

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
2024 Annual Town Meeting of the Electors
Tuesday, April 15, 2025 at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

The meeting was called to order by Town Chair, Jack Byrd at 7:01 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Verification of Qualified Electors at the Meeting: Present and in person were Laurie Dolsen (clerk), Lydia Schroeder (incoming elected clerk), Pete Fornengo (incoming elected chair), Jack Byrd (chair), and 18 interested citizens. All present and in person were verified as qualified electors for voting purposes.

Swearing in of New Officers: Laurie Dolsen overseen the oath of new Town Clerk, Lydia Schroeder. Lydia Schroeder then overseen the oath of newly elected chairman Pete Fornengo. Followed by the oath of Town Supervisors, Randy Polson and Dana Dolsen, and Treasurer, Stacy Fornengo.

Jack B – last meeting. Officially completed his term as chairman. Humbly thank the township for the support over the years. Past chairman. 30 years of service.

Call for Agenda Items/Approve Order of Business:

Call for Agenda Items / Approve Order of Business: Chairman, Pete Fornengo called for agenda items from the electors present. The following items were requested:

1. Mary Brill: Increase the salary of the custodian to \$17 / hour
2. Sandy Waletzko: Another plug for the Community Group, increasing members
3. Laurie Dolsen: Fire Department Tanker repair or replace. Jack Byrd: Fire Department needs updated radios. Within Budget currently
4. Mary Brill: New plan for town finances since special meeting regarding loan repayment
5. Mary Brill: Road Crew – personnel numbers
6. Sandy Waletzko: shared revenue items, no changes. increased. Maintenance of Effort needs to be turned in.
7. Re-assessment for property values. Liz – percentages for saving next year.
8. Greg Dolsen – back taxes from residents that haven't paid.

Supervisor Randy Polson motioned to approve the agenda/order of business. Mark Staves seconded this motion; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Review/Approve Town Meeting Minutes:

Previous Annual town meeting minutes from April 16, 2024. Randy Polson motioned to approve these minutes; seconded by Greg Dolsen; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Previous November 12, 2024 budget meeting minutes. Mary Brill motioned to approve the minutes; Shane Schroeder seconded the motion; all in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Review and Approve the 2024 Financial Report

Greg Dolsen of the town road crew noted that the line item listed for the 96 grader 140H for \$59.93 should be moved to the 98 grader line item. Greg Dolsen also remarked on 5331178 charge line item for the 2024 Mac dump truck. Laurie Dolsen investigated and noted that this charge was an invoice from Nuss Truck on January 9th 2024. Greg Dolsen will review invoice and ensure that this line item shouldn't have been covered under warranty. Mary Brill motioned to approve the Financial Report with the change for the grader charges and verification of non-warranty work. Randy Polson seconds this motion; all in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

Town Board Reports: Treasures Stacy Fornengo, nothing to report at this time. Laurie Dolsen, clerk, noted the training process for new clerk Lydia Schroeder. Chair Jack Byrd nothing to report at this time.

Planning Commission: Brain Conley reported that he would like to thank the other people on the commission, the experience has been very good and appreciates Sandy for correcting grammar.

Elector Agenda Items:

