

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Dana Dolsen, Laurie Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, and 16 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 March 14, 2023, regular town board meeting were reviewed and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve the minutes as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Reports: Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported the recent election on April 4 was successful with almost 400 voters casting a ballot; she is also working on preparing for the annual meeting, the Form CT report, the annual ARPA report, the quarterly payroll reports, and Open Book/Board of Review. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported the taxes for the first part of the year are done and she has added additional loan information to the financial report. Supervisors Dana Dolsen and Randy Polson did not have anything to report. Chair Jack Byrd did not have anything to report. Fire Chief John Melcher shared they had 5 medical calls, 1 fire call, 5 mutual aid medical calls, 2 fire alarms and 1 CO check. They have been looking at a 1992 equipment van for \$59,000 (it is yellow and all set up already) with 74,000 miles and it is located in Illinois. John will be going to Texas for FD training and can stop and look at it on his way. We would also need to look at the maintenance record as it is not much newer than our current van. Discussion will continue on the purchase of a new FD equipment van. John also said they are hoping for a short wildland fire season this year as well. Road crew foreman Brian Conley shared they have been steaming culverts, plowing snow, winging out the roads, changed the blades, scraping ice off the roads, opening culverts, winging back drifts from the recent high winds, grading, and putting out cones from the rapid snow melt. They have had numerous ice storms and blizzards this year with record snowfall so the rapid snowmelt is challenging and causing flooding. County Board Supervisor Joe Moen shared they recently had the logger forum in Solon Springs and recommended we attend next year. Representative Tom Tiffany was also in attendance and Joe can send out the materials if anyone wants them. The Zoning conference was well attended and there were no other items to report.

Bills: The bills were previously reviewed and DD motioned to approve the bills as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Note: We are still waiting for bills from ICO, Campbells, and Udeens and will pay those once received.

Plan Commission: The Plan Commission met at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, April 10, and worked on the Town access ordinance. They are also going through the Municipal Emergency Operations Plan to update it as needed. Stacy looked over the plan and made a few minor updates (i.e., cover sheet, contacts, length of service, resolution to approve, etc.). Mary Brill recently attended a Zoning Meeting Review that was very informative and will attend again next year. The Parr Road plat and documents were reviewed and discussed. A letter needs to be sent from the board regarding the proposed project on the Steve Olson property stating they will need Douglas County Zoning approval, DNR concurrence/approval, Army Corps of Engineer approval, and the platform on the town's access property needs to be removed. JB will draft a letter and send it out. They are also looking for anyone who would be interested in serving on the Plan Commission/Land Use Committee—terms are 3 years and the current members and chair have served longer than 3 years. If anyone is interested in serving, please contact a board member or Brian, Plan Commission chair. They also shared they are revisiting the short-term rental ordinance to make sure residents are aware of the requirements—County requires a license, etc.

Plowing Private Driveways: DD shared she received a call regarding the town winging back private driveways which is not occurring. She read the town's policy from the policy manual and said they have turned down requests that have been received. This has been an exceptional year for snowfall amounts and the roads are being

winged back so depending on where a driveway is located and the amount of snow being moved, a driveway may also be impacted but is not being plowed or winged back. Per state law, driveways cannot be plowed unless the owner is charged and we have not plowed driveways for many years, except in the case of an emergency situation and/or response. The policy in the town's Policy manual will be looked at and additional language may be added to clarify. Information on snow removal and the town's policy will most likely be sent out with next year's tax bills.

Flea Market: Jane Alexson will be operating a flea market on her property on Rice Farm Road this year. She will be placing a 4 x 8 foot sign at the end of the road on private property and will go through DC Zoning to get a permit. Parking was then discussed—she has a field big enough to park about 12 vehicles—vehicles cannot be parked on the road for emergency access and safety issues and the shoulders are also too soft and not wide enough. All parking must be off road and a Land Use permit will be reviewed when received.

Hall Rentals: The Save Four Corners School group would like to rent the hall to collect signatures for a petition. Rentals can take place at the regular rate that is posted on our website and they will not be allowed to set up a table at the Town Cleanup location for safety reasons. DD will contact their representative to discuss. Denston's of South Range Defense are interested in sponsoring a free community event regarding mass shooter education and firearm safety in the home. They are just starting to look at developing the event that would bring in guest speakers, fire departments, sheriff departments, etc. Discussions will continue and it is hoped that by being proactive with education on this issue, our community would be safer. Nothing is planned at this time—just in the discussion/research/development phase.

Open Book/Board of Review: Open book will be on Tuesday, April 25, from 3-5 p.m. and Board of Review will be on Tuesday, May 2, from 4-6 p.m.

Parr Road/Barb Miller Discussion: JB recently spoke with the landowner regarding the Parr Road issue. Discussion followed on the history of this issue, previous correspondence, etc. The town has maintained this road to the end and owns the road; however, Ms. Miller is claiming she owns the road. The burden of proof rests on Ms. Miller to prove ownership of the road. Mary Brill will make an appointment with Laurie to look through an old filing cabinet to see if there are any additional documents for Parr Road.

Clean-up Day Prices: LD would like to post the clean-up day poster and wanted to know if any prices have changed from last year. JB will check on the tire contract but otherwise, the prices can remain as is for this year. They will most likely increase next year. Mike from Gronk's will donate food, Afterlife will collect the appliances and electronics, and John will send out a message to the fire department members to remind them of the volunteer day.

Public Comment: Fiber internet from ECE will eventually be coming to the area and will start in areas with the most interest and a resident has requested Oakland residents contact ECE to show their interest so it comes here faster. Trim work in the town hall was recently completed—thank you to the road crew and Randy for a job well done. A call was made to authorities that the town was selling firewood that was cut in the ROW for profit—this has never been done and will never be done. A resident shared she is concerned there is a lot of misinformation being shared on flyers being distributed by the various committees trying to save their schools from closure and urged residents to seek out correct information—note there is no involvement from the township or the clerk on those issues and committees. The next regular town board meeting is on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk