

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

6:00 p.m.

This meeting to be recorded.

1) Call to Order at 6:04 pm by Mayor, Liz Rench

2) Roll Call:

Present: Liz Rench, Mayor; trustees: Bill Hodges; Diana Merritt; Rodney Smith and Andrew Wallen. Also in attendance, Lane Alster, Attorney; Pat Briggs, Clerk and Rhonda Hodges, Treasurer.

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes from regular Board Meeting March 8, 2023

Rodney Smith made a motion to accept the minutes from Board Meeting March 8, 2023 (corrected from 2022) and was seconded by Bill Hodges. Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.

b. Minutes from Committee Meeting April 6, 2023

Bill Hodges made a motion to accept the minutes from Committee Meeting April 6, 2023, and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.

5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence

a. March 9 through April 12, 2023

Andrew Wallen made a motion to approve Bills & Correspondence and was seconded by Bill Hodges. Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.

6) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Diana Merritt made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.

7) Public Comments

Residents who wish to speak should raise their hands to be recognized. All comments should be pertinent to items on the agenda and shall be limited to three (3) minutes.

Alice Dailey voiced her concerns about gun shots in the village. She stated that Evonik and others are worried as well, as stray bullets could be dangerous. She said the park district also had concerns. Alice stated she was more concerned after watching them shooting at a person's silhouette as if they're aiming at people.

Diana explained that she went to the 3rd and 4th houses on W. First Street and no one admitted to shooting. There was further discussion, and the clerk was asked to read the section of the Municipal Code pertaining to this subject. Several trustees expressed their opinion that residents who own enough land should be allowed to shoot. The code stated that the board would need to approve a permit based on

location and type of weapon being used. Attorney Alster asked the board to hold further discussion until the agenda item came up.

9) Old Business

a. Shipping Containers in yards for storage

Clerk asked for direction on how to create a building permit if electric was going to be installed for use as a 'she' shed instead of just a storage unit. It was determined that a building permit would be required with an electrical certification, but no building fee would be charged.

b. Raising water rates effective?

Rhonda explained that she was waiting to hear back from the IEPA, but CUSI can do rate changes by a percentage of usage. She asked if it could be brought to a vote without hearing from the IEPA since our loans were set up with a \$10 debt service charge to residents.

The change would be that residents would drop from \$10 for debt service to \$5 and \$4 for CDF (Capital Development Fund) and the industries would be charged a flat rate per month of \$150 for the smaller and \$600 for the larger.

Andrew explained the following: 1) Rates are increasing because our rates are. If we don't raise our rates, we won't be able to pay the bills. 2) To make it more fair by having the two industrial accounts to pay based on the % they use. We will lower that for residents and increase the industrial accounts based on a percentage of usage. 3) Capital development gets charged the same way, a lower amount for residents and increases for industries.

This has been tabled until next month when we can have the details worked out. There will be a \$26 base for those with under 2000 gallons of usage instead of \$37.10. People who use more water will be charged more.

10) Committee Reports (No motions can be made during reports)

a. Finance Committee – Andrew Wallen

Nothing

b. Health & Water – Bill Hodges

Bill stated he had ordered a flowmeter from Britton Electronics for around \$5,000 to replace the bad one. He said that T-L put their own meter in where the old meter is but we're going to move our new one out of the pit. There will be some expense putting in the new meter. T-L will pay their installation fees. There will be installation charges but should not be more than \$1000. We overpaid T-L \$283,600.02 because the meter failed. We were charged 2.6% more than what we were using. Bill will be at the T-L board meeting to find out how they are going to credit us for the overcharges. They averaged our bill this month, so it was only \$19,995.01 which is an indication that they accept there were overcharges. There will not be a need for water to borrow from the general fund at this time. Bill also explained that the new meter will be mechanical instead of

electrical so will be more reliable.

c. **Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith**

Rodney said he is trying to get set up to clean the ditches.

d. **Zoning and Code Enforcement – Diana Merritt**

Diana had the clerk send a letter giving the resident until the 30th of this month to clean up or they would be fined.

e. **Liquor**

Nothing

11) Mayor's Report – Liz Rench

Liz thanked the members of the board who are leaving the service of the village. With new people coming on next month we'll keep things going.

12) New Business

a) Purchasing a CD with surplus General Funds – Andrew Wallen

Andrew spoke about the health of the village stating there are always conversations about being able to afford something. He stated that at this time we have a large surplus of over \$380,000 in the general fund. He was waiting to see what was going to happen with the water overpayment issue before talking about investing some of the money. The water issue has been resolved and we will be getting credit for the overpayment. He is proposing to invest in a CD that is paying 4% for eight (8) months with Glasford Bank with a conservative amount of \$100,000. Once the water issue is cleaned up, we can build the water account back up. If there are no big projects with Streets & Alleys, we can look at putting more in.

New information says there are better rates available as of today, so Andrew made a motion that we put \$100,000 for 8 – 12 months into a CD with the best interest rate. Diana Merritt seconded the motion.

Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.

b) Ordinance 2023-04-12-01 Chapter 8 Municipal Code changes

Rodney is opposed to the ordinance and stated that it isn't like there is a shoot out every day. He doesn't think people should be restricted. Target shooting is not defined so you can make it anyway you want it. The current municipal code, as written, provides some protection because it allows discretion by the board because the property might not be suitable. Attorney Alster said there could be approval by the board one time, not every time they want to shoot. There was agreement that it should be based on the size and location of the property. The mayor asked for this to be tabled and put on the agenda for the meeting in May.

c) Borrowing \$100,000 from the General Fund for Water if an agreement is not made for a refund from

T-L. – not needed

d) Water Clerk – Liz Rench

Liz explained that she, Bill and Rhonda agreed they need to have a water clerk to allow Pat to do her clerk job and they need someone to train. They want someone who understands what it takes for the water system to work and who would be able to have enough knowledge to explain why we're doing what we're doing. They need somebody who can meet Britton at the tower and understand **digital?** and the computer. Andrew stated that he thought we already had that contract. Bill explained that Adam is the assistant, but he works the same hours and isn't available. The board thought a retiree would be ideal. This isn't something that has to be accomplished right now but should be under consideration for the future.

e) Astle Lane Clean-up

Already discussed.

13) Executive Session (If needed) pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act for purposes of discussing the employment, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the Village.

14) Announcements

15) Additional Business if any

16) Adjourn Open Session

Bill Hodges made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Yay – 4 Nay – 0 Approved.
Meeting adjourned at 6:58 PM.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by Patricia Briggs, Clerk