

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday, April 19, 2022, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd (Chair), Laurie Dolsen (Clerk), and 4 Interested Citizens (see attached sign-in sheets)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Jack Byrd; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; and the meeting was properly posted on-line on our Facebook page (posting is not required). A reminder was also placed on the website but inadvertently did not get published. All 6 in attendance are qualified voters. A call for agenda items was given and the following items were requested:

1. Gravel for Roads
2. Signs for Town Hall/Fire Department and as Entering the Township
3. Board Salaries
4. Equipment Status
5. ARPA/BIL Funds

Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve the Order of Business/Agenda Items; Brian Conley seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting minutes from the April 20, 2021, Annual Town Meeting and the November 9, 2021, Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. Brian Conley motioned to approve the April 20, 2021, Annual Town Meeting minutes as presented; Stacy Fornengo seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Brian Conley motioned to approve the November 9, 2021, Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting minutes as presented; Stacy Fornengo seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Copies of the 2021 Financial Report were reviewed and no questions about any of the line items were asked. Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve the 2021 Financial Report as presented; Randy Polson seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Reports: Chair Jack Byrd shared that the road crew is currently working on the roads as they can due to the spring road breakup and recent wet (rain/snow) weather. Supervisor Randy Polson did not have a report. Fire Department member Stacy Fornengo reported that the fire equipment needs maintenance ASAP—Jack will contact Pete Hammond and Stan Dzikonski to coordinate times and supplies to get that taken care of. Extinguishers in our buildings have been inspected and are up to date. Plan Commission Chair Brian Conley reported they continue to work on formatting of the Comprehensive Survey results and that the PC is a good group of people to work with. They are also looking at revising the Non-Metallic Mine ordinance to ensure it is up to date.

Gravel for Roads: Road crew foreman Brian Conley shared the roads need gravel and while we still have gravel in our pit and the binder is good, he would like to see us apply for grants for gravel for the roads versus replacing structures that still have a lot of life left in them. Where we put our money into our roads is where we have good roads. The board will need to consider what to do with the ARPA funds and whether or not to apply for BIL funds—right now our bridges do not qualify for BIL funds since they are less than 20 feet and costs are split 80% federal/20% town money. If a bridge even qualifies and costs \$1 Million to replace, we would need to come up with a large sum of money (20%) that we really don't have and he feels we would be better served using some of the ARPA funds for applying for gravel grants. However, he needs to know what direction the town will be going. He is also suggested running tests on the bigger rock at the Tri-Lakes gravel pit.

Signs for Hall/Fire Department: Now that we are in the new hall and fire garage, we need to install sign(s) to identify what the building is as there has been some confusion on the location of our new hall and fire garage. It is possible we could use some ARPA money here as well because when the 911 system is down, we are required to man the fire garage in case of an emergency and if there is no way to identify the location/building, it creates confusion. Various options were suggested—i.e., digital by the road, signs on the hall, etc. Jack Byrd will check into digital and/or various options and potential costs as the Shriners just recently installed a sign. Other options will be explored as well. In addition, portable signs that can be placed on roadsides as a person enters our township were also discussed—i.e., possible sign boards with plastic inserts to place activity information in, etc. This will also be looked into but was tabled at the moment.

Salaries: In order to increase elected board salaries for the next administration (2023-25), the topic needs to be discussed and voted on in the even years (this year) for it to take effect. In anticipation of this, Carolyn Jones, clerk for the Town of Superior, surveyed all townships for comparison and provided the town clerks with a spreadsheet of all the town salaries. Clerk Laurie Dolsen passed out a copy and shared that we are in good shape compared to other townships as far as salaries go. Overall consensus was to just keep the elected board salary as is for now. No action was taken.

Equipment Status: LD reminded those present that the \$100,000 levied to go toward the purchase of a new grader needs to be spent this year. We were placed on a waiting list to order a grader so Brian Conley will check to see if it has been ordered yet. He shared that the F550 truck recently received a lot of repairs as well but it does take a beating checking on roads during emergencies and bad weather, etc. Other equipment will be replaced as we can afford it.

ARPA/BIL Funds: LD shared recent information she received during the WTA District Meeting/BOR Training regarding the ARPA funds (what qualifies to spend the money on) and BIL funds (do we qualify). A decision also needs to be made if we will go with the Standard Allowance (gives us the most flexibility in spending) or using the formula method—it is a one-time decision when reporting by April 30, 2022. After a brief discussion, Sandy Waletzko motioned to go with the Standard Allowance for spending the ARPA funds; Randy Polson seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The board will check into whether or not we qualify to apply for BIL funds (applications are due June 3, 2022) but it is highly unlikely we will qualify and if we do, we may not have the 20% funds to match.

Set 2023 Annual Meeting Date/Adjourn: Brian Conley motioned to set the 2023 Annual Town Meeting date as the Statutory date of the third Tuesday of April—April 18, 2023, at 7 p.m.; Randy Polson seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Sandy Waletzko motioned to adjourn; Randy Polson seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Dolsen, Town Clerk

Meeting minutes are DRAFT until approved at the next annual town meeting.