

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County**  
**2024 Annual Town Meeting of the Electors**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 7 p.m.**  
**Oakland Town Hall**

The meeting was called to order by Town Supervisor, Randy Polson at 7:02 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

**Verification of Qualified Electors at the Meeting:** Present and in person were Randy Polson (acting chair), Laurie Dolsen (clerk), and 11 interested citizens. Chair Jack Bryd attended via phone. All present and in person were verified as qualified electors for voting purposes.

**Call for Agenda Items/Approve Order of Business:** RP called for agenda items from the electors present. The following items were requested:

1. Community Group
2. Shared Revenue Update
3. Town Board Salaries
4. Building Loan/Permanent Levy
5. Fire Department Sign/Recruitment/Equipment
6. Town Equipment Status
7. ARPA Funds
8. Garage Building Maintenance/Culvert Replacement

Greg Dolsen motioned to approve the agenda/order of business and to cast votes via raising of hands; Dana Dolsen seconded; all were in favor via show of hands; motion carried.

**Review/Approve Town Meeting Minutes:** Meeting minutes from the April 18, 2023, Annual Town Meeting and November 14, 2023, Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting were reviewed and Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Stacy Fornengo seconded; all were in favor via show of hands; motion carried.

**Review/Approve 2023 Financial Report:** The 2023 Financial Report was reviewed and questions were asked/answered. It was reminded that we need signs for the hall/fire garage and \$30,000 was previously designated/budgeted for by the townspeople for this purpose. After a period of questions/answers, Stacy Fornengo motioned to approve the 2023 Financial Report as presented; Greg Dolsen seconded; 9 hands were raised in approval; motion carried.

**Town Board Reports (if available):** Chair Jack Byrd reminded all present that we need to purchase equipment and clothing for the new members on the fire department. Clerk Laurie Dolsen shared that we were just informed that our township will be moved from the 73<sup>rd</sup> District to the 74<sup>th</sup> District due to the passing of recent change in law. No other town board members had reports at this time.

**Elector Agenda Items:**

1. **Community Group**—Community Group representative Dana Dolsen reported that they have 14 members and 1 junior member in the group. They meet the first Wednesday of the month and she encouraged others to become involved to help keep it going. In cooperation/coordination with the volunteer fire department, they assisted with the annual snowshoe races (town's only big fundraiser) and will be holding their annual Fall Fest in September. In October they are planning a "Know us Before you Need us" event in partnership with ARDC (Chelsea Thompson) and hope to bring in vendors/presenters on various topics such as hospice care, wills, etc.

2. Shared Revenue Update: The recent increase in shared revenue requires the Fire Department and the Town to provide Maintenance of Effort reports to the Department of Revenue by July 1 or the additional funding will not be received. Presentations on the required reporting were attended and they will also have a virtual meeting regarding reporting as well. The FD is looking at ways to improve tracking of involvement in incidents and meetings/trainings as that is a part of the reporting.
3. Town Board Salaries: An increase in town board salaries has not taken place for quite a few years and the work in each position has increased. After discussion, Brian Conley motioned to increase town board salaries by \$200 each per month as follows: Chair = \$800 (up from \$600), Supervisors x 2 = \$650 (up from \$450), Clerk = \$1,500 (up from \$1,300), and Treasurer = \$850 (up from \$650); Jim Waletzko seconded; 9 hands were raised in favor; motion carried.
4. Building Loan/Permanent Levy: There are currently two mortgage loans on the town building and so far, we have not had to levy the taxpayers to make the payments on the building loans—we have used money received from the ATC line and the regular levy to meet those obligations. However, with costs going up on materials and equipment and minimal to no increase in our levy, we need to look at increasing our levy (possibly permanently) to cover the costs of the loans and possibly pay them down quicker, which are currently mostly interest and some principal payments. It was recommended increasing the levy by \$100,000 to cover the costs of the town hall loan payments and some of the costs of the grader or truck loans as we may need to purchase newer fire department equipment too. The proper process would need to be investigated and followed and if the levy could be made permanent. We will also look at ways to lower the town's debt through possible refinancing or paying more on the principal when available. After much discussion, Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve supporting an increase to our levy by \$100,000 to cover the costs of the town hall loans and pending vital equipment needs; Dana Dolsen seconded; 10 hands were raised in support; motion carried.
5. Fire Department Sign/Recruitment/Equipment: For emergency staging purposes, a sign for the fire department is needed. Previously, \$30,000 was allocated for a town hall sign/fire department sign. Various options will be looked into. Also, we need to continue recruiting new members as some of our current members are reaching retirement age. We could look at putting up a recruitment table at various community events being held, etc. Everyone present was thankful for the service our volunteers provide and shared their appreciation for a job well done.
6. Town Equipment Status: Currently, our equipment is in decent shape. We have a new grader, a new truck, and a newer backhoe. The 1996 grader is showing signs of failing (would be the first to be replaced) and the 1998 excavator is getting weak but is functioning (would be the second to be replaced). The other truck and brusher are functioning okay now. The new grader will be paid off by the end of 2025, so we could possibly look at ordering a new grader and then rolling our current loan over into a new grader loan.
7. ARPA Funds: The ARPA money (Covid 19 funds received) needs to be designated/allocated by December 31, 2024, and spent by December 31, 2026. After discussion, it was determined that it would be best used if we allocated the remaining funds toward road improvement projects (\$40,000 was already used toward purchasing a fire department equipment truck).
8. Garage Building Maintenance/Culvert Replacement: A new door needs to replace the current dual doors on the North end of the town garage (old fire department portion of the building). We will also need to seal the roof and paint the rest of the garage to prolong the life of the building (some metal will also need to be replaced). The culvert on the Conley Road will also need to be replaced. These projects will be completed as funds allow.

**Set Date/Time for 2025 Annual Town Meeting:** The 2025 Annual Town Meeting will take place on the third Thursday of April per state statute, which is April 15, 2025. The meeting will take place again at 7 p.m.

Brian Conley motioned to adjourn the meeting; Dana Dolsen seconded; all raised their hand in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk