

Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

6:00 p.m.

This meeting to be recorded.

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

2) Roll Call

In attendance: Mayor, Liz Rench; Trustees – Bill Hodges, Diana Merritt, Rodney Smith, Harvey Stidham, and Sarah Wambold. Absent – Andrew Wallen. Also attending: Clerk, Patricia Briggs; Treasurer – Rhonda Hodges and attorney Lane Alster.

3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

4) Approval of Minutes

a) Minutes from regular Board Meeting June 8, 2022

b) Minutes from Public Hearing May 11, 2022

c) Minutes from Special Board Meeting June 16, 2022

Bill Hodges made a motion to approve minutes as listed and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Minutes were approved.

5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence

a) June 8 – July 13, 2022

Rodney Smith made a motion to accept the Bills and Correspondence and was seconded by Sarah Wambold. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Bills and Correspondence approved.

6) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Sarah Wambold made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Viva voce vote was unanimous. 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.

Tony Alwood introduced himself as having been hired to help with clearing water violations and training water operators replacing Fritz. He remarked that he had a good relationship with Fritz and looked forward to working with Bill and Pat. He stated that once we get in compliance it will be smooth sailing. Clerk verified that he preferred to be an independent contractor, and not an employee. He told the board to feel free to call if we need help.

9) Old Business

a. Committee Assignments

The mayor reassigned committees as follows:

Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith, Chair; Sarah Wambold, Andrew Wallen

Zoning – Diana Merritt, Chair; Sarah Wambold, Harvey Stidham

Finance – Andrew, Chair, Diana Merritt, Bill Hodges

Water – Bill Hodges, Chair; Sarah Wambold, Harvey Stidham

Liquor – Liz Rench, Chair; Rodney Smith, Harvey Stidham

Rhonda questioned if it was a good idea for Bill to be on Finance since she's the treasurer. Liz said it shouldn't cause a conflict. Attorney Alster said it shouldn't be a conflict on committee assignments. She said the reason she changed it was because she had Rodney on streets, zoning, and water and that was too much for any person who works to be on three different committees.

Bill Hodges made a motion to approve the new committees and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Committee assignments were approved.

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

a) Finance Committee – Andrew Wallen

Setting up direct deposits for the government.

Rhonda explained that the government (State of Illinois) is wanting us to do direct deposits instead of mailing checks. She stated that she already makes our loan payments online. Board agreed this was all right to do.

b) Health & Water – Bill Hodge

Mobile Link CDMA Replacement new transmitter for the generator. Already ordered.

Bill explained that two actuators failed at the tower. They got full of water and failed and are still not working right. Technician from Britton Electronics was coming that evening to work on it again and to check the programming. Bill is confident they know what they are doing, it just takes time to get it all taken care of.

There was a water line break on Fawn Ridge on our side of the meter that the village will need to pay the \$3500 repair. It was originally thought that it was on the resident's side, and he was told he would need to repair it. Upon his plumber getting into the lines, it was apparent it was the village's responsibility. The resident also wants us to pay for landscaping. The village has always done the repairs to the lawns instead of calling a landscaper. It's a matter of raking it out and putting down grass seed. We might need to update our ordinance to make sure we don't pay for landscaping. Attorney Alster will look at the ordinance.

c) **Liquor – Liz Rench**

We were made aware that the Gas station needed two liquor licenses and only one had been applied for and completed. They now have the appropriate licenses and fees have been paid.

d) **Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith**

Rodney stated he has a call in to get parking lot seal coated. He has also been put on the schedule to have the trees on the lot next door taken down and for the spray patching on Monk's Lane and Deer Trail. Liz asked Rodney if we needed more patch and he said he didn't think so. Scott, who will do the spray patching said it all looked fine so he can spray patch it. Diana asked about the hole in front of the water tower. Rodney explained it is too thin to patch, as it would create a speed bump. She also brought up a big hole by the cornfield on Monk's Lane across from Deer Trail. Rodney said he would check it out.

