

**APPROVED MINUTES FOR TOWN MEETING
MAPLE, WISCONSIN
Thursday, May 11, 2023**

The monthly Town Board meeting for the Town of Maple was called to order by Chairperson Dustin Soyring at 7:00 pm at the Maple Community Center.

ROLL CALL

Chairperson Dustin Soyring, Supervisor Allison Johnson, Treasurer Tanya Colby, Clerk Rachel Lintula, Town Foreman Roger Colby, Fire Chief Mike Lundeen, Planning Commission member Gaye Erkel, and half a dozen community members.

There being a quorum present, the meeting was in order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by D. Soyring, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of April 13, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the Treasurer's Report.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Soyring read-in a letter from Donald Bunnell voicing his concerns about Degerman Road. Community member David Grapentine noted that additional barricades would be helpful while Town Foreman Roger Colby indicated that barricades and signs have been stolen in the recent past.

Planning Committee Member Gaye Erkel questioned if the town planned to continue posting notices in three physical locations in town. To date, the answer was affirmative.

Treasurer Tanya Colby noted that a community member had inquired about maintaining the Maple Ball Field using his own equipment.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the community member maintaining the field.

Motion amended pending verification of the town's policy and the requisite coverage.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the community member maintaining the field, pending verification of the town's insurance policy.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Town Board to fill the Supervisor vacancy by vote.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by R. Lintula, to appoint Jon TePoel to the vacant Supervisor position.

MOTION by Supervisor Johnson to appoint Marty Laakso to the vacant position; no second and motion failed.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyryng to appoint Jon TePoel to the vacant Supervisor position, and seconded by R. Lintula. A. Johnson abstained and motion was carried.

2. Follow-up discussion regarding community center sign updates, cleaning, and setup agreement.

Treasurer Tanya Colby agreed to clean and set-up the community center, as well update the community center sign as needed. Discussion included potentially updating the community center rental agreement to clarify expectations, and perhaps posting a cleaning checklist in the building.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyryng, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve Tanya Colby cleaning the community center and updating the sign as needed.

3. Review and approval of Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

MOTION by Supervisor A. Johnson, seconded by D. Soyryng, and carried unanimously to approve the Douglas County Hazard Mitigation Plan.

4. Determine date for annual road tour to ascertain the condition of local infrastructure.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyryng, seconded by A. Johnson, to conduct the annual Road Tour on May 19th. UPDATE: Town Foreman Roger Colby is unavailable on the 19th and the Road tour will need to be rescheduled.

NEW BUSINESS

1. A \$600 grant is available for towns to transition to a wi.gov or .gov email address; the state is encouraging towns to adopt a wi.gov or .gov address to improve election security.

MOTION by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by D. Soyryng, and carried unanimously to apply for the WEC grant and to secure the domain name: maple.wi.gov

2. Review and approval of Town Board training opportunities to include Wisconsin Town Association (WTA) training and Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) training for new board members.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyryng, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve WMCA training for the town clerk in July.

3. Review and discuss aesthetic updates to the town park and community center.

Supervisor Johnson noted that the signs and recreational equipment at the town park require attention. Others commented on the state of the tennis courts, the rotting, dilapidated picnic tables, the potential rotting of the pavilion supports as well as its need for paint. Discussion focused on enlisting the help of the local Eagle Scout group and/or putting together a community work day. Chairperson Soyryng will contact Larry to determine availability of the local Eagle Scout group.

Town Foreman Roger Colby noted that 16 folding, metal picnic tables were available at a WI Surplus auction; retail value per table is close to \$1000. Given past vandalism, some securing of any free standing objects will be required.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyryng, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to bid up to \$2500 on the tables, pending an inspection of the tables' condition by Chairperson Soyryng.

Gaye Erkel also suggested addressing the shed at the town dump, as it too requires attention.

Chairperson Soyring reported that Hip and Ridge inspected the work done on the women's bathroom; the town is waiting to hear their conclusions. Ideally, the company will honor their warranty and repair the damage to the women's bathroom as well as mitigate the water damage. Supervisor Johnson pointed out the community's request for a handicapped accessible bathroom facility, as well as the need for general aesthetic updates - such as paint, fixtures, and curtains - to the main room of the community center.

Fire Chief Lundeen noted the need to replace the missing trim in the garage portion of the community center. Town resident Thad Lintula volunteered to replace and install the metal trim.

4. Review and discuss potential future Maple community events.

Discussion included a review of past town events, including the annual town picnic, monthly game nights, a spring pancake breakfast, and the Fireball 500 bike ride. The board plans to put together at least one town event this calendar year.

5. Review and discuss creating a town of Maple Facebook page.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to approve the publication of a Town of Maple Facebook page, to be updated and managed by R. Lintula and T. Colby.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. County Supervisor

County Supervisor Loustari was unable to attend the meeting and Chairperson Soyring read-in his report. Please see attached documentation.

2. Town Foreman

Foreman Roger Colby reported that April required snow removal, culvert steaming; as a result of spring flooding, town roads suffered \$10k in damages; however, the town may be eligible for relief funding. Other spring maintenance included grading, installing nets at the tennis courts and bases at the field. Mowing and weed trimming will also begin shortly; the foreman also highlighted the need for an additional 12.0 battery for the weed wacker.

