

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd, Dana Dolsen, Randy Polson, Laurie Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, and 7 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Town Chair Jack Byrd; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; a quorum was present; and the meeting was properly posted. Meeting minutes from the October 12, 2021, regular town board meeting were reviewed previously and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve the October 12, 2021, regular town board meeting minutes as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Reports: Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported she has been working extensively on the budget, 2022 election preparations, preparing for the tax bills, assisting the Parkland Town Clerk with her budget, mill rate worksheet, etc., and working on the Levy Limit worksheet for submittal to the DOR. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported she has completed the Dog License Report and explained the report and how the costs are calculated. Supervisor Dana Dolsen shared the board met with an acoustic panel expert to tour our building, take decibel readings and hear her recommendations. Cost would be approximately \$6,563 (includes labor and material) or less \$1,300 if we do the labor. Sandee Pease explained the recommendations from the panel expert and discussion followed. Upon completion of the discussion, DD motioned to go with the acoustic panel expert's recommendation and have the vendor install it to ensure any warranty on the product; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. DD also shared that she and Greg represented the Town at the Halloween Trunk or Treat at 4 Corners store providing food and refreshments and Stan Dzikonski represented the fire department. Approximately 550 kids showed up. DD would like to start a committee to plan more community events and shared to contact her if anyone is interested. Supervisor Randy Polson shared he has been contacting local vendors to secure a lower price on propane since prices are expected to keep rising. So far, Como propane was the lowest--\$1.49 for propane only and \$1.39 for propane/diesel. Chair Jack Byrd reported his items will be covered later in the meeting. Stacy Fornengo shared on behalf of the fire department that 2 sets of turnout gear have been ordered as well as 4 new radios. Pete Hammond will maintain the equipment. Volunteer hours are needed toward a Senior Project and the VFD is wondering if a waiver is needed or if the volunteers would be included under our policy. We will have to check. Ashley Gustafson was selected to serve as the new VFD secretary/treasurer. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conly reported they have graded the roads, ditched the Torgerson Road, hauled salt, pushed trees off the Tri-Lakes Road, poured the slab for the old grader donated by Arvid Stromquist, dozed out the ditchings, put a new exhaust on the 04 Mack truck, buried a horse, brought the backhoe to Fabick/CAT for warranty work, started ditching the Old Lyman Lake Road, worked in the shop, cleaned up the garbage dumped on the Old Lyman Lake Road, fixed a bus turnaround, picked up hay and blew it on the Old Lyman Lake Road and the Torgerson Road, and started servicing the equipment in preparation for winter. Douglas County Supervisor Joe Moen apologized for missing the last few meetings due to being double booked with other meetings for the County. He shared that the Forestry Department fall timber sale went better than expected but it is still down from previous years. In Zoning, he shared that the County denied the zoning change for a hobby farm after the town approved it. He also shared that the campground ordinance is being worked on.

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

Plan Commission: The Plan Commission met today (November 9) at 2:30 p.m. Correspondence has been received from Zoning regarding a resolution and an amendment to Ordinance 8.0. The PC will review the correspondence and have a recommendation next month. The Conditional Use Permit for Bergen was reviewed and the PC recommended approval for storage only. The comprehensive plan continues to be worked on and is mostly done—they are waiting on additional direction. Members of the PC will be attending the upcoming WTA Douglas County Unit meeting. (JB mentioned that he will also be attending the WTA meeting and will be discussing the need to pay volunteer fire department members for calls as an incentive to train and retain them.)

The PC presented a resolution recognizing the Land Use website and reviewed items that have been recently added. Discussion followed on what belongs on the Land Use website and what belongs on the official Town website. The resolution regarding the website has been tabled at the moment. DD motioned to approve the Bergen Conditional Use Permit for storage only; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Rice Farm Road Resolution: In 2006, a resolution was approved to add the school bus turnaround on the Rice Farm Road to our road mileage for maintenance due to a bear issue. Now, the current property owner has allowed large containers and vehicles to be located on the turnaround/road so it is no longer able to be maintained safely. The owner has been notified to remove them but he has declined. JB requested a resolution to remove that portion from the road mileage. Brian Conley said we may have to follow a different process to rescind the road mileage and discontinue maintenance of that portion of the road. JB will check with the WTA on the correct process to use (based on ss 66.1003) and will let the board know once the information is received.

Olson Culvert Replacement Status: A letter was sent to the Olson's on October 22 and no one has received any contact yet to install a culvert. JB will try to contact him to get a status update.

Town Hall Rental for Weddings: DD shared comparable fees from other entities and townships and discussed our costs that need to be covered by the rental fees (custodian/heat/AC/etc.) and our township is low and may not be covering our full costs. Based on information collected, DD motioned to change the wedding package costs to \$250 for a resident and \$300 for a non-resident; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. We will track costs and revisit this again if needed.

Insurance Policy Renewal: Insurance is due for renewal December 1 and no bill has been received yet. LD contacted our Rural Mutual Insurance representative and the bill was delayed because he was appealing a decision on the value of our current town garage facility. He won the appeal and a bill should be coming soon. Once received, LD asked if it should be paid. JB said he has been looking at getting additional quotes and if we receive any, we will call a special town board meeting to discuss, if not, we can go ahead and pay the Rural Mutual bill once it is received.

Union Bargaining: A special town board meeting is set for November 23 at 6 p.m. to go into closed session to bargain the new union contract.

Approval of 2022 Budget and 2021 Town Levy: DD motioned to approve the 2022 Budget that was approved at the Special Town Meeting held today at 6 p.m. prior to the Regular Town Board meeting; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. RP motioned to approve the town levy of \$396,831 for 2021 that was approved at the Special Town Meeting held today at 6 p.m. prior to the Regular Town Board meeting; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Public Comment: Brian Conley shared that the increase in the levy is to purchase a new grader and ordering one now still would take 8 months or more +/- to receive and that interest rates are climbing. He presented financing options (amount/interest rates/number of years to finance/etc.) and costs for a new grader. After discussion, RP motioned to approve moving forward with purchasing and financing a new grader as presented for 4 years; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

RP thanked everyone present for coming to the town board meetings and providing input and asking questions. The next town board meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen Town Clerk