emergency Operations Plan Ordinance, they are looking to see if there are any updates (there are none from the State) and the contact information needs to be updated before being submitted to the Board for review. They checked with Stacy regarding the licensing guidelines to see if anything changed and she will review that with the Chief. Also, we no longer fill pools so that part will be removed. No more updates

were shared. JB motioned to accept/approve the PC's recommendation to approve the Dolsen Zoning change; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Town Hall Furnace:** JB has been meeting with Stack Brothers regarding repair of the town hall furnace and the new engine finally arrived and was installed—repairs are complete and it is working now.

**Grader:** Since the Minnesota DOT had a positive reaction to the naming of their graders, it was suggested by JB to contact Four Corners School to hold a similar contest to name our new plow. All present thought it was a good idea—JB will contact Four Corners School (Ellen Chicka) to see if they would be interested in this.

**Town Hall Cleanup:** Vendors for the tires (Tire Aggregate), appliances (Afterlife), and food (Gronks) have been contacted and set. LD shared dumpsters from Waste Management have also been reserved for May 21.

**Snowshoe Races:** Preparations for the Snowshoe Races are well underway to take place on Sunday, February 26, with the Community Events Group and the Volunteer Fire Department members combining efforts this year. A reporter from the Superior Telegram came out and did a story on the revival of this event after being canceled for 2 years because of Covid. Lots of raffles are being sold and everyone is looking forward to this event happening again this year.

**Operator License Application:** LD has received an application for an operator's license but it is on the wrong form and needs to be resubmitted (form was taken from the Town of Oakland website in Burnett County and not our website). Review of what has been received looks fine and LD recommends approval when the correct paperwork is received. JB motioned the operator license would be approved once the correct paperwork is received; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Public Comment:** Brian Conley shared the annual housing survey has been completed. He also reviewed the agreement received from the DNR regarding use of our equipment in case of a wildland fire and we have never been called upon to assist so do we really need to sign this? Board members will need to review. Brian also mentioned he did the 250-hour oil check on the new grader per warranty guidelines and there are possibly some issues. Fabick/CAT has a Customer Value Agreement—do we want to enroll and pay for it? The Board will need to review the agreements before they can make a recommendation. LD made copies and distributed them to the board for review. Residents present thanked the town for plowing the AOOC range area for access. They also shared a Family Fun Day will be held at the AOOC range and they will also be at the Fish and Game Show.

**Olson Property:** This topic was inadvertently missed during the PC agenda items. Brian printed out emails/correspondence received from Mr. Olson and will get copies to the town board. They are landowners next to town property on the lake and want to do a restoration project on their property with a berm. The proposed project would impact trees on our right of way. No changes or disturbances will be allowed on town property. Brian has asked for a plan to review so the PC can meet and make a recommendation to the board. The board will need to meet to discuss this further once the emails and all other information is received so a response to Mr. Olson's emails can be sent in a letter from the Town Board.

The next town board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7 p.m. RP motioned to adjourn; JB seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk