

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

6:00 p.m.

This meeting was recorded.

1) Call to Order at 6:00 pm by Mayor, Liz Rench

2) Roll Call:

In attendance: Mayor, Liz Rench; Trustees – Diana Merritt, Rodney Smith and Sarah Wambold. Absent were Harvey Stidham, Andrew Wallen and Bill Hodges. Also in attendance: Patricia Briggs, Clerk and Lane Alster, Village Attorney. We did not have a full quorum, so some things will carry over to the July board meeting.

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes

- a) Minutes from regular Board Meeting May 11, 2022
- b) Minutes from All Committee Meeting June 2, 2022

Diana Merritt made a motion to accept Minutes as presented and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Minutes were approved.

c) Approval of Bills and Correspondence

a) May 11 through June 8, 2022

Clerk explained prior to voting, that she had added a line for Pace Analytical for \$290 for a year of their Guard Dog service. Liz explained that we had this previously, but with the switch from PDC to Pace we apparently missed it. This will start on July 1, which is why the clerk put it on the Bills and Correspondence, since it was the only way to have it approved in time.

Sarah Wambold made a motion to accept Bills & Correspondence and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and Bills & Correspondence were approved.

5) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Sarah Wambold made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and was seconded by Diana Merritt. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Report approved.

6) 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 asked if a bench could be purchased for the front of village hall for people visiting the war memorial. She also said that someone with a metal detector could easily find the four corners Spring Street. The mayor stated she didn't think the village detector would go through that many layers of blacktop and it was suggest that we could rent a higher tech one.

Public Comments (continued)

Alice said she will ask the township if they have one we could use. Rodney says that we probably wouldn't be able to get JULIE to mark it as it could be a liability for them. Someone else suggested asking Mark Brining if he has one we could use.

9) Old Business

- a. Sale of dump truck

Paid \$7,000 for it. Rodney didn't know why it was on the agenda, as he has decided not to sell it.

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

- a) **Finance Committee – Andrew Wallen**

Setting up direct deposits for the government (Rhonda) (Tabled until the July board meeting)

- b) **Health & Water – Bill Hodges**

There is still an issue with the ground storage tank not filling with water. Liz explained that someone was coming tomorrow (June 9th) at 8 AM to see what needs to be done.

- c) **Liquor – Liz Rench**

Clerk stated she had processed one Liquor and video gaming renewal this week and the other will be in before the end of the month. She also shared that both fireworks sellers had been in and submitted their application and didn't bat an eye at the increased permit fee.

- d) **Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith**

Rodney stated that they have cleaned and patched on Monks Lane, but there are still a couple of spots that need to be built up. There is also a bad spot on Mapleton Road and Monks. There was a discussion about why the school bus doesn't pick up kids on Monks Lane and it was explained that it was too narrow, and the bus didn't want to have to back up to turn around. Liz stated that the bus didn't used to pick kids up on Vicki Lynn until one of the residents got on the school board and changed it. Liz said maybe someone could talk to the neighbor to see if he'd put up a little shelter for the kids to stand in while they wait for the bus.

11) Zoning and Code Enforcement – Diana Merritt

Diana asked about having vehicles towed that were on the right-of-way on Spring Street. Lane asked if the orange stickers were being used, but Harvey has them so Diana will get them from him. He also said they were in court to put a payment on the \$2000 judgment, but the judge was absent, so it is put off until July. Diana also explained that Bill, the bar owner came to the committee meeting and explained that the cars are parking in his lot and blocking his entrance. The board explained that he was told to put up signs saying parking for bar customers only and have the vehicles towed.

Zoning and Code Enforcement, continued

Lane asked if they had done much work on Astle Lane property and said he had talked with him and he had plans to get the work done. The board commented that he had done a lot of work. The property on Main and Spring was on the list to be auctioned off today, but no one saw anyone there. Lane explained that the auctions take place at the courthouse. He also said, depending on how quickly someone gets the paperwork done, he might be able to see who purchased it in a day or so.

