

Village of Mapleton

MINUTES – COMBINED COMMITTEE MEETING

February 2, 2023

6:00 PM

Meeting was recorded

1. Roll Call

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

2. General discussion

Andrew explained that we are going to start the Ordinance/Municipal Code Review and that the printout of the ordinances the trustees received are to be reviewed to make sure they haven't been replaced by something else, and that they are in the master copy of the Municipal Code. He explained that the mayor thought this should wait until the new board come in, but since there are four of the six trustees returning, he feels it is such a big job, it should be started now.

There were questions about the water rates, and it was explained that Illinois American is raising rates by 42% and that raise will be passed on to the village by T-L Water. Most likely will be in effect June of this year.

Andrew explained that he didn't put his name in to run for trustee because he didn't figure out the numbers in time. He would like to be appointed, but only if he can continue as Finance chair. He isn't sure that the mayor will appoint him as there has been some confusion about money spent, such as the replaced security cameras, which came with extra cameras that have never been put in use. There was no additional cost, the cameras just came as a package.

Andrew asked Bill Hodges if he was studying to become a certified water operator and Bill stated he has been too busy, but he will do it but at this time there is too much going on. There was talk as to whether Bill or Andrew would run as a write-in candidate. Bill felt like he would rather be available to help with water repairs and for Andrew to go ahead and get signed up as a write-in candidate.

3. Health and Water Committee – Bill Hodges

a. CUSI Payment Portal – (Bill will not be a trustee next election) Andrew believes we should offer this as a customer service and trustees in attendance agreed so it will be put to another vote next week at the board meeting. Bill would like to retire from his current job and move into the certified operator's position at that time. Adam has no contract so would be 2nd to Bill. Bill explained that it is a time-consuming position, and he doesn't have the time right now.

b. Astle Lane Water Service – Clerk explained that she couldn't estimate water usage for the resident or charge for water until the meter was actually in, which was January 30th. She has no way to know how much water has been used and the resident hasn't moved in yet, they are just painting. It was suggested that we charge the minimum be we have no way to verify water usage.

b. Spring Street Property

Zoning chair will get new pictures, as property is not being maintained as agreed.

5. Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith

a. Rodney said he is getting together with an electrician to take care of the mess on the back-room wall. He will also try to get the tiles and rock moved next week since the weather will be in the 50's.

b. He also will check with the engineer and see if our MFT can be used on Monk's Lane and Deer Trail to get it seal-coated. He would like to get it done earlier in the year than we did roads last year.

c. Rodney stated he was trying to get a hold of someone from the state because they are now saying the village is responsible for the road from Astle Lane to Route 24, which has not been the case in the past. Alice will call her contact at the state and see what she can find out. The big ice lake that forms is very dangerous and if it is the village responsibility, we will take care of it. However, Rodney was plainly told by the state not to mess with their ditch at that location. Also, they have never come and cleaned out the main drain coming into town. He went with the state engineer and he said it needed dug out and they did the one end of town, but not the other. Water has no where to go because it is all plugged up. Alice said there used to be a marker, but it got removed.

d. W First Street – Bill Hodges stated that he has concerns that there is another leak on W. First Street by the white house where the ditch isn't draining. Rodney said the tube is plugged so there is no drainage. Walker Excavating said they'd come back and straighten that up after the tube is straightened out but couldn't do it because it was getting ready to freeze. Just bad timing. He wonders if there is anybody else we can get a hold of to do that work.

Rodney called the contact for the solar farm try to get some clarification on what he was asking, and he never called him back. Bill said the right of way is 25' from the middle of the road. It was suggested that since Rodney called him back, that he should just wait for a call.

6. Finance – Andrew Wallen

Andrew wanted to follow-up on Rhonda's comments about contracts for employees. Clerk explained that she and Rhonda are appointed from election to election so wasn't sure what Rhonda was referring to.

7. Liquor – Liz Rench

8. 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.

9. Other Business or Announcements

Bill said he would stay on the board, but his wife doesn't want him to. He is doing the work of the water operator and he can't be paid for that work if he is on the board. He would prefer that Andrew apply to be a write-in candidate.