

# Town of Maple

## ANNUAL MEETING

### Tuesday April 18, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting was brought to order by Town Chairman Jon TePoel at 7:05pm. The meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance. Present were Chair Jon TePoel, Supervisors Marty Laakso and Dustin Soyering, Clerk David Grapentine, Fire Dept. Chief Mike Lundeen, Plan Commission member Gaye Erkel, Supervisor-elect Allison Johnson and 4 other residents. Copies of the Annual Report for 2022 were available for those present. Attendees were encouraged to ask questions should they have any. A motion to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Mike Lundeen and seconded by Jon TePoel.

Gaye had a few questions to start with. Is the Town Board going forward with approving all town roads for ATV use? The answer is “yes” and the Board budgeted for the purchase of the needed signs. Also, what is the Board's intention with the ARPA money that is remaining? There is about \$12,000 of money that is left. Gaye suggested that some of that money be used for improvement at the Community Center. At this point the Board hasn't decided on what they want to do with it.

Marty recapped 2022 with the following:

- Improvements at the town park-lighting was added for security, the parking lot was graveled and lime was added to the infield of the ball field.
- The Board entered into an agreement with WLSAR (Western Lake Superior Amateir Responders) to lease the town land that the old Dahlberg L&P tower sits on
- The Plan Commission completed a required addendum to the Comprehensive Plan. Kent Makela retired as head of the Commission, a position he has held for many years
- Equipment was purchased. The Town acquired a 1T pick-up from Enbridge at no cost to the Town. Thanks to Aaron Madsen for his help in making that happen. Other items purchased included a plow for the pick-up, a back-up camera for the truck, a Cub Cadet mower, a New Holland brusher and a welder. The oldest piece of town equipment is our backhoe. The well at the fire hall needed replacement after many years of operation.
- The Board voted to set a weight restriction of 4T on Gonschorek Loop (not yet posted) due to a couple of failing culverts-meaning the road is now closed to school bus traffic. As an alternative, the School District installed flashing warning lights at the school entrance area along US 2. The Board donated \$600 to the effort.
- The Board signed a 5 year contract with Waste Management for solid waste disposal at the town transfer station. It includes a 3% increase per year.
- The local recycling program continues to be effective. Residents must be mindful of what items are, and are not, recyclable.
- The Board applied for State LRIP funding for chip sealing the blacktopped section of Dump road which is planned to be done in 2024
- New election workers were added and more people have indicated an interest in helping out.
- Bonnie Martin was asked to do the annual review of the town records after the many years that Bob Chronister did it.
- An minimum hourly wage of \$15/hour was instituted for all non highway workers.
- Driveway snowplowing rates were increased \$25 to reflect increasing costs. It was estimated that driveways were plowed 14 this this past winter.
- The Town hired a new website host-Wendy Corry from Lake Nebagamon.

- The Board discussed the safety of Caleb Thompson (a teenager commonly seen bicycling along highway F and Auto road) a number of times throughout the year working to ensure his safety. Be mindful of his possible presence in those areas.
- Welcome to Allison Johnson as a newly elected Town Supervisor!

Solid waste recycling expenses continue to be covered by receipts. Kent Makela retired as our Animal Control Officer. If stray dogs or cat are found they can be taken to the Douglas County Humane Society in Superior. Additional gravel has been budgeted for TePoel Dr and for lifting Blueberry road. While new equipment was purchased, older equipment was sold. The town received \$25,000 trade in for the old brusher, \$5,000 for the pick-up and \$500 for the mower.

Assessor report: Michael Schnautz, our Assessor, sent a report summarizing the past year. Maple has 16 new permits from 2022 and 10 open permits from the last two years that construction is not yet done. Most of the permits were for additions and out buildings; only a couple new homes and cabins. There were a total of 37 sales in the town in 2022, but only 3 were useable sales. State equalized values place Maple at 74.98% of the state estimated fair market value for all property in the township for 2022. The town is now out of compliance with the State of Wisconsin so there will need to be a revaluation by the year 2025. He will be talking to the town board about this. The Open Book will held Thurs. Apr 27 and Board of Review will held Thurs. May 4 both from 6-8pm.

### **VFD report:**

Fire Chief Mike Lundeen gave a report on activity for the fire department in 2022. Members responded to 115 emergency calls the past year. These calls consisted of 0 fire calls (structure, wild land or vehicle), 36 medical calls, 7 motor vehicle accident calls, 61 mutual aid calls to neighboring towns (fire, medical and MVA) and 11 alarms. There are 18 well trained and dedicated members currently on the roster with our newest being Grant Saari. There are 9 EMRs New members are always welcome! Department members thank the town board for continuing to fund the Service Award Program (SAP), which is a retirement program funded with both State and local contributions. The Firefighter of the Year award has not yet been awarded. The Service Award for 25 years of service went to David Grapentine. All fire department equipment is in good working order. The department was awarded an EMS Flex grant from the WI Dept of Health Services in the amount of \$81,150. The money will be used to help purchase EMS equipment and supplies, training, volunteer EMR retention bonuses and a used rescue vehicle. Also, the Town Board allocated 1/2 of the money received from ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act-about \$80,000) for the purchase of fire department equipment. Terry Johnson asked about which trucks Mike thought should be replaced first-Mike responded by saying that Tender 2 and then the Super Pumper should be replaced .

Gaye Erkel made a motion to accept the 2022 Financial reports as presented, Jim Banks seconded. MC Terry Johnsno made a motion to accept the Fire Department report, Jim Banks seconded. MC

The 2023 Annual meeting will be held Tuesday April 16, 2024 at 7pm at the Community Center.

Gaye Erkel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 Terry Johnson seconded. MC

Respectfully submitted,  
David Grapentine, Clerk