

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County  
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.  
Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Dana Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, Laurie Dolsen, and 13 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order at 7 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 February 14, 2023, Regular Board meeting were reviewed previous to this meeting and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve the February 14, 2023, 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 begun working on putting the information together for the Form CT (towns taxes), is preparing for the April Annual Town Meeting (Tuesday, April 18, 2023), assisted with the Snowshoe Races, worked with the vendor to complete the retirement payout request for a volunteer firefighter, completed work on the February Spring Primary, is preparing for the April 4, 2023, Spring Election, has handled garbage calls, and will register any board member who wants to attend the WTA meeting to be held in Cable on March 30 (JB will attend). Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported she is wrapping up the Snowshoe Races and has adjusted the hours in the new online Operating Engineers website where needed. Supervisor Dana Dolsen thanked the road crew for a job well done on clearing the roads after the recent snowstorms, especially while having to deal with equipment issues. She also reported that the Snowshoe Races held on February 26 were a huge success as there was a great turnout and funds were raised for the Volunteer Fire Department and the Community Group—a lot of positive feedback was received and it was a great event with many volunteers assisting. Supervisor Randy Polson said he has been dealing with complaints about residents plowing snow across the roads and leaving debris on the road—this is an agenda item for later in the meeting. Chair Jack Byrd thanked the Community Group and the Volunteer Fire Department members for working together to bring back the Snowshoe Races—it was a great success! Fire Chief John Melcher was not present—no report but Stacy Fornengo thanked everyone for helping make the Snowshoe Races a success this year, especially the Community Group. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley reported they put the steamer together, pushed culverts, built a platform for the water tank, steamed culverts, finished the stairs in the fire department, put lifting hooks on the new steamer, worked on the Mack truck (hose replacement), worked on the 140H grader, sanded the roads, picked up trash on the Lien Road, plowed the turnarounds to open them up, winged snowbanks back, and plowed snow. County Supervisor Joe Moen shared the zoning change application from the Town of Oakland was approved, there is a Zoning Conference on March 28 in Solon Springs, a new coordinator has been hired, and there was \$4.3 million in forestry sales.

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

**Plan Commission:** The Plan Commission did not meet due to the snowstorm. PC chair Brian Conley reported that Stacy is reviewing the Municipal Operating Plan for updates and will forward it to the PC for review prior to bringing it to the Board for approval. No applications have been received to review and act on and there are no other updates.

**Steve Olson Property:** JB called the designer from Prairie Restoration to get measurements (width and elevation) and he never called back. RP has also spoken with Mr. Olson and various agencies and more information and numerous approvals will be needed: Plan Commission review and recommendation (does not have all the information needed but no planting or removals would take place on the town's land and no water would be allowed to drain on our land as well); town approval; DC Zoning approval; DNR approval; etc. More

information is needed—no action occurred. Discussion continued regarding the Olson platform that is still about 30% on our land that will need to be removed. LD will pull the letter previously sent requesting its removal.

**Graders:** Both graders are having maintenance issues—the 1996 140H needs work and the new grader is being repaired after finding fuel pump issues at the 250-hour warranty check. Plowing has been a challenge with these issues taking the graders out of service to be fixed.

**Road Discussion:** This year, there has been a higher number of residents plowing snow across the town roads and leaving debris on the road. This puts the town employees and our very expensive equipment in danger of serious injury and damage. It is okay to clear snow by the mailboxes to push it back but it is illegal to leave any snow or ice debris on the roads. Jack has taken pictures of residents that have properly plowed the snow—we can post them on our website and on FB if needed. Letters will be sent when needed but solutions will also be added to the letter.

Parr Road—a lengthy discussion followed regarding land ownership on Parr Road and town correspondence from 2004 and 2011 regarding this road issue. LD provided the folder we have on the Parr Road issue and Barb also provided copies of previous correspondence. A citizen suggested our legal counsel may need to take a look at this issue. DD motioned to table discussion on the Parr Road issue until more information is received and the Plan Commission and the Board have time to review it; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**VFD Retirement Plan:** While recently working with the representative handling our VFD retirement, she stated we are only one of a few departments who are still under the Lincoln Benefit Plan—most have moved to a plan under Empower, which has a minimum guarantee of 3% interest and funds disbursed are sent directly to the fire fighter and they handle the 1099 information, etc., not the town. She suggested we start moving our funds over to an Empower account; however only 10% of the funds can be disbursed per year without penalty so we may have to wait to move the funds this year depending on what the most recent disbursement is. The rest can be moved in increments per year.

**Fiber Internet (Citizen Agenda Item):** We were recently contacted by a citizen requesting we promote East Central Energy installing fiber optic internet in our area—the more interest in an area, the faster it will be installed. The town promoting a single business is not recommended but citizens can feel free to go to ECE's website and show their interest independently.

**ARPA Funding:** Clerk LD will be submitting the required spending report by April 30 and reminded the board that ARPA funding must be encumbered by 2024 and spent by 2026.

**Public Comment:** LD asked the board if they had a chance to review the Fabick/CAT Customer Value Agreement documents from the February meeting. They had and RP motioned to sign up for the value agreement; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

The next regular town board meeting is Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk