

**Village of Mapleton
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, March 8, 2023
6:00 p.m.**

This meeting to be recorded.

- 1) Call to Order at 6:00 pm
- 2) Roll Call:

In attendance: Mayor, Liz Rench; Trustees: Bill Hodges, Diana Merritt, Rodney Smith, Harvey Stidham and Andrew Wallen. Note: trustee Sarah Wambold resigned in February, 2023. Also attending: Clerk, Patricia Briggs, Treasurer, Rhonda Hodges; and Attorney Lane Alster. A quorum was present.

- 3) Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

- 4) Approval of Minutes

a. Minutes from regular Board Meeting February 8, 2022

b. Minutes from Committee Meeting March 2, 2023

Rodney Smith made a motion to accept the minutes for February 8 and March 2 and was seconded by Bill Hodges. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and minutes were approved.

- 5) Approval of Bills and Correspondence

a) February 8, 2023 through March 8, 2023

Rodney Smith made a motion to approve Bills & Correspondence February 8 through March 8, 2023 and was seconded by Diana Merritt. Viva voce vote was unanimous and Bills and correspondence were approved.

- 6) Approval of Treasurer's Report

Rodney Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report and was seconded by Diana Merritt. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and 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.

- 9) Old Business

a.

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

- a. Finance Committee – Andrew Wallen

1) Water rates – Andrew explained that the village is looking at a rate change that would raise rates for those who use the most water by doing a % of usage for capital development debt service.

This is in the planning stage, and it looks as if rates would go down for residents and up for the plants. This is being based on higher users creating more wear on the system and should pay a bigger share. Mayor Rench stated that the Village of Kingston Mines had received a letter raising their water by 46%.

We are hoping by changing our way of billing this will ease some of the expected increase in the coming months.

Andrew stated that there is a surplus in the general fund and asked if we should consider purchasing a CD with some of the money so we could earn some passive income. Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for a vote next month.

b. Health & Water – Bill Hodges

Bill explained that we need to hire a water payment clerk and have several applicants. This will be discussed in an executive session later in the meeting.

Bill explained that our flow meter that measures the water we buy from T-L is flawed and has been reading 2.6 x higher than what we are actually using. We had numerous leaks going on at the same time, so this wasn't identified until later. Bill wants a more mechanical meter instead of one in the vault which gets cold, has condensation.

Liz stated that the water clerk had a call in the afternoon from a resident who had low pressure. Liz wanted to let people know that the new faucets people are installing are water saving faucets and it will cut pressure. It was recommended that the clerk put this information into the Newsletter next month. Clerk explained that this resident was experiencing low pressure throughout the house and she had notified Bill Hodges and Adam Merritt so it could be checked out.

There was a discussion about ways to increase water pressure for residents on the top of the hill while reducing pressure for those under the hill, so they don't have too much pressure below.

c. Streets & Alleys – Rodney Smith

Rodney explained that he won't be doing any MFT work on the streets this year because the price of oil is up and there isn't enough money to do more than one street. He will wait until next year so we can do both streets and maybe even some additional work.

He doesn't have any big projects planned for this year. Liz asked that he be sure to get the tubes cleaned out on W. First Street and he stated he was on the list for when the weather gets better but will call and remind them.

He explained that he is down one employee and has talked to a neighbor about helping out until our employee comes back. He doesn't want to work full time but is willing to help out so we won't be stranded to just one employee.

d. Zoning and Code Enforcement – Diana Merritt

Diana said she didn't have anything at this time. Attorney Alster asked if we were ok with work done at the storage units and was told that the truck had been moved but there were still pallets and other wood. There was a discussion about residents shooting in their backyards, and who to call. If you don't know who is shooting you can't really call anyone. The county is having a difficult time patrolling this area because they are being called back to help with Peoria. Lane explained that even a village that is paying a couple hundred thousand a year for their own deputy is without him many times because he gets called to Peoria.

e. Liquor

There was a discussion about the possible annexation into the village in order to have a gaming room and ultimately a bar and restaurant. There is a property between that would have to annex first and the resident isn't sure he wants to do so. Nothing can be done until that property is annexed to make the restaurant property contiguous with the village.

11) Mayor's Report – Liz Rensch

Nothing more than was discussed previously.

12) New Business

a) New meter for water tower

This was covered previously.

b) Water Payment Clerk Position

Liz thought the board should post the position in case other people might be interested in it. The board discussed this and felt that it was such a small number of hours there wouldn't be much reason when we already have applicants. This will be moved to an Executive Session for discussion.

Harvey stated that he will be in Texas April 1st so his time on the board is very limited. He explained that he is a chemical engineer, and that revenue is water for the village. He expressed his opinion that the board should keep someone in place who understands the system and can help set up safeguards so what happened recently won't happen again. Fritz and Bill have a lot of knowledge about the system. We need to calibrate equipment every year, clean it and make sure computer systems are working as they should. This will save the village money in the long run. Water will make or break the village. Whoever is going to do water long term that doesn't have any knowledge will have a difficult time. We need someone with knowledge of regulators and pumps. He stated that he has enjoyed his time on the board and feels we've done some good things.

Rodney Smith made a motion to adjourn open meeting and go into Executive Session and was seconded by Harvey Stidham. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and meeting was adjourned at 6:47 pm.

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.

BOARD MEETING PART 2 – MARCH 8, 2023

Called to order by Mayor Rench at 6:50 pm.

Role Call: Mayor, Liz Rench; Trustees: Bill Hodges, Diana Merritt, Rodney Smith, Harvey Stidham and Andrew Wallen; clerk, Patricia Briggs and Attorney Lane Alster.

New Business from Part 1:

b) Hiring a water payment clerk.

Bill Hodges made a motion to hire Sarah Wambold as Water Payment Clerk at \$50.00 per month with an additional \$15.00 per hour if she is doing other duties. This motion was seconded by Rodney Stidham and viva voce vote was unanimous for Sarah to be hired.

14) Announcements

Andrew explained that he and Bill missed the date to be write-in candidates for the board and he would still like to be appointed to the board. Trustees were unanimous in wanting him on the board.

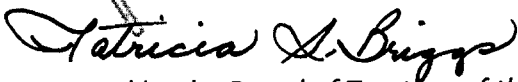
Liz asked Bill if he would like to stay on the board or if he was going to become the Certified Water Operator. Bill said he would like to be appointed to the board and work on getting his license and moving into the operator position later. He stated that things are working with him and Adam and Tony now so he would like to be appointed.

15) Additional Business if any

16) Adjourn Open Session

Diana Merritt made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Rodney Smith. Viva voce vote was unanimous, and meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm.

Minutes recorded and transcribed by Patricia Briggs



Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Mapleton 12 April 2023