

**Town of Oakland, Douglas County
Regular Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 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 by Chair Jack Byrd at 7 p.m., the Pledge of Allegiance was recited, a quorum was present, and the meeting was properly posted. Meeting minutes from the January 14 Regular Town Board Meeting and the January 20 Special Town Board Meeting were reviewed previously and no changes were made. DD motioned to approve the minutes as presented, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried. LD provided that Mosaic and Brightspeed have also requested letters of support for their grant application for expansion of highspeed internet in our area. DD motioned to provide letters of support for both entities, RP seconded, all were in favor via voice vote, motion carried.

Reports: Clerk Laurie Dolsen reported she has been preparing for the Spring Primary Election, preparing W-2's (and 1099's for vendors) for our employees and the state and federal year-end reports to the DOR and IRS, completing the 4th quarter reports for the IRS and Unemployment, completing and submitting the yearly labor reports, injury reports, tobacco report, housing report, dealing with garbage and recycling issues, complete the payroll audit for Workers Compensation, and preparing grant letters for expansion of high-speed internet. Treasurer Stacy Fornengo reported that it is tax season and she has been checking/verifying our numbers and been issuing dog licenses. Supervisor Dana Dolsen had no report. Supervisor Randy Polson had no report. Chair Jack Byrd thanked the road crew and the fire department for all the work they are doing—the road crew has saved a lot on gravel this past year. Fire Department Assistant Chief Pete Warner reported that with John Melcher stepping down as Fire Chief, they are splitting the duties right now between himself, Stan Dzikonski, and Gerry Petite until a new chief is named. He also mentioned that new radios (for firefighters and in our trucks) will be needed in 2026 as our current radios will no longer work—radios cost about \$1,000 each to replace. It is estimated that about 15 radios will need to be replaced (1 @ hall, 5 trucks, and approximately 8 members). Can the 2% dues go to radios—we will find that out. Road crew foreman Brian Conley reported that they plowed snow; plowed Anna Gene Park, the boat landing and the fire lanes; worked on the 2024 Mack plow; completed a parts run; delivered garbage/recycling cans, replaced the cutting edge and hose on the 2024 Mack; sanded the roads; brought the fire department tanker to DSL Communications; brushed the roads; worked on the brusher; worked in the shop on miscellaneous items; worked on the truck hitch; worked on the boiler at the hall and went to town twice for pumps; worked on the fire department tanker/ordered parts; replaced the town hall boiler pump; put a new serpentine belt on the fire department tanker and brought it to Parkland to fill; plowed drifting snow; put the steamer together; replaced the blades on the brusher; worked on the equipment trailer air leak (trip to town for parts); and plowed the parking lots (garage/town hall). County Board Supervisor Joe Moen had nothing significant to report. Community Group Chair Dana Dolsen shared the Snowshoe Races are on schedule for later this month—everything will be occurring on one day (Saturday), there are many new activities this year, donations are rolling in, and the dance will be at the Log Cabin at 7 p.m. (they are paying for the band).

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

Plan Commission: They did not meet this month as no applications have been received. Sandee Pease is currently reviewing the utility ordinance and will bring any recommendations for revisions when they meet again. Previously, the board approved the Reclamation Plan for the non-metallic mine, but it will now be going before the Zoning Committee and needs to be approved on their form/submittal. DD motioned to approve the Zoning Committee's request for our Reclamation Plan; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Approval of Operator License: Shelby Nelson-Windsor Barnard applied for an operators license and met all the requirements. LD recommended approval. DD motioned to approve the operator's license as presented; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Beaver Contract Review/Approval: Daniel Zukowski submitted his annual beaver contract for approval—it is the same as last year with the only change being the date. RP motioned to approve the beaver contract as presented; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Fire Department Update: DD has met with the Fire Department members to discuss the future direction, needs, and morale for the fire department. The board met with Fire Chief John Melcher to discuss the matter further to get his perspective and to ensure his health and well-being are good. John later informed the board that he would like to step down at this time. Until a new fire chief can be named, assistant fire chief Pete Warner and members Stan Dzikonski and Gerry Petite will be splitting the duties. The Board will continue to support the VFD and will hold a team building night with a pizza party at the Log Cabin to say thank you for their support of our biggest fund raiser of the year—the snowshoe races. Other team-building events will be held throughout the year to continue to improve morale and stay connected with the department.

Staffing: Road Crew Foreman Brian Conley is planning to retire this year and filling his position will be needed. Having two on the crew is needed not only for safety reasons, but also due to the size of our community. JB recommended a plan to be discussed to move forward and involve the new incoming Chair. The employee contract has a process in place so a timeline will need to be established for his replacement. Brian has been a huge asset for our town for many years and it will be difficult to fill his position with the same amount of expertise.

Letter Supporting Opening the Wrenshall Grade Year-Round: Brian Conley shared they are looking for support for opening the Wrenshall Grade year-round and he crafted a letter of support from our township as it will have a positive economic impact. DD motioned to approve the letter of support; RP seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried.

Public Comment: Mary Brill shared she recently attended the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources seminar on the flood plain maps and they will be coming out soon. Sandee Pease and Mary will be looking to see how it affects our township once received.

The next regular town board meeting will be on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 7 p.m. RP motioned to adjourn the meeting; DD seconded; all were in favor via voice vote; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie K. Dolsen, Town Clerk