

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County  
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 7 p.m.  
Oakland Town Hall**

Present: Jack Byrd, Dana Dolsen, Randy Polson, Laurie Dolsen, Stacy Fornengo, and 13 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 October 10 Regular Town Board Meeting and the October 3 Special Town Board Meeting (Open and Closed Sessions) were reviewed previously and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve the meeting minutes as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Reports:** Clerk Laurie Dolsen shared she has been working on budget items, preparing for the upcoming tax bills, and working on preparing for the 2024 election season (training will occur in December with the County Clerk). Treasurer Stacy Fornengo shared she has been preparing for distribution of the tax bills once they are printed/received. Supervisor Dana Dolsen shared that Randy and Greg worked on the lights for the town hall sign and she thanked them for their work. Supervisor Randy Polson also shared that he has been working on the town hall sign lights to get them working. Chair Jack Byrd shared the road crew has been working hard grading the roads in preparation for winter freeze up and thanked them for their hard work on the roads all year. Fire Chief John Melcher was not present but shared his report via email: October calls were 4 EMS, 2 mutual aid calls, 1 lift assist, and 1 smoke odor. Two new members have completed entry level training through Northwoods Tech that was held in Parkland (no new fire are EMS classes are scheduled for 2024 but this may change in January). If anyone who attended the CPR training is having issues with their cards, please let John know. Snowshoe races will be held in February (may be held on February 24 & 25). The new equipment vehicle had a few minor issues fixed and is now in service. Items to be sold on the surplus site were listed for board reference. Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley shared they cut brush with the prisoners on Oliphant Road; worked on the 1993 Mack truck driveline; worked on the culvert grant submittal; worked on the brusher; worked on the forest crop law; worked on the WISLR report; graded roads (many); worked on the sign lights at the town hall; installed the driveway culvert on Otto Road; hauled the excavator and dozer from the pit to the shop; hauled gravel on Lucas Road, put wings on the equipment; cut brush on South Lyman Lake Road; cut brush on Lucas Road, and hauled gravel on Stromquist Road. County Supervisor Joe Moen was not present—no report. Community Events representative Dana Dolsen shared they have begun discussing the snowshoe races.

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

**Plan Commission:** PC Chair Brian Conley shared they met on Monday with members of the Amnicon/Dowling Lake Management (ADLM) regarding drafting a wake board ordinance. The PC will work on a draft and get it to the board for review and approval. ADLM would like the town to take the lead on implementing a wake board ordinance and then they will adopt our ordinance. BC also gave a brief update on the access/Parr Road issue discussed at their meeting. BC also shared they have added a tab to their website that has the link to the DNR website on lakes and various maps. The County Zoning Committee has Oakland's reclamation plan on their agenda and BC may attend that meeting in case there are any questions.

**Parr Road:** LD was contacted by the Miller's and asked to put Parr Road on the agenda for this meeting; therefore, the board asked Barb Miller to move forward with her comments/questions she had about this issue. BM asked about the status of the letter from her attorney. The Board responded that they could not discuss the matter at this time and that all communication would now go through their attorney. She remains firm that she owns the land and will leave their personal items as is until this matter is settled. BM then asked about the issue that occurred with their neighbor regarding removal of a car or it would be towed and provided their explanation of what occurred. The Miller's then asked the Board to have the Town road crew continue to be plow and maintain Parr Road (ditched, graded, mowed, etc.) as it has been for many years and that it currently needs some maintenance before winter arrives. The Town road crew will look at what maintenance the road currently needs.

**2024 Budget/2023 Levy Limit (Payable in 2024) Review/Approval:** At the Budget Hearing and properly posted Special Town Meeting held at 6 p.m. today (right before this meeting), the town approved a revised Levy Limit of \$361,609 (\$350,851 original posted Levy Limit + \$10,758 additional amount from refinanced town hall bank loan). JB motioned to approve the revised Town approved Levy Limit of \$361,609; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. RP motioned to approve the 2024 budget as presented and to include the addition of the revised Levy Limit approved by the Town; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

**Town Reassessment:** Information only—we have received our first notice from the Department of Revenue regarding being out of compliance and will need to do a complete town reassessment soon. We started to budget for this added expense in the 2024 budget and will continue to monitor this so we can schedule a full town reassessment (last one was completed in 2013). No action is needed now.

**Insurance Renewal:** Steve Kimmes from Holdens Insurance reviewed the insurance renewal packets (Town and Fire Department) and there was only approximately a \$2,000 increase, which is good based on the overall insurance industry. Discussion followed on allowing bounce houses at the town hall for private event rentals of the hall. As the town would be liable and we are not currently covered for this type of scenario under our insurance and also if we did allow them, we would need a large amount of paperwork to be submitted, it was determined it would be best to now allow bounce houses for private events and the rental agreement will be revised to reflect this.

**Public Comment:** The Millers asked why our snowplow drivers have to turn around at the end of Parr Road when we plow it and why we can't just back in and then back out. It was explained that backing up large pieces of equipment is not a safe option when plowing snow and our drivers will continue as they have always done to turn around at the end of Parr Road when they plow snow.

The next town board meeting will be on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen  
Town Clerk