

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 11, 2023

6:00 p.m.

This meeting to be recorded.

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

2) Roll Call:

Trustees in attendance: Rodney Smith, Andrew Wallen, and Sarah Wambold. Absent: Diana Merritt, Bill Hodges, and Harvey Stidham. Also in attendance: Patricia Briggs and attorney, Lane Alster

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes from regular Board Meeting December 11, 2022

b) Minutes from Committee Meeting January 5, 2023

Andrew made a motion to approve the minutes for December 11, 2022 and January 5, 2023 and was seconded by Sarah. Viva voce vote was unanimous for approval. No nays.

5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence

a) December 14 – January 11, 2023

Sarah made a motion to approve Bills and Correspondence and was seconded by Rodney. Viva voce vote was unanimous for approval. No nays.

6) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Rodney made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and was seconded by Andrew. Viva voce vote was unanimous for approval. No nays. Treasurer's report was 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 stated that an unlicensed vehicle has been parked at the gas station for several months. It is a white car with 2021 license tags. Clerk was directed to give the information to Diana. It isn't on a municipal road so we cannot tow it under state statute per attorney Alster, we can ticket the vehicle, but not tow it.

9) Old Business

a. CUSI Payment Portal

Andrew made a motion to move forward with the CUSI payment portal for water/garbage and was seconded by Sarah. Rodney, Andrew and Sarah voted yes; Liz voted no. Motion failed. Clerk was asked to reach out to CUSI to get an extension. If they won't extend an emergency meeting will be called to take another vote.

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

a) Finance Committee – Andrew Wallen

Nothing currently.

Health & Water – Bill Hodges

a. Update water application to include previous water supplier and address

Clerk is working to update and modernize our application.

b. Orthophosphate delay due to incorrect signatures on request (50-day delay)

Signatures were incorrect, and report will have to be signed by Bill Hodges and Clerk.

c. Sarah explained that she had received another written report from Clark at Rural Water (copy on file). The report indicated that our rates are good and no need to change. During the fiscal year reported on, our loss averaged 4.8% and average is 12-15%. The report also recommended eliminating the rate tiers. Sarah will reach out to Clark for a recommendation on how to do that. They also recommended a 3% annual increase in water rates. Clark will make himself available for a board meeting to explain anything we have questions on. Andrew asked if the report gave any feedback on infrastructure and Sarah said no. We will reach out to the water association to ask about infrastructure needs for the future, including the lower loop replacement.

b) Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith

Rodney stated he will get the tubes moved off W. First Street. He will also get hold of the engineering firm to find out what we can do about sealing additional streets.

Clerk shared an inquiry we received about W First Street asking for width and other parameters. She believes this is about the expected solar farm that is going to go in at that area. Rodney believes the road has a limit of 5 to 10 tons. Clerk will try to find information and relay it to the contact.

Alice asked if they had taken gravel to mailbox on W First and Rodney says he had that done. He will have it checked and believes there is another mailbox that also needs to be filled in around.

Andrew asked if the village could fix the standing water on 24 and W First. It was explained that we cannot go on State property to fix the issue. Clerk is to contact the state through the complaint

website to see if we can get something done to correct it. Rodney explained that there needs to be a ditch under the highway, and we have been trying get it fixed for years.

c) **Zoning and Code Enforcement – Diana Merritt**

Liz stated that the refrigerator is still on First Street with doors intact and needs to be removed immediately.

Liz said she had report that there are dogs running loose and they are aggressive. Residents should call Peoria County about loose or aggressive dogs.

Resident called asking if shipping containers were allowed in their yards. A discussion followed with trustees agreeing that if they are used, they have to be cleaned up and painted. Attorney Alster said other villages treat it as a new structure, not a shed. Andrew explained that shipping containers are a new "status" trend and it is spreading in popularity. People are even making houses out of them. Alice Dailey explained that if it is fastened to the ground it is considered permanent. If you can put a fork under it, it doesn't count as a structure. There was some concerned about neighborhoods not wanting storage sheds next door. Trustees will speak to the resident and get the information about her proposed storage "she shed". It will also have to follow the guidelines for setbacks, etc.

d) **Liquor**

Liz said she stopped in at the BP station and made sure the Mountain Dew and Hard Mountain Dew were separated so there is no confusion between the two.

11) Mayor's Report – Liz Rensch

Ordinances – Liz explained that she couldn't hear so wasn't at the committee meeting but stated she didn't think the trustees should start on a project like this when they only have 3 months left before new trustees come onto the board.

Andrew explained that he wanted each chair to take their ordinances and figure out which ordinances are active and which ones can be archived. Then we can make sure the municipal code is up to date. If the municipal code is up to date, it doesn't matter what the ordinance says. He also asked if operations need to be in the code, such as banking information; salaries; debt, etc. Attorney Alster said any changes to those things could be done as a resolution instead of an ordinance, that things that aren't actually a law of the village shouldn't be in the code.

12) New Business

a) **Ordinance/Municipal Code Review**

Already discussed.

b) **Inventory of parts and equipment in the back room.**

Clerk asked if we could have an electrician come in and tell us which electrical panels in the back can be removed to make room for more shelves so things can be organized and put on shelves instead of on the floor. Rodney will speak with an electrician who did work back there previously. Liz stated that the shelving unit by the tractor is all really old stuff that we don't need or use anymore. If we don't need it, we should have Adam and Fritz go through it and scrap it. Clerk is to order wired tags so an inventory

can be done and we know what we have and how many of each and what number of each we should keep in stock.

c) Arxada (discrepancy in water billing)

Clerk would like someone to walk through the problem with her. Harvey said he would help.

d) Connection Fees for new water service

Clerk expressed concerns that our \$2500 connection (tap-in) fee wasn't sufficient to cover the cost anymore. Liz explained that there are very few places that aren't set up with connections and taps already. We should let this one go for now.

e) Updating the website -

Trustee at the committee meeting would like the website to be updated to look more professional and to be more searchable. Clerk explained that she doesn't have the time or the training to do much with it but plans to reach out to the host for some help in updating it soon.

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.

No need for an executive session.

14) Announcements

Alice stated that she had a problem today with lights in her home blinking and flickering so called Ameren. She also spoke to the company that installed her solar panels. Ameren came out and said that due to the high winds and extreme cold recently, there were two bad connectors (one was fried). She just wanted everyone to be aware of what they should do if their lights are flickering.

15) Additional Business if any

Andrew asked for clarification on a recent FOIA request and Attorney Alster explained that basically the requestor was requesting all the same information he provided to be printed and returned to him. Request was denied as there was nothing we could provide that he didn't already have.

16) Adjourn Open Session

Sarah made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Harvey. Viva Voce vote was unanimous for adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 PM.

Patricia S. Briggs

Recorded and transcribed by clerk, Patricia Briggs

Approved by the Village of Mapleton Board of Trustees 8 February 2023