

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County**  
**Annual Town Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 7 p.m.**  
**Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd (Chair), Laurie Dolsen (Clerk), and 12 Interested Citizens (see attached sign-in sheets)

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Jack Byrd; the Pledge of Allegiance was recited; and the meeting was posted on-line and on our Facebook page (posting is not required). All in attendance are qualified voters. A call for agenda items was given and the following items were requested:

1. School Consolidation Discussion/Petition for Four Corners
2. Grant Opportunities for Road Projects
3. ARPA Money Plans
4. Equipment Status
5. Plan Commission Recruitment
6. Salaries for Board Members
7. VFD Needs/Recruitment
8. Sign at Hall
9. Shop Building Maintenance

Brian Conley motioned to approve the Order of Business/Agenda Items; Mary Brill seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting minutes from the April 19, 2022, Annual Town Meeting and the November 9, 2022, Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting were reviewed, and no changes were made. Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve the April 19, 2022, Annual Town Meeting minutes as presented; Mary Brill seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Sandy Waletzko motioned to approve the November 9, 2022, Budget Hearing/Special Town Meeting minutes as presented; Mary Brill seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Copies of the 2022 Financial Report were reviewed and no questions about any of the line items were asked. Brian Conley motioned to approve the 2022 Financial Report as presented; Randy Polson seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Reports:** Chair Jack Byrd thanked the road crew for their maintenance of the roads this last winter as conditions were often very difficult due to the record-breaking snowfall. Supervisors Randy Polson and Dana Dolsen did not have a report. Clerk Laurie Dolsen thanked her election inspectors for a job well done and the Community Group for all the events they planned, prepared, and held this last year. Plan Commission Chair Brian Conley thanked all the PC members for all the work they do and for Sandy Waletzko who prepares the minutes for the group. Road Crew member Greg Dolsen thanked the board for the new equipment we have so we can better care for our roads.

**School Consolidation Discussion/Petition for Four Corners:** April 17 was a special school board meeting regarding closing a rural school—Lake Superior Elementary School will close after the 2023-24 school year. New boundaries will be drawn. The Save our Schools (SOS) petition was originally to save both Four Corners Elementary School and Lake Superior Elementary School but is now shifting focus to move Four Corners Elementary School to the Solon Springs School District which is very misleading, and people didn't realize this when they signed the petition. The SOS group is interested in setting up a table during our clean-up date in May. The Board will discuss it and decide at their next board meeting, but it will most likely not be allowed as it is a safety issue.

**Grant Opportunities for Road Projects:** Brian Conley suggested utilizing some of the ARPA grant money to apply for grants for road/bridge projects. Having the money set aside to cover our portion when we apply for grants (i.e., LRIP, etc.) will allow us to apply for more types of grants. ARPA money can be used on road projects now as

the regulations have lightened up a bit. The fire department has not found a vehicle yet so all the money is available at the moment (free money to leverage for more free money). Brian will investigate applying for grants for road projects.

**ARPA Money Plans:** Should we split the money 50/50 with the volunteer fire department? This will be put on next month's Town Board Meeting agenda for discussion.

**Equipment Status:** We currently have or will have a new backhoe, grader, and dump truck. The other old grader is also failing and needs to be replaced. The shop truck will eventually need to be replaced as well. A plan needs to be put together for a replacement schedule for our equipment.

**Plan Commission Recruitment:** This is currently a 5-member board and it is supposed to be a 3-year term for the members but most have been serving much longer than that. Is anyone interested in serving on this board? Recruitment to serve can be done through our FB page and at our Community Events. Mary Brill will draft an outline for serving on the committee for a newsletter for the community events group.

**Salaries for Board Members:** This topic was tabled until next year for discussion on direction for the next term of board members (2025-2027).

**VFD Needs/Recruitment:** The equipment van needs to be replaced asap and they are looking to spend ARPA funds to replace it. Recruitment for new members continues but it is a difficult issue (it is a statewide and national issue as well) as the regulations are increasing and time constraints with no pay (volunteer fire department) makes it difficult to attract and retain members. Our legislators are currently looking into ways to solve this problem. An AED is needed for the town hall.

A short separate side discussion occurred regarding bringing Meals on Wheels to our township but they don't have enough drivers for this either.

**Sign at the Hall:** Electrical has been trenched in the ground in preparation for installing a digital sign. Estimated cost is around \$30,000. Regarding permitting, there are no requirements or permits needed—we just need to follow the setback regulations.

**Shop Building Maintenance:** We need to replace the double doors at the town garage (old fire hall) and put in a single door as the doors we have now have reached their current life expectancy and need replacing. Also, the opener is broken and is not able to be replaced. In addition, our new equipment is bigger and it will allow them to fit the equipment in the garage much more easily as well. Overall maintenance on the garage needs to be looked at to increase the life of the building.

**Set 2024 Annual Meeting Date/Adjourn:** Brian Conley motioned to set the 2024 Annual Town Meeting date as the Statutory date of the third Tuesday of April—April 16, 2024, at 7 p.m.; Greg Dolsen seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Brian Conley motioned to adjourn; Greg Dolsen seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Dolsen, Town Clerk

Meeting minutes are DRAFT until approved at the next annual town meeting.