Harvey asked about the sign on Deer Trail. He was told that the sign, if the responsibility of the subdivision/developer, there is no longer an agreement, so it is up to the residents. We do clean up around it, but the sign is the subdivision's responsibility. It's full of poison ivy. Diana Merritt said she would have her husband work up some designs and let the residents who live there approve it and have him make a new sign with solar lighting.

Rodney said he was looking into a different mower that is offset to do the ditches. It drops 60 degrees so the tractor can be on the road, but the mower will be able to mow into the center of the ditch. He said W First Street is hard to get done with the regular mower. He stated he can sell the bush hog if we get this mower and already has a buyer for it at the price we paid for it, \$700. The new mower will cost \$3500 but it's either that or see if we can get Denny to do it with the boom mower, which is out of commission. He won't use the boom mower if it is very hot either, as it will tear up the road. This mower would be a purchase, not a lease. He said Astle Lane would have been easier to do with this type of mower as well.

Alice Dailey pointed out that on the SS of W First Street if a big truck is coming towards you and is in the middle of the road and you're forced to the side, you're getting big holes in the side of the road. Rodney will take a look at it. He said they had filled in with some rock.

Rodney also said he had been informed that there is poison hemlock in the village and that it is bad for people and animals. It can be controlled with mowing, but there are chemicals that can be used as well. Alice said the state came and mowed and sprayed around her area and that there is also thistle that was sprayed.

e) **Zoning and Code Enforcement – Harvey Stidham and Diana Merritt**

Harvey said there is still a dumpster at Astle Lane, but it doesn't look as if any work has been done since May and that we should start fining the owner. He said the house next to Butler's has been cleaning it up and will go to court next week. He fears that it will get cleaned up, go through court, and

then return to the same mess. Clerk said she is behind on issuing fines and will take care of next week. Attorney Alster says we can post the rest of the fine amount and then it's up to the judge. He said finding is about the only remedy for something like this. We could put a lien on the property, but we can't close on the lien.

Diana stated that she was going to check pools to make sure they were safe. Rodney stated that he doesn't think we should be doing so much checking and finding. He explained that one pool is lower, but a contractor has been hired to put a deck up around it. The contractor hasn't had time available yet to do so. He said we shouldn't be poking fingers at each other. If we're going to run the village in that way, we shouldn't be spending money on cookouts if we're stirring everything up. Diana brought up a blow-up pool and clerk explained that the blow-up pools with the fat ring around them are exempt as long as the ladder is removed. She said she had one and received a letter from the county that it was not in compliance. It was explained that other than new septic systems, the county has no authority in the village. Rodney just wants to bring the community together.

11) Mayor's Report – Liz Rench

Mayor Rench said she had a lot to say but wasn't going to say anything.

12) New Business

a) Appropriations Ordinance 2022-07-13-2

Rhonda explained that this is the budget for the new year. Board spent some time going over it and Bill Hodges made a motion to approve it and was seconded by Diana Merritt. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Ordinance 2022-07-13-2 was approved.

b) Direct Deposits for Government Entities

This had already been discussed and approved.

c) Raise for Clerk and Treasurer

(Water Billing Clerk, Water Payment Clerk, Village Clerk & Village Treasurer)

Diana Merritt made a motion to approve the raise for these positions to \$20 per hour effective August 1, 2022 and was seconded by Bill Hodges. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Raises were approved effective August 1, 2022.

d) Executive Sessions (To Publish or Not)

There was a lot of discussion about the minutes including employee information that the board didn't feel should be published. A resident objected, stating that they pay the salaries and should know what the board is doing with employees. Diana Merritt made a motion not to publish the Minutes from executive sessions and was seconded by Sarah Wambold. Viva voce vote was unanimous and the minutes from executive sessions December 8, 2021, April 13, 2022, and May 11, 2022 will not be published. A resident asked if these could be obtained through FOIA and was told no, not unless they are opened at a future date.

e) Ordinance 2022-07-13-1 Remote attendance by Board Members

It was realized that part of the ordinance was missing that explained the ordinance. The attorney said that this is recommended by the Illinois Municipal Association in case there is another pandemic or other emergency. He explained that the Open Meetings Act had been violated by having remote meetings but not giving access to the public. Clerk will correct the ordinance it will be presented at the August meeting.

f) Referendum (Liz)

Liz said to scratch this from the agenda.

g) MobileLink cell svc

Verizon service that notifies the village if the generator has a problem will stop end of December 2023. This is due to 3G service being eliminated. The cost of a new module is \$249.99 and \$150.00 to have their technician replace it. It was ordered per Bill Hodges. It takes two-three months to get it, so we want to make sure it is in place before the end of the year.

h) Purchase of applicable building code books

Clerk stated that she had found additional books and felt we had what we needed.

i) Bench for in front of village hall

Alice Dailey would like to have a bench put in front of village hall for people visiting the service memorial. RP Lumber has one on sale for \$100. It has a wooden seat and metal back. Harvey asked if it would disappear. It is 50" long and is on sale until the 17th. Diana Merritt made a motion to purchase the bench and was seconded by Bill Hodges. Viva voce vote was unanimous. Bench will be purchased.

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.

Executive session was not needed.

14) Announcements

Rhonda stated that she is tired. She and Bill have been getting up every 3 hours 24/7 to babysit the water tower so the village wouldn't run out of water. The board expressed their appreciation for taking care of this situation for everyone.

15) Additional Business if any

Rodney asked if the board needed to vote on the purchase of the new mower. Rhonda stated there was money in the budget for equipment so it shouldn't be a problem. The board agreed that it should be purchased.

Sarah stated that there is sign indicating Butler Haynes Park right by her drive with an arrow pointing directly to her drive. She is having lots of vehicles pulling in and turning around and she has concerns for the safety of her three-year old child. She was advised to ask the park to move the sign closer to the park. Rodney stated he has had the same issue for over 30 years because people go right past the park and then use his drive to turn around. Rhonda Smith said she would give Sarah the telephone number to call.

Rhonda Smith also reminded everyone that there will be a food bank at New Covenant Church this Saturday.

16) Adjourn Open Session

Bill Hodges made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by clerk, Patricia Briggs

Approved by the Village of Mapleton Board of Trustees 10 August 2022

APPROVED

VILLAGE OF MAPLETON BOARD MEETING

JULY 13, 2022

ATTENDANCE			MOTION			MOTION		
Quorum Present? YES			Motion: Bill Hodges made a motion to accept the minutes and was seconded by Rodney Smith.			Motion: Rodney Smith made a motion to accept the Bills & Correspondence and was seconded by Sarah Wambold.		
	Present	Absent		Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays
Liz Rench, Mayor	X		Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor		
TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES		
Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges	X	
Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X	
Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X	
Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham	X	
Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		
Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X	
Pat Briggs – Village Clerk	X		Minutes approved			Bills & Correspondence Approved		
Rhonda Hodges, Treasurer	X							
Lane Alster, Attorney	X							

VILLAGE OF MAPLETON BOARD MEETING

JULY 13, 2022

Motion: Sarah Wambold made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Harvey Stidham.			Motion: Bill Hodges made a motion to accept the committee assignments and was seconded by Harvey Stidham.			Motion: Bill Hodges made a motion to accept the Appropriations Ordinance 2022-07-13-2 and was seconded by Diana Merritt.		
	Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays
Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor		
TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES		
Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges	X	
Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X	
Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X	
Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham	X	
Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		X
Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X	
Treasurer's Report approved.			Committee assignments were approved.			Appropriations Ordinance 2022-07-13-2 was approved.		

VILLAGE OF MAPLETON BOARD MEETING

JULY 13, 2022

Motion: Diana Merritt made a motion to approve the bench from RP Lumber for in front of the hall and was seconded by Bill Hodges.

Motion: Bill Hodges made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Harvey Stidham.

Motion:

	Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays		Ayes	Nays
Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor			Liz Rench, Mayor		
TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES			TRUSTEES		
Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges	X		Bill Hodges		
Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt	X		Diana Merritt		
Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith	X		Rodney Smith		
Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham	X		Harvey Stidham		
Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		X	Andrew Wallen		
Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold	X		Sarah Wambold		

Motion Approved

ADJOURNED AT 7:08 PM

APPROVED