

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, December 13, 2023

6:00 p.m.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES!

1) Call to order

- 2) Roll call:** Mayor Rench X Terri Baker, trustee X Ben Hausam, trustee X
Bill Hodges, trustee NP¹ Rodney Smith, trustee X Jennifer Stout, trustee X
Neil Viviano, trustee X Steven Morris, clerk X Rhonda Hodges, treasurer X

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes

- ~~a. Minutes from Combined Committee Meeting December 7, 2023 (No minutes: Meeting was cancelled)~~
b. Minutes from regular Board Meeting November 8, 2023
c. Minutes from Special Meeting November 22, 2023

*Rodney Smith made a single motion to approve both sets of minutes. Ben Hausam seconded the motion.
Motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.*

5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence –

- a. November 9, 2023 through December 13, 2023
*Ben Hausam made a motion to approve the Bills & Correspondence. Rodney Smith seconded the motion.
Motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.*

6) Approval of Treasurer's Report –

- a. November 2023
*Rodney Smith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Neil Viviano seconded the motion.
Motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.*

7) Ratify the Action from November 8, 2023 (roll call)

- a. Minutes / Bills & Correspondence / Treasurer's Report
*Roll Call vote to ratify the Action from the November 8, 2023 Board Meeting was unanimously approved
by all trustees in attendance.*

8) Public Comments²

***Residents who wish to speak should raise their hands to be recognized and will need to come to the table
and retrieve the microphone. THE MICROPHONE MUST BE USED IN ORDER TO SPEAK TO THE BOARD.***

All comments should be pertinent to items on the agenda and will be limited to only three (3) minutes.

***** Note: No microphone was available due to error by new Clerk – will be corrected for January meeting.***

Two visitors (couldn't get names from the audio recording) said "Not yet"

¹ Trustee Bill Hodges arrived late, at 6:30 PM

² Visitors in attendance included Alice Dailey, Pat Briggs, Rhonda Smith (?), and Debbie Herold. Also John ? (not signed in).

9) Old Business

Swearing in of new Village Clerk, Steven Morris, per motion approved at the November 22, 2023 special board meeting. Oath of Office administered at 6:10 PM

Annexation requests – *Per Lane Alster, annexation petitions were submitted to Lane by Rhonda H; engineer was contacted by Lane. Engineer has not yet visited the property to draw the plat(s). Once the plats are drawn, then Lane will send out the publications in either the January or February Board meeting to approve the annexation.*

Water tower digitalization – *They are checking numbers for us because we must put in another meter up there for the other chemical we discussed previously. Tony is still working on that, to find out when we will have to start that. There is a 10-page document we will have to complete with check marks, etcetera.*

Water computer replacement vs increased internet service/capacity – *Decision was made that the Clerk will research the cost for a suitable new notebook computer for the Water Committee and report back with a recommendation at the next meeting.*

Water operator cost for Bill Hodges – *Discussed request to pay cost for Bill Hodges to take two water operator training classes.*

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

- a. **Finance Committee – Neil Viviano** - *Quickbooks online replace cost is increasing, but everything will be online, thus saving us other related costs. Cost of online version is \$850, which is 50% off. Overall this will save us “quite a bit of money.” They will also help migrate all of our current software/database over and will offer full support throughout, to ensure a seamless transition.*
- b. **Health & Water – Bill Hodges** – *Tony is currently working through the 10-page list regarding compliance with all pertinent new state regulations. Also briefly discussed village resident with broken water pipe on their property but the meter is on adjacent property. They received a \$2100+ water bill, and we are going to “work with them” on their water bill.*
- c. **Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith** – *Rodney would like to investigate the feasibility of adding a few more streetlights on Main Street due to “dark spots” and cars driving fast down that street. Rodney will determine who to contact, what the cost is per unit, and how many to request for installation.*
- d. **Zoning and Code Enforcement – Ben Hausam** – *Nothing to report except that we continue to have some zoning violations to address. We have some pictures from the bar operator that confirm some of the violations.*
- e. **Liquor – Liz Rench** – *Nothing to report; Terri will not have time to come and look through the records for “the minutes to try to find that” until after Christmas. She will be seeking old minutes from a meeting just prior to the gas station receiving their second liquor license and gaming room. Stuff was said in that meeting which had to do with requirements made by us as a condition for issuing that second liquor license, requirements which they are not abiding by. But the burden of proof is on us in order to enforce the requirements we made on them.*

11) Mayor’s Report – Liz Rench –

12) New Business

Motion to accept tax levy Ordinance No. 2023-12-13-01 –

- Ben Hausam made a motion to accept/approve the tax levy ordinance. Rodney Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.

Motion to accept Ordinance No. 2023-12-13-02 Paid Leave for All Workers, Public Act 102-1143

- Question from visitor: “Is that for full-time workers or just someone who just works here and there.”
- Answer (Terri Baker, Lane Alster) – It applies to all workers, and it’s a federal law, not a state law. Only municipalities get to set their own policy before Jan 1, 2024. All other governmental entities/jurisdictions are subject to the federal act as is. We are taking a proactive approach.
- Question from visitor: “Does it have a criteria for how it’s to be doled out? Does it apply if they just twisted their finger, or do they have to be hospitalized?”
- Answer: The employees can use it for any reason. It must be used in full-day increments, no partial days. Everyone gets one day off effective when they start, but then the act doesn’t go into effect accruing additional time/days off until after 90 days probation period after your first day of employment. Then you have to work 400+ hours in order to accrue a second day off. Then it scales up until you’ve worked over 800 hours, at which point you accrue 5 days off.
- Visitor: “Somebody needs to be keeping real good records of work time.”
- Reply: Timesheets submitted will clearly reveal/track hours worked with respect to time off accrued.
- Neil Viviano made a motion to accept/approve the tax levy ordinance. Terri Baker seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.

Discussion and Motion to approve \$ 1000 for a new laptop computer for Village Clerk

- Jennifer Stout made a motion to approve up to \$1000 for a new laptop computer for the Village Clerk. Rodney Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of trustees in attendance.

Discussion regarding having new keys made for the Village Hall for new employees starting soon

- After discussion, the decision was made for Rodney Smith to have new keys made for the applicable doors in the Village Hall for new employees.
- No motion necessary.

Discussion and Motion to update Quickbooks.

- Neil Viviano made a motion to update Quickbooks to the Online version. Terri Baker seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote of all trustees (including Bill Hodges, who arrived shortly before the vote was taken).

Discussion concerning hiring and wages for Consultant

- After discussion, it was acknowledged that it is up to Mayor Liz Rench solely to decide whether she is going to hire the Consultant to help train the new Clerk on an as-needed basis. Liz will make the decision, and then the trustees will vote on it. This will be moved/added to the next meeting in January.

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 Executive Session needed.

14) Announcements

- *Rodney Smith spoke on the “drama”, “bad vibes” going on, including ongoing/recurring arguments, fights, doubts, criticism coming from certain regular residential visitors toward trustees & certain decisions being made (or not). He urges a path of us all “working together” instead, offering more encouragement and less criticism, respecting the time constraints and professional limitations and efforts of our current trustees who are serving because they care about this Village and its residents. Rodney also noted that among the trustees and the mayor there needs to be more encouragement and expressed appreciation when things are done well, and less criticism. All the trustees voiced their personal agreement with what Rodney said.*
- *Rodney also raised the question of whether the Joint Committee Meetings are necessary if we are going to “rehash it all over again at the Board Meetings.” No decision or action on this matter at this meeting.*

15) Additional Business, if any:

16) Adjourn Open Session

- *Jennifer Stout made a motion to adjourn. Rodney Smith seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous “all in favor” vote of trustees.*

Approved