1. **Custodian increased wage:** Dana Dolsen listed the current job duties and attributes that may make staffing difficult in the future: maintaining, cleaning, mowing the lawn, sometimes on holidays, unlocking the hall as needed. She emphasized the importance on filling the spot after she is no longer in the role. Brian Conley remarked that McDonald's pays more than \$17 and this job has more responsibilities. Brian Conley makes a motion to approve, Sandy Waletzko seconds; all in favor via voice vote; motion carried.
2. **Community Group:** Dana Dolsen explained that currently 10 people serve on the Community Group. Next event to be held is the Pancake breakfast, May 3rd 8:00am – 11:30am with a cost of \$8 per person, 5 and under free. Previous events for the year included: the snowshoe races, Fall Fest, and a Wellness Clinic all held at the Town Hall. Sandy Waletzko wanted to provide this information and share that they are looking to increase membership. The group meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30. Additionally, this month the group will meet on the 30th of April in preparation for the Pancake Breakfast event. The group would like to have the board make recommendations for events in the future and assist with advertising on the board at the shop, Facebook, website, and posters around businesses.
3. **Fire Department – Tanker Truck, equipment, radios:** Stacy Fornengo started providing information. The tanker truck is old and leaking. The department needs some new equipment. The tanker truck needs tire replacement. Additionally, next year the radios need to be replaced. She got a quote of around \$3000 for turnout gear without a helmet or boots per each individual. 12 new radios is a cost of around \$15,000 with a grant. Turnout gear replacement is on a rotation, 2 new ones each time. This is a requirement, and the FD would have to shut down if these are not up to date. Greg Dolsen mentioned maintenance for the tanker truck, but this is only a short-term solution. A \$300 investment went for the small tanker truck. Greg is collecting quotes for the tires for the truck. Stacy Fornengo also mentioned the need for new ice rescue suits. The current equipment may be able to be patched. 1 outfit to replace is around \$1000. Overall positive involvement and increased membership with 7 people at training last Saturday and overall, more people responding to calls. There may be some grants available for these replacements, Stacy working on looking into this. Greg Dolsen, updated the rescue unit. Stacy updated oxygen tanks and other EMS equipment.
4. **New Finance Plan for 2024.** Stacy Fornengo spoke regarding the special meeting held March 31, 2025. At this meeting the board met with interested residents and decided to consolidate the 2 loans for 13.5 years with a set interest rate along with a \$9000 payment down on the loan consolidation. All future hall rental revenue will be applied toward the principal.
5. **Road Crew Personnel:** Dana Dolsen addressed the group about adding another crew member now that Brian has retired. Mary would like to know the plans for hiring the new people. Dana Dolsen proposed taking applications in July and interviewing in August, proceeding through the hiring process and hire in September or October. Deferring the process to July helps to preserve this year's budget and allow to budget next year for the new employee while still paying current employees. Dana also suggested adding a skills test, background check, and referrals to the application process. Randy Polson discussed the transition to new chairman Pete. Randy would like to get his feedback now that he is the new chair.
6. **Reassessment** – Liz Fredericks would like to know more information about the reassessment. Laurie Dolsen stated to the group that the last total reassessment was in 2013. Pre the State the Town must be within 90% and right now at 71%. Barrett Brenner, the assessor, can do a full market analysis and update. This market analysis falls within the budget whereas a full reassessment is \$43,000 - \$45,000, market analysis is about \$21,000. The contract was rewritten for this year and allows us to pay in increments. Hopefully that will bring this back up to 90%.
7. **Back taxes:** Stacy Fornengo, Treasurer, addressed the group about how the county collects taxes and generally doesn't garnish property until after 3-4 years. The Town only gets the payment for those back taxes when the property sells. Currently the Town is at \$117,000 in back taxes for town residents for just 2024. Greg Dolsen addressed that this affects the town spending. Dana Dolsen states that we will need to be good stewards with the budget. Stacy also explained how the garbage bill is paid ahead because residents cannot pay for garbage before the service is provided. This also affects the budget because the Town must wait until taxes are collected to recover that money. Mark Staves brought up information about the board doing a special assessment for the fire

department to increase their budget. Liz asked about the budget shortfall of \$20k from last year. Laurie Dolsen addressed that the budget is based on the money coming in.

Set Date & Time for 2026 Annual Town Meeting: The 2026 Annual Town board meeting will take place on the third Tuesday of April per the state statute, which is April 21, 2026. The meeting will take place at 7:00pm at the Town Hall.

Mark Staves motioned to adjourn the meeting; Stacy Fornengo seconded; all voted in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Submitted,

Lydia M Schroeder, Town Clerk