

Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 7 p.m.
Oakland Town Hall

Present: Jack Byrd, Dana Dolsen, Randy Polson, Stacy Fornengo, Laurie Dolsen, and 10 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 November 14, 2023, Regular Town Board meeting were reviewed 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 reported she has been working on the real estate property tax documents (thank you to Stacy for coordinating and all who helped stuff the envelopes, etc., to get them mailed on time); preparing the budget and tax documents to be submitted to the DOR; prepping for the 2024 election season (she recently attended Election Security training put on by the County Clerk and the County Emergency Management and Sheriff's offices and will be working to put together a contingency plan (she will also be looking to raise the pay for election inspectors and the chief election inspector as well); working on the VFD retirement documents; prepping for year-end; and assisting the Parkland Town Clerk with a workers comp issue. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo thanked everyone who helped stuff envelopes and get the property taxes mailed in a timely manner—it is greatly appreciated. Supervisors Dana Dolsen and Randy Polson did not have anything to report. Chief Jack Byrd also thanked everyone who helped stuff envelopes—it is a big task and helps when we work as a team to get them mailed. Fire Chief John Melcher shared last month we responded to 2 medical calls, 4 mutual aid medical calls, 1 fire, and 1 mutual aid fire. There will be no fire association meeting in December. Snowshoe Races are planned for February 24-25, 2024, and they are currently working on tickets and prizes. A replacement title for the old equipment van is needed so it can be sold. The old concession stand will also be sold using sealed bids. The AED for the town hall is here and a cabinet has been ordered. The tanker is currently at Boyer Truck for emergency repairs. Road crew foreman Brian Conley reported they have graded the roads, finished hauling gravel for Stromquist Road, fixed the shoulder on Torgerson Road, hauled and placed gravel on Holmes Road, finished the WISLR report and mailed it to the State, brushed Otto Road, brushed Kip Road, worked on the brusher, worked on the small garage heater, worked with the prisoners cutting the ROW on Oliphant Road, worked on the VFD auction listing, stuffed tax bills, sanded the roads, and received the new Mack dump truck and sander. County Board Supervisor Joe Moen shared the trailer parks in Parkland are in the process of being cleaned up (asbestos is being removed first) and they are also working on the wake board resolution. Community Events Chair Dana Dolsen shared they recently met and worked on how to better advertise for events, signs were made, they are teaming up with the VFD on the snowshoe races, The Kettle will continue to support this event and will hold the dance and secure a band, etc. They recently elected officers and the chair is Dana Dolsen, secretary is Joan Stein, and treasurer will be Sandee Pease. They will meet next on January 3 to discuss the snowshoe races—all volunteers are welcome!

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

Plan Commission: They met on December 11 and representatives from the Amnicon/Dowling Lake Management were there to discuss the Wake Enhancement Ordinance. A first draft is being prepared and they are looking for support from the town/town board on the ordinance and legislative action (there is currently a bill before the legislature on this issue). The depth of each lake is needed (mean depth is about 7 feet). The board will review a letter of support for the Wake Enhancement Ordinance with a few changes to be made. The board will receive the revised letter for review. After discussion, RP motioned to approve and support the letter with the changes made after board review; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Regarding Parr Road—a letter has been sent to their attorney.

Parr Road Update: A letter was sent to their attorney and no response has been received at this time—no update. We have also not heard from Douglas County Title on the research being done—we will follow up with County Zoning and the County Surveyor for any updates.

Custodian Position: Stan Dzikonski has stated he plans to retire at the end of the year (December 31). Dana Dolsen said she is interested in filling the position.

Appointment of Election Inspectors: Election inspectors must be appointed every two years. No candidates from the Democratic or Republican Parties were received by November 30. LD presented the list of election inspectors who have indicated they will work elections the next two years. DD motioned to approve and appoint the list of election inspectors as presented; JB seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Public Comment: The question was asked about the use of ARPA money for road work in general—yes, it can be used for road work and also for road work grants.

The next Regular Town Board meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7 p.m. DD motioned to adjourn; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk