

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

6:00 p.m.

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES!

- 1) Call to order made by Mayor Rench
- 2) Roll call: Mayor Rench x Teri Baker x Ben Hausam x Bill Hodges x Rodney Smith x
Jennifer Stout absent Neil Viviano absent
Diana Merritt, clerk x Rhonda Hodges, treasurer x

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes –

- a. Minutes from regular Board Meeting October 11, 2023
- b. Minutes from Combined Committee Meeting November 2, 2023

Bill Hodges made a motion to approve the minutes. Ben Hausam seconded the motion.

5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence –

- a) October 12, 2023 through November 8, 2023

Ben Hausam made a motion to approve the Bills & Correspondence. Bill Hodges seconded the motion.

6) Approval of Treasurer’s Report –

Rodney Smith made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Teri Baker seconded the motion.

7) Public Comments

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.

John Rudd stated he complete the paperwork for the annexation and gave to the clerk. He was hoping the attorney would be present to ask questions. Diana stated she would get the paperwork sent to the attorney’s office. John stated that there are others he gave annexation paperwork too that are interested in annexing in the Village.

Debbie Herold asked how they will be obtaining Village water. Mayor Rench explained that they will get water from T-L Water district and not the Village.

8) Old Business

Annexing for Rudd Family – discussed in Public Comments

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

- a. Finance Committee – Neil Viviano -

Rhonda Hodges stated Diana has received a notice about the audit being late to the State. Rhonda has spoken to the auditor who stated an extension was sent so he will check with his office about this.

b. Health & Water – Bill Hodges –

Bill Hodges stated this are running smooth at this moment. He did state he wanted to take the Water Operator's course and the cost is \$ 350.00. He asked Diana if that is correct. Diana stated she did send him information about a free training class but this is not for actual certification. Mayor Rench did state that Fred Rench had to attend classes at ICC for his. A question was asked that if the clerk and water clerk were able to have money for their classes, why couldn't Bill be paid to attend. Rhonda Hodges explained that it is not on the agenda, so that cannot be decided tonight. Bill stated he just wanted it brought to the board's attention that he plans to do this. Diana asked if Adam is going to do this also since Bill is not paid for this. Bill stated he plans to not run on the next election and apply for the Water Operator position and Adam could be his assistant. Mayor Rench asked Bill if he was aware that as the Operator, he will have to have continue education and classes. Bill stated he has no problem with that.

Mayor Rench asked Rhonda if Britton had gotten us any prices yet on the digital for the tower. Rodney asked what this is for. Rhonda explained that she had met Noah from Britton at the tower one day and he asked what the phone line was for and Rhonda stated for our dial up system. Noah explained Britton can digitalize this. Rhonda stated we are paying over \$ 300 a month on a telephone system, so why not price this out. Rodney said he would make a motion today, but it is not on the agenda so Mayor Rench asked that they be added to next month's agenda. Bill stated he will have Sarah bird -dog them for pricing.

Diana said she knows she has already called twice now.

c. Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith –

- i. Quotes for Garage
- ii. Seal Coating

Rodney stated the quotes for garage can be removed from the agenda because pricing will be changed come time to build. He wanted to let the board know there was a hiccup with the dump truck over the weekend. They were hauling dirt and thought the gas gauge was not working. When they checked the cap, it smelled like gas instead of diesel.

A resident asked who filled it up. Rodney explained that anyone could mess with this because we don't have a locking gas cap. Teri asked if they filled up on Saturday because there were some issues as the gas station. Rodney called to have the truck towed since it was broken down at the cemetery but waited until Tuesday due to a funeral. A resident asked who drove it. Rodney explained that Bill and David can drive it but a good point is the truck was still running. The Village may have to have injectors and pump replaced but he has not heard back from them.

A resident stated they were lucky because she has had gas stolen out of her car. Rodney stated that it seemed odd to him because it has not been ran enough to go through an entire tank of gas.

Rodney stated he would check on the seal coating come Spring. Diana stated she thought they already did this. Rodney said that was spray patching. A resident asked if he saw what they did by her house because there were ruts left along the side and they are deep and only sprayed the middle of the road. Another resident

stated that if you drop off in them and are not hanging on to the wheel, it will flip you. Rodney explained that he does the bad spots. The resident stated that he did the part of a driveway also. Rodney stated that he will just tell him to stay away from that side of town. The resident stated that the ruts still need fixed. Mayor Rench stated we are not going to argue about this now and move forward.

d. Zoning and Code Enforcement – Ben Hausam -

i. Cars in parking lot of apartments

Diana state she checked tonight and there are 1 car and 1 silver/green that do not have license plates on them and does not look like someone is working on them. Ben asked if there are pictures. Rhonda asked if this is the parking lot at the apartments. Rodney stated that would be private property and asked if we can tow from private property. Ben stated no we cannot, but the concern is they are running an unlicensed business which we do have privy over. Rodney said I am going to question this because if he is working on a car at his house, is this considered a business. He stated there are 10 apartments down there, so that would allow 15 cars. A resident stated that is a residential apartment and they are not working on their vehicle. Rodney stated yes but I am a resident. The resident then stated that he has a garage and not doing this where every can hear and see. Rodney stated this should make no difference, they should have a right to work on the vehicles. The resident stated they are not their vehicles. Mayor Rench asked how the resident knows this. The resident stated because her renter had them work on his and stated that they cannot run a business without a license. Rodney stated this makes no sense so if he is changing spark plugs, fix a flat tire or put a muffler on a car. The resident stated you can do that. Rodney asked why they cannot do that. Ben stated if they are taking payment to repair other people's vehicles' and are not licensed, bonded or insured or paid the Village to operator the business they are in violation. Teri asked how do we know they are taking payments. Ben stated I certainly don't know. The resident stated they have to be licensed and insured. Teri stated if they are working on a friend's vehicle, no they do not to be. Rodney asked why are we knit-picking on people. The resident stated well why were are knit-picking, why don't we put it in the newsletter that if you have an animal in the Village, you should have it inoculated, on a leash or fenced yard. Rodney stated there is an ordinance for that. The resident stated she had 4 baby cats under the chicken coop. Rodney said you should call animal control

e. Liquor – Liz Rench

Liz stated that Teri gave her a report the other day and Diana went down today, and they did it again by not having an employee in the gaming room. Liz stated that Teri and herself will be meeting with a gaming person next Friday, but she has forgotten his name. They plan to review the ordinance plus Lane is working on it as well because they must have 2 employees in there. One in the front and one in the back.

9) Mayor's Report – Liz Rench –

11) New Business

a. Water: Bill Hodges –

i. Water Operator Pay – Adam Merritt

Bill stated he has a new 1-year contract for Adam for reading the tower daily along with other assigned duties. Bill stated it is the same that Fred had but \$400.00 a month plus \$ 20.00 per hour afterward. Mayor Rench stated that he does not do everything that was on Fred' contract. Bill stated no that is why it is \$ 400.00 per month. Liz asked he is getting \$ 400.00 a month to do the readings at the tower. Bill stated that is correct plus other things like 30-day readings. Rodney stated he has a problem with it because he feels he should just get paid \$ 20.00 per hour like the others with no contract. He doesn't understand why he needs a contract since \$20.00 per hour is \$ 400.00 per month. Bill stated the allure is are you going to tell someone you will make \$ 20.00 per hour as you are needed. Rodney stated well that is what I have to tell the employees for the Street department when they are called out at all hours. Teri said her concern is going digital at the tower and there is a 90-day clause in the contract, so we would be paying for something not being done. Rodney stated if we do a contract, it should be January to December. Rhonda asked wouldn't we want it per fiscal year. Rodney stated that is what he was trying to say. Mayor Rench stated he wants a contract stating he has the \$ 400.00 per month with \$ 20.00 per hour after the initial 20 hours. Diana stated he doesn't want a contact. The only reason we brought up contract was Rhonda stated he needs one at the last meeting. Mayor Rench stated I said that, not Rhonda. Diana stated, no it was Rhonda. Bill stated he does not care if there is a contact or not, he just need the work done. Diana asked if Tod is working. Rodney stated he is when he needs him, but that is cross over from Streets and Water. Diana stated we are already doing this. Bill stated yes, he mows the tower. Rodney stated he knows Adam has different working hours, so he can ask Tod to see what he says. Liz stated going digital will really help with this. Diana stated you will still need someone to do the work order like Fred did and that has been a lot lately with people moving in the Village, water readings, etc.

Mayor Rench stated that she has had a resident call her about a refund on a deposit. Rhonda stated she pulled the file, and no refund was issued so she cut a check today and Diana has it to sign. Mayor Rench stated she needs to let the resident know. Diana stated that Sarah already called him about it. Mayor Rench stated so I wasn't told about this because I guess you thought it was none of my business. Diana stated I told you she would call him.

b. Senior Luncheon's

Mayor Rench asked Alice Dailey how this is going and how many people are attending. Alice stated there about 6 to 10. Mayor Rench asked if they are from the Village because she is only seeing 4 cars and we are spending money on food and other things. She is only trying to save money and thought we are only buying food. Rodney stated that he doesn't see a problem with the \$ 50.00 occasionally and as long as no one is complaining about it. A resident stated if you are spending Village money, you should have Village people here. Mayor Rench asked if the luncheon is the same day as the Park District.

c. Cellphone

Mayor Rench is concerned this is an expense we do not need. Rodney asked for clarification on what the cell phones are used for. Mayor Rench stated the water clerk and the village clerk have phones. Diana and

Bill stated the Water Clerk does need hers. Mayor Rench stated no one even knows the numbers and we should be able to call in and check the voice messages. Diana stated they are listed on the website and newsletters. Diana stated they are only \$15.00 a month. Teri stated the cell phones are for emergency after hours. Bill stated like a water break or other issues. Rodney stated if we have the hours posted for the clerk and he doesn't know what an emergency would be, why not contact Bill. Why doesn't Adam have a phone because Sarah is not going to be able to go shut off water. Bill said Sarah has a desk job so she can answer the phone. Bill stated Sarah can call him and he has left work to take care of things. Diana explained that most call the office and then she would call Bill and he would tell her what she should do. Diana and Bill stated that it seems to be working for them. Bill said that Sarah even has his direct number at work. Diana stated that Sarah needs it because she is not here every day, and she gets calls all the time. Diana also stated they need to remember about FOIA.

d. Credit Card Usage

Mayor Rench stated that the credit card was maxed out and the cell phones were shut off because the cell phones could not be paid due to it being maxed out. Mayor Rench asked what bills are being paid out of the credit card. Diana stated we are paying for gas. Mayor Rench said no what bills. Rhonda stated Adobe and the cell phones are on there along with everything hitting at once. The Chicago trip, the lift for the tower, and the desk. Rhonda stated the bill is not due until the 12th, so when Diana let her know about the cell phones, she made a payment. Mayor Rench asked what is being purchased from Amazon. Diana explained coffee items for the seniors. Alice Dailey stated we do not buy coffee for seniors, she brings that in. . Mayor Rench asked why we are buying all these things. Diana stated Pat Briggs told her to buy those when she was in last. Rhonda stated paper towels and other products. Mayor Rench asked why not just go to the store. Diana explained there is no shipping, and it is usually cheaper than paying mileage. Mayor Rench stated we don't pay mileage anymore. Bill stated yes, we do. Rhonda stated not on the credit card though, those are paid by reimbursement checks. A question was asked how much the Chicago trip was. Diana stated it was \$ 351.00 plus one hotel room was \$ 400.00 and one was \$ 300.00. A question was asked why they didn't share a room. Diana stated that she does not know Sarah and Sarah does not know her, so they did not share a room. Teri stated that most companies share a room if they are female/female or male/male. Diana stated she never has done that.

e. Tax Levy – Rhonda

Rhonda handed out the Tax Computation Report for Peoria County and asked the board if they wanted to go higher than the 5% allowed. The consensus is to not to be more.

f. New Chair for water

Mayor Rench stated that she thought about moving trustees around but did not ask for a new chair to be put on the agenda so it should not have appeared on the agenda. It was explained that this was for a chair for the water desk. Diana said I told you the old brown chair was broke and we took one from

the lobby, so if you want one out here, we need a replacement. Teri stated she has one in storage we can have.

g. New Computer for Water

Diana stated that Sarah would like a new computer because it is very slow and shuts down. Rodney asked if a laptop would work better. Diana explained that CUSI takes up a lot of space and Rhonda stated this one is old so its time. Teri stated we will need prices and how big of a drive we need. Rodney asked if we need to call others to see what they use. Teri stated we just need one with a quad-processor. Ben asked if the water program is the most adhesive program. Diana stated it is the largest program on the computer. Diana asked if she should get quotes, Teri stated yes.

h. Christmas Breakfast – December 2nd – BUDGET AND Signup Sheet - Neil & Terri

Teri stated we have 1 RSVP so far and if we do not get more, we will need to cancel it. Teri stated it will depend on the amount of people to set a budget. Teri said depending on the number of people that come and how many kids since they wanted to get a gift for each child. A recommendation was to set at \$ 1000.00 limit. Rodney stated if anything is left over, then we could give to the park for their gifts for children at the hospital that is not related to Toys for Tots, it goes to the hospital. Diana recommended that in case they do not have the Christmas breakfast, to go ahead and set an amount to spend on Christmas. The board discussed the \$ 1000.00 would be a good limit. A resident asked if there is a program in the community. Diana mentioned that IB has a food basket program that money could be donated too, and this program is for anyone in the community.

Teri made a motion to set the limit at \$ 1000.00 for Christmas. Rodney seconded the motion.

**Roll call: Mayor Rench x Teri Baker x Ben Hausam x Bill Hodges x Rodney Smith x
Jennifer Stout absent Neil Viviano absent**

Mayor Rench stated the Clerk wants to change her hours again. Mayor Rench came up with Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8 am to 12 pm. And this time they were going to change. A question was raised that these were already changed last week and are on the website. Mayor Rench stated these have not been approved. Bill stated we voted on it. Teri stated these were not voted on, they Diana stated I changed them last week. Mayor Rench asked who makes all these decisions without running them by me. Diana stated you and I talked about this. Mayor Rench stated we have not talked about the hours. Diana stated yes we did but the trustees do not vote on my hours. Teri confirmed this was discussed at the last time and the mayor is in charge of setting hours. Mayor Rench stated things being done without my knowledge. She realizes she has been out a couple of months, but things are being done that she is not being told about. Mayor Rench stated she is setting hours as Monday, Tuesday, and 8 Friday 2 to 6. Diana stated she cannot work on Monday's, it would have to be 2 to 6. Mayor Rench stated she thought she was in school. Diana

stated she is 18 months. Diana stated she also said she would work Saturdays. Ben stated Monday 2 to 6. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Fridays 8 to 12.

12) 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.

- a. Executive Board Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2023, June 14, 2023, & July 12, 2023

13) Announcements -

14) Additional Business, if any:

15) Adjourn Open Session