

Village of Mapleton
MINUTES – COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, June 2, 2022

6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order by Mayor Liz Rench at 6:00 PM

2. Roll Call

Attending: Mayor, Liz Rench; Trustees: Bill Hodges, Diana Merritt, Rodney Smith, Andrew Wallen and Sarah Wambold. Also in attendance: Clerk, Patricia Briggs; Treasurer, Rhonda Hodges. Absent: Harvey Stidham

Comments from attendees:

Bill Scott asked for an update on the property across from his bar, stating that customers are sometimes unable to get in or out of the parking lot due to cars parked and being worked on in the street. The board explained that it is going to be going back to court this month and fines have been accumulating that will be put into judgement. He said they are now parking in his lot to avoid being towed from the street. He was advised to put up no parking signs that say cars will be towed at their expense, and then have them towed. Jason Cohee stated that the apartments next to the bar have asked that customers for the bar not park in their lot either.

3. General discussion

a. Food Distribution monthly

Alice Dailey and Rhonda Smith attended a food bank meeting in Peoria. They found out that there has been a food bank in Mapleton for ten years distributing once a month. It is only advertised on the church's website. Clerk put a notice in the monthly newsletter to let people know date and time. Rhonda and Alice will be going to their distribution on June 16th to see how they operate and talk to them. The thought was that if we coordinate with them, we could add a second distribution each month. Rhonda explained that they get over 80 pounds of frozen food and a truck and volunteers would be needed get the food and then a lot of food storage, which the village does not have. They said that there is no way we are going to be able to handle it on our own. We either need to work with the church or forget about it. Clerk was asked to put it on the agenda for July board meeting.

b. Pay for the Board

Rhonda wanted to qualify if Bill Hodges and Rodney Smith want to waive their pay or get paid. They both stated they would like to receive pay.

c. Attorney at every meeting

There was a general discussion about whether the attorney is needed at every meeting, and it was decided that while we are trying to get all the zoning situations cleared up, we're going to need the attorney at meetings. Andrew pointed out that his attendance at meetings is a very small portion of the bill we're paying. Clerk also pointed out that we get answers to questions during meetings that we would have to pay for if we had to contact them.

4. Health and Water Committee – Bill Hodges

a) Cost of replacing broken transmitters on meters (\$135 for 2022)

Bill said that in talking with the clerk she could only remember replacing maybe 5 transmitters since 2017. Liz asked how we would prove the resident did it. Bill doesn't think we have to prove it. Alice said that she told the guy who mows for her to not mow over the meter, or he would have to pay to replace the transmitter. It had

been decided earlier that we would order five (5) transmitters, but it was never done. Clerk was asked to order them before the price goes up July 1. Rodney explained that not all the meters are level with the ground.

b. Water Operator Consultants - Bill called Joe, from Canton and asked if he could assist us when Fritz retires. He had to leave a message. We talked with Jay Timme from IEPA and we have to have an operator to sign off on testing and forms. It was suggested that we talk to resident, Bob Herring who used to be certified to see if he was interested and would want to recertify. Bill will talk to him.

c. Water Violations – Clerk passed out a letter from the water engineering firm with a list of things we need to do right away. She will send out notices to the residents who were tested at the end of 2021 and prepare the report for the state. We also need to do water testing, a couple of days apart at the tower and the hall. Bill will work with Fritz and Adam to get that done.

5. Zoning Committee – Diana Merritt

a) Mapleton Mini Storage – They have removed the large equipment, but are continuing to prepare wood at the facility, moving it out at night. They are still receiving wood as well as having a large pile on the property. They have been sent two certified letters and given until the end of June 2022 to clean it up, and fines are being incurred.

b) Swimming Pool above ground language
Clerk explained that our ordinance on above ground pools is not clear and would like it to be updated. Currently it talks about pools under 48" in depth needing a fence, but it does say that that is the outside depth of the pool. Rhonda will stop and ask about the pool that has been partially put in the ground to see what they plan to do.