MOTION by Chairperson Soyring, seconded by A. Johnson, and carried unanimously to purchase an additional weed wacker battery.

Foreman Roger Colby and other residents also commented on the condition of TePoel road, a road Maple shares with the Town of Cloverland. To date, Maple has done arguably all the required maintenance including putting down gravel. The road also sees significant, heavy traffic from big rigs that compounds the damage to the road.

3. Fire Department

Fire Chief Lundeen reviewed the number of calls the VFD attended: in Maple, 1 alarm call; Mutual Aid (MA) to Poplar for 1 Alarm and 1 EMS call; MA to Lake Nebagamon for an EMS call; MA to Brule for a chimney fire.

Trucks and equipment seem to be in good working order and Pomasl Fire Equipment has 2 trucks worth looking at.

The VFD had Pomasl Fire Equipment and Amkus Extrication equipment do a demo with their equipment and were impressed with it. The department would like to use the ARPA funds to purchase new battery operated extrication equipment for about \$26,550. The Fire Department Annual meeting was held for 2023.

Current officers who were elected for the 2023-2024 year:

Chief - Mike Lundeen

Assistant Chief - Cliff Follis

Safety Officer - Adam Wennersten with help from Larry Taipale as our On Scene Safety Officer.

Fire Captain - Dennis Tollers

EMS Captain - Tracy Tollers

Lieutenant - Nate TePoel

Secretary and Treasurer - David Grapentine

MOTION by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by D. Soyering, and carried unanimously, to appoint Mike Lundeen as Fire Chief.

Members were also recognized and awarded for their service: Firefighter of the year was awarded to Jacob Grapentine and David Grapentine was recognized for his long service with the 25 year service award.

Two window glass on the west side of the building broke from snow falling off of the roof this winter, and will need to be replaced.

The VFD is also looking for new members: if interested, attend Training or Meeting nights, which are the 3rd and last Wednesdays of the month; or contact Fire Chief Lundeen.

4. Town Plan Commission

Plan Commission member Gaye Erkel noted that her appointment to the Plan Commission and that of Allison Johnson has nearly expired. Both she and Allison Johnson are willing to serve on the commission again.

Gaye Erkel asked that the Board review the town's sign ordinance before the next town board meeting as NHS is out of compliance with the town's sign ordinance; and has been out of compliance since the sign's installation. A discussion will be added to next month's agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Chairperson Soyering, and seconded by A. Johnson, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Lintula
Clerk, Town of Maple

Email from Donald Bunnell / Received May 10, 2023

Glad we could talk on the phone a few days ago. Figured I'd hurry up and email you get get on the minutes.

To the town of Maple, my name is Donald Bunnell. I am a volunteer firefighter for maple. I own a home in Maple along with a home in Lake Nebagamon pretty much on the town line on Degerman. I wanted to see if there was a better way to close off Degerman with better signage. It seems people are not paying attention to the road closed sign on the Cnty Rd F and Degerman protion. They keep trying to come through even though the culvert is out. We all know those signs get put up every spring because of how ruff the road gets, along with the high water tables. So a lot of people just take it as that, "it's not really closed. It's just rough" until they actually see that the culvert is out. Maybe a blockade may work a little better until the culvert is fixed. I also have heard in the "rumor mill" that Maple might be thinking of abandoning Degerman all together? I do hope that, that is not true. I am at my Nebagamon property a lot, and being on the fire dept. That would severely inhibit my response time to the fire hall. Instead of only taking 4 minutes to the fire hall to respond, it would take me 10 to 15 minutes if Degerman Rd was abandoned, and I had to go into Lake Nebagamon to come around on F, or to take Cnty Rd P into Poplar. There are times as well when Lake Nebagamon calls on Maple for mutual aid because no EMR'S are available. So if Degerman rd. Was no longer available to use Maples response time to those calls would also be delayed to get to calls on that road. I know with my father's ailing health if Maple was called for a mutual aid response on Degerman I'd much rather see them use the most direct route rather than having to go all the way around and ad time to their response. I would like to thank each and everyone of you who took the time to listen to this email and my concerns.

Sincerely,
Donald Bunnell

Email from County Supervisor Scott Loustari / Received May 10, 2023

Good evening Rachel,
A couple of items to pass along to the board and town residents as I will probably not get to the meeting. The zoning committee met today (Wednesday May 10). The committee is working with Corperation Counsel on language and legal issues regarding the revisions to ordinance 8.0 regarding camp ground permitting so there is no public draft yet. The transportation committee met on May 3rd. Hwy G and Hwy Y pulverize and pave projects will begin May 15th. Hwy U pulverize and pave project will get going about August 1. Hwy W is in the process of getting approved with a possible 2025 project, this Hwy has been closed for 5 years. Staffing issues: down 4 maintenance workers and currently have no seasonal workers. The highway department usually has 8 seasonal but are hoping to get 4. Wage rate for seasonal was raised from \$15 to \$17 by the committee with hop of getting some applicants. Road restrictions were lifted in southern part of county May 8 and will be lifted in northern part May 15. County board meets on May 18th. At our last meeting we had two members resigning Kieth Allen and Mike Raunio and the Chairman Liebaert is looking to fill those seats in those districts. The board also welcomed a new youth representative Kathryn Kyle from Nothwestern HS. Thank you and will talk to you soon.
Scott Luostari