Clerk explained that she is contacted frequently by contractors and homeowners about zoning in the village. Today she talked with a contractor for the property owners on Vicki Lynn who are wanting to put up an accessory building. She was able to verify that the building could not be placed ahead of the front of the house, but could not find anything in our ordinances about setbacks, except for yards and asked who she is supposed to confer with about those types of questions? Diana said she could come to her, and Lane said we need to look at our ordinances and code to make sure they are up to date so we can refer people directly to the code(s).

Liz brought up how dangerous the big logs stacked in front of the outside vehicle storage was and was concerned with the fireworks stand opening and people coming in and out. Rodney stated that it's not our responsibility. Liz asked Lane if there is a state statute that requires storage units that are off a state highway must be fenced. Lane stated it would depend on the zoning, that he isn't aware of a state law other than junk yards. The dangerous log situation is a matter between the property owner and the insurer. Lane said most municipalities don't allow outdoor vehicle storage at storage units. We need to check into our ordinances. Clerk stated she had sent another certified letter to the property owner also saying the last two were not picked up, but the fine is now \$9,300 and he has until the 12th of June before it is turned over to the attorney. Alice said to check the minutes from 2000-2001 as she believes there was a decision made about vehicle storage. Clerk will check into it.

Liz expressed her concern on the amount of money we have put on First Street property (up the hill) and wondered what we can do with it. The weeds need to be cut. There are a number of things we can do, such as boarding it up. Rodney explained that boarding a property up isn't as simple as it seems, and with the high cost of materials it would run into a lot of money. After a discussion it was decided No Trespassing signs would be put up. Rodney wants to do something that won't be an eyesore to the neighbors. You can't even get to the house because the weeds and overgrowth is so high. Lane explained that she is paying the taxes so we can't take it as an abandoned property, and she has the ability to pay off a lien we put on it. We could also put a fence around the two sides of it with no trespassing signs to protect the village. We should spray some of the trees purple which is a legal sign of no trespassing. Rodney said he just doesn't see a need

Zoning and Code Enforcement, continued

to dump more money in it. Alice gets calls about people asking about the house with people concerned about meth use. Diana will purchase No Trespassing signs to be put up around the property.

12) Mayor's Report – Liz Rench

Liz had nothing to add.

13) New Business

a) Committee Assignments –

Liz announced new committee assignments stating that she was taking Bill Hodges off of Water, as she felt it was too stressful for him. Assignments were as follows:

Streets – Rodney, Chair; Andrew and Sarah

Water – Andrew, Chair; Sarah and Harvey

Zoning – Bill, Chair; Diana and Harvey

Finance – Diana, Chair; Harvey & Bill

Liquor – Liz, Rodney and Sarah

(Note: Since there wasn't a quorum present to vote on these changes. They will be presented at the July board meeting for approval.)

b) Raise for Clerk and Treasurer

(Water Payment Clerk, Water Billing Clerk, Village Clerk, Treasurer) Tabled until July board meeting

c) Meeting Conduct - Liz

Decided not to address this

d) Executive Minutes to publish or not: Tabled until July board meeting

1. December 8, 2021 (Board Meeting)

2. April 13, 2022 (Board Meeting)

3. May 11, 2022 (Board Meeting)

4. June 2, 2022 (Committee Meeting)

d) Getting rid of O&M and just using WWF and General as 2 big accounts

Tabled until July board meeting

e) Stamps – Increase July 1 Purchase for the coming year?

Since stamp prices are increasing, it was approved the clerk will purchase stamps for the coming year.

e) Referendum – Liz (This was not address)

14) 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.

None was required.

15) Announcements

15) Additional Business if any

Lane informed the board that the Illinois Municipal League is creating a generic ordinance for remote meetings and procedures for people to attend remotely and the village can adopt them. Clerk thought the village had put through an ordinance several years ago when one of the trustees needed to be out of town for a trial. She will look for the ordinance. Lane said we will probably want to use the new one and he will make it available to the clerk.

Clerk informed everyone that effective July 1, Illinois will no longer ask for bail form offenders. It was not known if this was only for non-violent offenders.