c) Properties in violation
Rhonda Hodges said the property on Astle Lane has a dumpster and they were cleaning up when she drove by. Liz wants the property at First & Hickory cleaned up as it has been bad for 20 years. Property on Main Street next to the Post Office is too tall to mow and they hired someone, who broke their mower. It is going to require a larger mower. Bill and Rhonda Hodges volunteered to cut the grass this weekend. Liz also said the property on the left-hand side of First has not been touched this year. Diana said she wants to get with Harvey and go over the violations and where we are with those. Fritz did mow the property on Fawn Ridge that has been neglected for years unless the neighbors mow it.

6. Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith

a) Monk's Lane – Rodney said now that Bill B. is out of the fields, he will be available to help. They plan to patch Monk's Lane and Deer Trail on Monday. He thanked Alice Dailey and Deb Herold for all the work they put in around Village Hall. He stated that we need to get some trim up so we can add some mulch. Alice said they need some black dirt before we put down mulch. Clerk asked that they let her know when they needed it and she would pick it up.

b. Rodney said they still need to clean up the mess left from the tree that fell over W. First Street last week. He said there is wood in the ditch that would be good for burning.

Deb Herold spoke with the workers at the property on Main and Spring and was told it is going up for auction on June 8th.

Rodney said he hasn't contacted Otto Baum about taking down the house next to the hall until he has a stockpile of dirt to fill the hole that is going to be left. They he will have the trees taken down and will look at the cost of grinding the stumps down.

Deb Herold asked about the big tree next to the back drive of the hall as it appears to be splitting down the middle. She explained that if water gets in the split and there is a hard freeze it could break and fall on the hall. Rodney will have the tree people look at it.

Rodney asked Bill Hodges for an update on finding a truck to purchase. Bill stated that he has given up right now, as costs are astronomical for high mileage trucks. He said he has his eyes on a truck, but it is an extended cab with a short bed. He would sell it to the village for \$9500. He has a shed full of parts for it as well. Rodney is still deciding whether to get rid of the big truck and getting a 1-ton.

7. Finance – Andrew Wallen

a) Pay increase for board

Clerk asked if the chairs of heavy departments (Water, Streets and Zoning) be paid more. Rhonda said she will check. Liz asked if the village can we afford to pay trustees more. Andrew said the pay increase for the board is a very small percentage compared to the cost of replacing the water loop or the lead pipe project.

b) Getting rid of O&M and just using WWF and General as 2 big ones.

Rhonda explained that the General fund and Waterworks both have checking. There is also an Operation and Maintenance account that she must transfer money from one to the other to pay bills. The auditor assured her that it is not necessary and the two water funds can be combined. Clerk will put on the board meeting agenda. The question was asked about looking for a different bank without the minimum requirements and charges. Rhonda explained that since she works for a credit union, she cannot be involved in looking for a different bank. We also cannot use a credit union, per municipal code.

Rodney stated that the culverts came in and he will move them to the property next door when the trees come down.

Sarah offered to help with yardwork around the village hall in the evenings if someone will let her know what needs to be done.

8. Liquor – Liz Rench

Clerk stated that one of the Fireworks companies had already been in to turn in their application and paid their fee. The other has contacted her and will be in probably next week.

Clerk also explained that one of the video game operators complained about the increase in the permit fee per video games.

Bill Hodges made a motion to close the meeting and go into executive session and was seconded by Andrew Wallen. Viva Voce vote was unanimous, and meeting was closed at 7:05 pm.

9. 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.

Meeting resumed at 7:30 pm with all board members, mayor and clerk in attendance. Rhonda Hodges was not present.

10. Other Business or Announcements

Alice asked about mowing on W First across 24. Rodney said he will get to it.

11. Adjourn

Andrew Wallen made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Sarah Wambold. Viva voce vote was unanimous and meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Patricia S. Briggs

Recorded and transcribed by Patricia S. Briggs, Village Clerk



Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mapleton on 8 June 2022

APPROVED