

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12, 2024, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd, Randy Polson, Dana Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, Laurie Dolsen, and 14 Interested Citizens

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chair Jack Byrd, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly posted. The Pledge of Allegiance was previously recited at the Special Town Meeting. Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported she has prepared all the budget documents (spreadsheets, resolutions, meetings, etc.), verified the process of increasing the town levy with the WTA, submitted the quarterly payroll reports to the IRS and the DOR, administered the November 5 General Presidential Election—791 ballots were cast and 77 people were registered on election day. She completed election training with her election inspectors, set up food and meals for the 18-hour day for the inspectors, handled an election fraud issue with a felon attempting to vote, etc.—it was a very busy day and she thanked the wonderful team of election inspectors who worked the election as they did an outstanding job. Thankfully, we did not have any incidents requiring a police response, but the City of Superior did have one issue at a polling place. She met with our bank representative from NBC with Jack and Stacy regarding our current and possible loan options. She has also been working on the real estate property tax bills and special charges. She worked with Winter Systems to fix a scanning issue and is working on an election open records request. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo shared the dog license report has been completed and submitted for 2024, she met with our bank representative from NBC regarding our loans and learned that since we are already paying for the ACH direct deposit service, we can also pay our vendors via ACH as well. She will investigate this further. Supervisor Dana Dolsen thanked LD and all the election inspectors for a job well done—it flowed well and was successful. Supervisor Randy Polson shared he has spoken with Steve Kimmes from Holdens Insurance about our insurance renewal and a quote will be coming soon. Chair Jack Byrd also thanked the election inspectors for a job well done and he was glad they enjoyed the chocolate fudge he brought them. Fire Chief John Melcher shared for October, they had 6 medical calls, 3 mutual aid calls (2 were structure fires) and a new person has passed their EMR class and can start responding in December. Randy Martin continues to develop the VFD Peer Support effort, and they are currently working on training peers. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley shared they graded the roads, ditched Oliphant Road, placed erosion control on Oliphant Road, bulldozed the ditchings in the pit, replaced the burned out lights at the town hall, worked on the WISLR paperwork, ran for parts, met Douglas County at the Tri-Lakes Pit for a drone survey and worked on the pit renewal, changed the blades on the grader, brushed Clara Barton Road, hauled gravel on Oliphant Road, pushed trees from the roads after a wind storm, cleaned the shop, and fixed a hole on the Neuman Road near the bridge. County representative Joe Moen shared that it has been quiet at the County and there was recently a Timber Sale netting approximately \$975,000. Community Events Chair Dana Dolsen shared they have started meeting with the VFD regarding the snowshoe races. They are looking at February 23, 2025.

Loan Payment Options/NBC: Recently, Jack, Laurie and Stacy met with Dan Berg to discuss options regarding our town hall loans. Dan Berg from NBC was present so this item was moved up in the agenda. Dan reviewed the amortization schedule and payment options and it showed that monthly payments are the best option (what we are currently doing) and that we will look at various programs and work with the bank to try to bring costs down. A brief Q & A session was held and Dan was able to give and receive feedback. He will keep us posted on what he finds out.

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

Plan Commission: No applications were received and they did not meet—no information to report.

Insurance Update: Randy covered this in his report previously. Once the renewal quote is received, we will need to hold a special town board meeting in order to approve the renewal and pay the insurance company as it is due December 1.

Meeting Minutes: Meeting minutes from the October 8, 2024, Regular Town Board Meeting, the October 14 & 15 Budget workshops and Special Town Board Meetings, and the October 25 Special Town Board Meeting (closed session for the bargaining meeting) were reviewed previously and RP motioned to approve the meeting minutes with no changes, DD seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

Town Reassessment Update: We recently received a Second Notice letter from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue regarding our valuation being out of compliance. LD contacted our assessor, Barrett Brenner, regarding when the full reassessment would occur and he shared he would do a market update (costing half the price as a full reassessment—approximately \$21,000 +/-) that should bring us into compliance. He is confident we don't need to do a full reassessment yet.

Approval of Employee Contract for 2025: After the recent closed bargaining meeting, the board agreed to the wage updates in their union contract (4.5% increase and increased health insurance). RP motioned to approve the updated union contract as received, JB seconded, all were in favor via voice vote (DD abstained), motion carried.

Approval of 2025 Budget: After the recent budget workshops, proper posting, and town approval at a special town meeting, RP motioned to approve the 2025 Budget as presented, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Increasing the Levy Limit and Overall 2024 Town Levy Limit (payable in 2025): After approval to increase the levy limit by \$100,000 and set the overall town levy limit at \$452,984 via resolutions at the Special Town Meeting held prior to this meeting, DD motioned to increase our 2024 levy limit by \$100,000; RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. DD then motioned to approve the town's overall 2024 town levy limit of \$452,984, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

Approval of Wall Tracking and Overhead/Ceiling Options: Although wall tracking was approved previously, Sandee Pease and DD have been looking at various options for the building for renters to use to decorate. They will look to purchase and install display rails (cork stripping) along the walls, and hooks, etc., in the ceiling and in the corners for other decorating options. RP will check with Ryan Nelson (developer of the old Lake Superior School) to see if we can salvage anything from the classrooms to install in our building. The estimated cost is around \$300.

Public Comment: Jeanne Denston reminded everyone about the free upcoming event "Surviving the Holiday Season" on November 20 from 6-8 p.m. at the town hall. RP shared that he came on board to work on paying the building down and to let him know of any ideas or options people may be aware of. LD reminded everyone the January Caucus date will be set in December for all town board offices (chair, supervisors, treasurer, and clerk) that are up for election in April. The next regular town board meeting will be Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk