

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 12, 2021, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Dana Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, Laurie Dolsen, and 8 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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 September 14 Regular Town Board meeting and the October 4 and 6 budget workshops were reviewed previously and any changes noted. DD motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Reports: Clerk Laurie Dolsen shared she has been working extensively on preparing the budget, preparing for the upcoming tax bills, preparing for the 2022 elections (there will be 4), preparing the required documents for the County redistricting; continuing to file and organize the office; and is assisting the Parkland town clerk as needed during this very busy time. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo had nothing to report. Supervisors Dana Dolsen and Randy Polson had nothing to report. Chair Jack Byrd will discuss any items further in the meeting. Fire Chief John Melcher reported they had 6 EMS runs/calls last month (4 were mutual aid); an EMS workshop in Rhinelander was attended a few weeks ago; CPR renewals were completed recently (cards need to be paid for by the town); 4 more radios will be needed (some are 10+ years old and are no longer usable—it will be about \$4,000 to \$5,000 from DSC Communications); and an antenna for the building is needed (switching to WisCOM). JM asked if the maintenance of the fire equipment such as oil changes, etc., was going to be done by the town employees (it was previously done by town employees when Randy Martin was chief and the equipment was housed in the same building but now they are in different buildings and Randy is retired). We have a smaller road crew now who are not readily available to maintain all the equipment (both road and fire) and Pete Hammond has offered to do it—he would need to be paid for his time. Pete will be asked and a price will be negotiated as we do not want to pull our road crew away from work on the roads and the road equipment. A schedule of maintenance for the fire equipment will also be developed. Discussion then followed on mounting the TV on the concrete wall or the sheetrock wall in the fire hall and it will be mounted on the sheetrock wall. Road Crew foreman Brian Conley shared that the road crew has been hauling gravel on the Old Lyman Lake Road, hauling manure from Middleton’s farm to the shop; hauling sand to the shop for top soil and mix; cutting trees off roads from the high winds; ditching Torgerson Road; grading; going to the courthouse to pull the deed information on the Rice Farm Road; working on FEMA paperwork; hauling top soil to the town hall and spreading it to smooth out the lawns; hauling sand for the salt/sand and hauling sand for the salt/sand. Douglas County Supervisor Joe Moen was not present—no report.

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

Plan Commission: The Plan Commission met on Monday, October 11, and discussed the comprehensive survey results (who took survey and improving communication, etc.), the resolution for the website, suggestions for campground conditional use permits when received, etc. In order to improve communication since most people indicated they wanted more information but couldn’t attend meetings, they requested the town’s official website be updated to include Plan Commission members names and contact information, the building inspector contact information (take out the vacant animal

control position); and add the land use website information. They would also like to put a card in the tax bills with the land use/plan commission information. They also discussed and are monitoring the legal issues surrounding short term rentals (County is currently using the state laws to regulate their use and the WTA is just beginning to look at the issue) and solar panels.

Olson Decking Removal/Culvert: After the decking/boardwalk was removed, RP inspected the area and found that drainage in the area is not good due to the collapsed culvert on the Olson property. He also discovered that the shed was removed but not the platform. Neighbors would still like to access the lake but are unable to because it is too wet in the area due to poor drainage from the collapsed culvert. The collapsed culvert needs to be replaced which should improve the drainage issues in the area. After a brief discussion, LD will draft a letter requesting the culvert be replaced before winter so there will not be any backups or drainage issues in the spring when the snow melts. The letter will include a driveway application and information.

Redistricting: No changes for the Town of Oakland will occur with the County's redistricting plan but our township is required to pass a resolution accepting the town's wards in the district and upon approval it must be submitted to the County as part of their legal redistricting plan. A resolution was prepared and reviewed. DD motioned to approve the town's redistricting resolution as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Election Inspector Salaries: We will be reappointing election inspectors again this year for a two-year term and their current salaries are low compared to other townships in the County (LD provided a list)—the salaries have also not been increased in many years. In addition, the work of the election inspectors has also increased greatly and they should be compensated accordingly. LD proposed raising the salaries to \$12 for election inspectors (up from the current \$10 per hour) and the chief election inspector to \$13 (up from \$11 per hour). DD motioned to increase the election inspector/chief election inspector salaries to \$12/\$13 respectively; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Garbage/Recycling Increase: The last increase in fees took place in 2014 and costs have steadily risen since that time. In order to meet the increased costs per our new garbage contract, LD proposed raising the yearly fees per can from \$100 to \$103 (\$206 per parcel with a dwelling). DD motioned to increase our annual garbage costs by \$3 per can (\$6 per parcel with two cans) in order to meet increasing garbage/recycling costs (seasonals will be half of the cost as is the current practice); RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Town Hall Rental for Weddings: Now that we have had a few weddings occur at the new town hall, discussion followed regarding if we are charging appropriately for the wedding rental fee compared to other facilities. Current costs for other events seem appropriate but weddings are more involved and cleanup cost is increased. Discussion followed but no decision could be made as additional information needs to be gathered and evaluated. This item was tabled and moved to discussion at November's regular town board meeting.

Custodian Costs/Salary: Previously when we were in the old town hall, salary for the custodian was set at \$8.75. We now have a new building with increased space and responsibilities regarding maintenance and upkeep both inside and out. It was felt the custodian salary should be raised immediately to \$15. RP motioned the custodian salary be increased immediately to \$15 per hour; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Propane—Pre-Buy?: As heating/fuel costs are rising, it might be cost effective for us to possibly enter into a contract with a local vendor to pre-buy fuel to keep costs down. DD will contact local vendors and investigate costs and will let the board know what she finds.

Purchase Floor Scrubber: The square footage of the floor in the new town hall is too difficult to maintain by mopping and it is best to purchase a floor scrubber instead. JB has ordered one and once it is delivered, he will show Stan/custodian and others how it works.

Resolution—Levy Limit: During the recent budget workshops, replacing our aging equipment (both road and fire) was discussed and it cannot be done under our current town levy which has not increased since 2013. The first step in proposing to increase the town's levy to begin replacing road maintenance equipment and fire department equipment is a resolution by the town board. DD motioned to approve the Resolution presented requesting to increase the town's levy by \$100,000 to begin replacing our aging and broken equipment; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Set Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting to Approve the 2022 Proposed Budget/2021 Levy: November 9, 2021, at 6 p.m. was set as the date for the Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting to approve the 2022 Proposed Budget and the 2021 Town Levy. It will be published and posted accordingly.

Public Comment: JB and RP will be attending the Local Road Improvement Program meeting on Monday to look at possibly funding the repair of Old Lyman Lake Road. Brian Conley commented that the board should be ready to respond to questions regarding equipment conditions for both the road and fire department equipment for the levy limit increase. The next regular town board meeting will be on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m. (after the budget hearing and special town meeting). DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk