

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County**  
**Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 7 p.m.**  
**Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Dana Dolsen, Laurie Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, and 9 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jack Byrd at 7 p.m.; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; a quorum was present; and the meeting was properly posted. Meeting minutes from the February 11 Regular Town Board Meeting and the February 11 Special Town Board Meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve both meeting minutes from February 11 as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Reports:** Clerk Laurie Dolsen shared she is: wrapping up the February 18 Primary Election, starting work on the April 1 Spring Election, working to find Stan Dzikonski's distribution check from VFIS for his Length of Service, organizing and filing in preparation for the new clerk, reviewing the garbage accounts, filing the financial debt report to Douglas County, preparing the taxes for the February Settlement, working on inputting the 2025 budget into QuickBooks, preparing for the Form CT, preparing for the annual meeting on April 15, and preparing the balance sheet for the bank loan refinancing. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported she is working on the taxes and collecting/issuing the dog licenses. Supervisor Dana Dolsen had no report but shared that the heat in the town hall isn't functioning correctly, and Stack Brothers needs to be called to fix it. Supervisor Randy Polson shared that operator Brian Conley is retiring as of April 1 but will be on the payroll until his leave time is used up. Chair Jack Byrd had no report. Fire Department reported that fire inspections of businesses in the township will probably need to be hired out for now until it can be returned to being completed in-house. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley reported they plowed snow, cut brush, worked in the shop, brought the 140H to Fabick/CAT for a new clutch cable, worked on the brusher, sanded the roads, welded the brusher head, steamed culverts, cut off downed trees, worked on the shop truck brakes, plowed the parking lots, and winged out drifts that occurred across the roads due to high winds. County Supervisor Joe Moen was not present—no report. Community Group Chair Dana Dolsen reported that the community group members and the volunteer fire department members got together at the Log Cabin Bar to get to know each other and as a thank you for all the work they do together on various events. The snowshoe races were a success and after expenses, \$653 went into each account (VFD Auxiliary and Oakland Community Group). A thank you was given to Stacy and Lydia for all their hard work and it was shared that the Log Cabin donated the cost of the band (\$1,000) for the dance on Saturday night and it is greatly appreciated.

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

**Plan Commission:** They did not meet this month. Sandy Pease is reviewing the Utility/Access ordinance for any updates or revisions needed. The flood plain maps have been picked up.

**Operator License:** An operator License application has been received and a background check is pending. DD motioned to approve the operator license if the background check comes back clear; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Town Hall Loan Renewal/Additional Money Towards Loan:** As we are coming up on the maturity date for our second commercial mortgage loan on the town hall (April 1), it has been suggested that members of the town board, signatory board members on our accounts, and new upcoming board members meet with our bank representatives to determine the direction we should take with our loans—should we refinance the one loan or should we combine both loans. Discussion followed and a meeting will be set up with the bank representatives to determine the best option to pursue.

**Fire Inspections—Hire Outside Person(s) to Perform Them:** This was discussed previously during the VFD report. We will hire someone outside our department to complete the inspections until we can bring it back in-house.

**Fabick/CAT Equipment Maintenance Bid/Proposal:** We have received a proposed maintenance agreement for our expensive new equipment. Brian explained what options are included in the proposal and recommended we approve signing the maintenance agreement as there are a lot of computer components involved with our new grader and repairs would be expensive and the warranty would be voided if maintenance was not kept up. After discussion and response to questions, DD motioned to approve the maintenance agreement as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Staffing/Replacement for Operator Retirement:** Since Brian will be retiring April 1, we will need to eventually replace him. For safety reasons and for the size of our township and the amount of work that needs to be done, two operators are needed. Brian is still on the books using up his accrued leave time and it was felt we could move forward with hiring his replacement in the later part of the summer so they can be trained. The new chair should be involved in the hiring process, and it was felt a field test should be part of the hiring process since we have new equipment. The position will need to be advertised, and a background check and references will be needed. No action will be taken at this time.

**Public Comment:** None.

The next Regular Town Board Meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn the meeting; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk