

APPROVED MINUTES TOWN OF MAPLE

TOWN BOARD MEETING

March 9, 2023

The March Town Board meeting was brought to order by Town Chair Jon TePoel at 7pm. Also present was Supervisor Marty Laakso, Treasurer Tanya Colby and Clerk David Grapentine as well as County Supervisor Scott Luostari, Town Foreman Roger Colby, Fire Chief Mike Lundeen, Plan Commission members Gaye Erkel and Allison Johnson (also a candidate for Town Supervisor), Town Clerk candidates Jennifer Jensen and Rachel Lintula and 2 other residents. Supervisor Dustin Soyring was out of town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/FINANCIAL REPORT:

Marty made a motion to approve the February 9th meeting minutes, Jon seconded. MC.

Tanya presented the financial report as of 2/28/23. The reports were emailed to the Town Board prior to the meeting. Marty made a motion to accept the financial report as presented, Jon seconded. MC

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Kent Makela expressed concern that Maple Volunteer Fire Dept First responders are responding to all the medical calls from the Village of Poplar and the Town of Maple is footing the costs. This has been going on for almost 4 years. Mike Lundeen stated that memberships in fire departments can vary dramatically year to year, and at the present time Poplar doesn't have any trained EMRs. It is especially hard to get personnel that are available during the day. The question at this time is whether Poplar should help us financially with costs associated with responding to calls there. It was suggested that Poplar village board members could be invited to one of our meetings, or our Board could attend one of theirs.

Gaye pointed out that there are 3 referendum questions on the ballot for the 4/4/23 election that deserve public attention and urged residents to do their research. She said there has been minimal coverage in the Superior Telegram.

PROFILES OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN BOARD POSITIONS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE PUBLISHED IN "THE CONNECTION" ON MARCH 15. The paper is available at Nelson's Speed Stop in Poplar and at Midland stations in Brule and Lake Nebagamon.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Develop a job description for attendants at town dump and a report from Marty on an informal survey he did at the site:

Part time attendants are needed for the town dump. David wrote up a job description with expectations for any new workers. There weren't any comments or additions from the Town Board on the document. Marty reported on an informal survey he did while working one Saturday at the dump. He asked residents opinions about whether changes should be made on how they pay for solid waste disposal. He found that about 80% said to keep things as they are, about 10% said that it didn't matter to them.

2. Confirm procedures for possible outcomes after the election of town officers at the 4/4/23 election:

Depending on the election results there could be a vacancy on the town board. Candidates have 5 days after the election to notify the Clerk if they are refusing a position they were elected to. David suggested that, should this occur, a Special Meeting be held at which nominations from the floor could be made and a vote from those present could be held. The Supervisors and Clerk would then make a decision based on that information. A decision on this proposal was not agreed to by the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Set date for Board of Review from possible dates suggested by Mike Schnautz, our Town Assessor:

The Board agreed to hold the Board of Review on May 4. David will notify the Assessor. He will set the date for the Open Book.

COUNTY SUPERVISOR:

County Supervisor Scott Luostari reported on activity at the county level. Scott reported on the recent meeting on wolves that was held in Solon Springs as well as Superior Days that was held at the Capitol in Madison. At Superior Days participants met with legislators asking for support for a .05% sales tax for highways. When asked, Scott said that Angie Sapik, our State Assemblywoman, was not present at either of those meetings. Kaci Lundgren is the new County Clerk after Sue Sandvick's retirement. Scott said that Sue did a very good job in preparing Kaci for the position. The Highway department is short of drivers. The drivers are having to work 1.5 shifts to cover the work load. Culverts will be replaced this summer on Hwy 13. Robin Schaefer will be the new Zoning Coordinator replacing Tessah Behlings. A Zoning Conference is planned for 3/28 at the Solon Springs Community Center.

FOREMAN'S REPORT:

Roger has been plowing snow (of course!), sanding and steaming culverts the past month. The grader wing required repair and the dump truck was down for awhile due to a pin hole leak in an air line. There were also problems with the motor on the sander which has now been repaired. Roger will be taking the required MSHA training in April

VFD:

Fire Department members responded to 6 emergency calls the past month. This included: 2 EMR calls in Maple, 1 EMR call, 1 alarm and 1 gas line leak in Poplar, and an mutual aid call to Lake Nebagamon for a landing zone set-up. Mike is working on the 1st half report on the EMS Flex grant that was received from the State. Mike prepared the paperwork for the Douglas County EMS grant that required Jon's signature. The department received 12 boxes of surplus supplies from the WI Dept of Health Services. Mike plans to share the equipment with other departments in the County. Trucks and equipment seem to be in good working order. The VFD annual meeting is planned for Tuesday March 28 at 6:30pm

TOWN PLAN COMMISSION: No report.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion by Jon and second by Marty the meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Tues. March 28, Fire Dept. Annual meeting. 6:30pm, Fire hall

Tues. April 4-Spring Election

Thurs. April 13- Town Board meeting 7pm, Community Center

Tues. April 18, Annual meeting

Respectfully submitted,