Liz thanked Alice Dailey and Debra Herald for all the work on the outside of the village. They also thanks Liz and Fritz for donating the landscaping tiles.

Rodney stated that he thinks the committee meetings have gotten away from being committee meetings and are more like another board meeting, and he doesn't think it's working. He doesn't want to come to another meeting if he doesn't have anything that needs to be addressed. After some discussion it was determined that we will continue with one meeting per month, but only the committees who have items that need to be presented will be on the agenda.

Resident Debra Herald explained that she was tired of all the decisions that are being made while the residents are outside. She's tired of all the executive sessions and says things used to be more up front. She doesn't like that the bills aren't read and there are no totals, and they don't know what they are for. Clerk explained that the Bills book is brought to every meeting with the invoices displayed for anyone to see, and that it sits on her desk and is available for any resident who wants to see it. She thinks the Minutes should be read so the audience knows what is being voted on, like they were in the past. Clerk explained that the minutes that are approved at a board meeting are published on the website the very next day and are available in the office whenever anyone wants to see them. Village attorney also explained that there are some matters that must be discussed behind closed doors and that we intended to vote on whether to make them public but could not because there wasn't a quorum to vote on them.

Additional Business, continued.

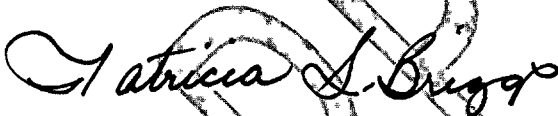
There was a discussion on whether the clerk needs to be at committee meetings and the attorney said someone else would then be responsible for taking notes and doing minutes. Clerk also pointed out that during the committee meetings is when things are given to her that the trustees need help with, and she has attended almost every committee meeting. Liz said since the meeting is recorded that the clerk could do the Minutes the next day. Clerk was adamant about not wanting to do minutes from a tape, as it is very time intensive.

Liz asked if we should get a better recorder. Clerk thought the recorder worked fine and most recorders are small now. Lane said we could even record on a phone. Liz also said we need to check into a microphone system so people can hear better. Alice had borrowed one from Alpha Park library and it hadn't worked well. Clerk stated that a speaker system has been brought up many times and many trustees have volunteered to check into it, but nothing has been brought before the board.

Clerk stated that it was urgent that the water samples be done right away due to the corrective action with the IEPA the village is working on. Liz said to have Adam do it, but clerk said he hadn't been trained. She said to have him ask for help.

16) Adjourn Open Session

Sarah Wambold made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.



Patricia S. Briggs

Meeting was recorded and transcribed by Village Clerk, Patricia S. Briggs

Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mapleton 13 July 2022

VILLAGE OF MAPLETON BOARD MEETING

June 8, 2022

ATTENDANCE			Motion: Diana Merritt made a motion to accept the Minutes and was seconded by Rodney Smith.			Motion: Sarah Wambold made a motion to accept the Bills & Correspondence and was seconded by Diana Merritt.		
Quorum Present? YES (BUT NOT MAJORITY)								
	Present	Absent		Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays
Liz Rench, Mayor	X		Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor		
TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES		
Bill Hodges		A	Bill Hodges			Bill Hodges		
Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X	
Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X	
Harvey Stidham		A	Harvey Stidham			Harvey Stidham		
Andrew Wallen		A	Andrew Wallen			Andrew Wallen		
Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X	
Pat Briggs – Village Clerk	X		APPROVED			APPROVED		
Rhonda Hodges, Treasurer		A						
Attorney, Lane Alster	X							

VILLAGE OF MAPLETON BOARD MEETING

June 8, 2022

Motion: Sarah Wambold made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Diana Merritt.			Motion: Sarah Wambold made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rodney Smith.			Motion:		
	Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays
Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor		
TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES		
Bill Hodges			Bill Hodges			Bill Hodges		
Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt		
Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith			Rodney Smith		
Harvey Stidham			Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham		
Andrew Wallen			Andrew Wallen			Andrew Wallen		
Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold		
APPROVED			MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:14 PM					