

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County  
Annual Town Meeting  
Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at 7 p.m.  
Country Peace Presbyterian Church**

Present: 63 Town Residents

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Town Chair Warren Dolsen and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The call for agenda items from the citizens was made. Following are the agenda items requested:

1. Work on North Oakland Road (Margaret Brilla)
2. Voting on New Proposed Town Hall Building (Mary Brill)
3. Discuss Proposed New Town Hall Building (Greg Dolsen) (will be switched with Item No. 2)
4. Salary for Clerk (Laurie Dolsen)
5. Membership for Volunteer Fire Department (Pat Conley)

Meeting minutes from last year's Annual Town Meeting held on April 21, 2015, and the Special Town Meeting to approve the town budget held on November 10, 2015, were reviewed. No changes were suggested. Pat Asbury motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Greg Dolsen seconded; all were in favor by voice vote; no nays were heard; motion carried. The financial report was reviewed. Donna Stone asked why we were short approximately \$70,000 (revenue versus expenses) and it was stated that the town purchased a grader and accessories last year and paid cash. That was pretty much the difference. Jim Dolsen Sr motioned to approve the town's financial report as presented; Alyce Javenkoski seconded; all were in favor by voice vote; no nays were heard; motion carried.

**Work on North Oakland Road:** Margaret Brilla requested that a portion of North Oakland Road receive more gravel as it is her only access to her hayfield. The portion of the road she is requesting receive gravel is no longer a town road by state statutes and she maintains the road at this time. She then requested the road be designated as a town road. Chair Warren Dolsen stated she will have to petition to the town for the road to be added. Pat Conley stated the portion of the road that is used by the public needs ditching for better drainage. The board and road crew will look into this. WD also shared that nothing really can be done with ditching until spring breakup is complete and the damaged roads from the state of emergency are repaired. He also shared that we will be requested approximately \$50,000 assistance from the Disaster Fund.

**Discuss Proposed New Town Hall Building:** Design Engineer Bill Kovaleski shared a presentation regarding the new proposed town hall/fire garage. He reviewed the proposed plans and estimated costs. The most cost effective option at this point is building it with concrete cast panels. Potential financing options were then discussed. The only time that taxes would increase to pay for the new buildings would be if the town votes to increase the levy in order to cover the yearly loan payments. A question and answer session was held and Bill was able to answer all questions asked.

**Voting on New Proposed Town Hall Building:** Mary Brill motioned to call for a vote on moving forward with constructing a new town hall/fire garage on our town property using a standing vote method; Dana Dolsen seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; no nays were heard; motion carried. Alyce Javenkoski then motioned for the town to borrow no more than \$500,000 to move forward with building the proposed new town hall/fire garage as presented; Pat Asbury seconded; all were in favor via voice vote;

no nays were heard; motion carried. It was stated that the previous motion to vote on moving forward with constructing the proposed new buildings called for a standing vote; therefore, Chair Warren Dolsen asked those who were in favor of moving forward with building a new town hall/fire garage and to borrow \$500,000 to complete the project to please stand and be counted. Clerk Laurie Dolsen then counted all those who were standing and there were 49 standing ayes (in favor) and 13 nays (remained seated and were not in favor); and 1 person chose not to vote; motion carried again per standing vote as per the first motion. Warren announced to all present that the motion to build the proposed new town hall/fire garage had passed with 49 ayes and 13 nays (1 not voting) and the audience applauded the decision.

**Salary for Clerk:** Clerk Laurie Dolsen was asked last year what her salary was and if it was enough compared to neighboring townships and she did not have an answer. Therefore, she shared a Power Point presentation that Patti Stalvig, clerk for the Town of Superior, put together as she was asking for a raise in salary for the clerk position in her township. Based on per capita figures, Patti is making \$4.32 per hour. Laurie shared the salary information for all townships in Douglas County and how we compare. Cost wise, our salary is pretty average to the rest of the clerks; however, if you break it down using per capita figures, we (Town of Oakland) are 4<sup>th</sup> from the bottom. Discussion followed on how much time per week the clerk works and what the work entails. Laurie shared how many hours she works per week based on the workload at the time and reminded them the town residents set the salaries of the board members and they take effect at the next 2-year term. Dana Dolsen motioned to increase the clerk's salary \$200 per month. No second was heard; more discussion followed. After the discussion continued, Dana requested to rescind her original motion. Donna Stone volunteered to look into and compare salaries for all of the board members and when it would take effect if any. Alyce Javenkoski motioned to hold a special town meeting in September to look over all the town offices to see if any of them need a raise so it could take effect at the 2017 election; Jim Waletzko seconded; all were in favor; no nays were heard; motion carried.

**Membership for Volunteer Fire Department:** Retiring fire chief Randy Martin introduced the new fire chief, John Melcher. The audience thanked Randy for his many years of service to our township and for sharing his experience with the new chief. John Melcher then gave a brief introduction of himself and his family and shared that the "Be Somebody" campaign will be held in June in Brule. John invited everyone to think about joining the volunteer fire department (training is free through the state) and said that anyone interested in joining should see either John or assistant fire chief Stan Dzikonski.

Next year's meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 18, 2017, at 7 p.m. at the Country Peace Presbyterian Church unless our new town hall is ready for occupancy. Warren shared upcoming events we have are open book (2-4 p.m./board of review(4-6 p.m.) on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at the hall. The town cleanup is on May 21, 2016, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Randy Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting; Greg Dolsen seconded, all were in favor; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Laurie Dolsen, Clerk  
Town of Oakland