

**APPROVED MINUTES FOR TOWN MEETING
MAPLE, WISCONSIN
Thursday, June 8,, 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 Jon TePoel, 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 TePoel, seconded by Soyring, and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of May 11, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

Town resident Dennis Makela raised concerns about Degerman Road, particularly as it related to its ongoing closure and maintenance. Makela also expressed concern that the road would be closed permanently; Chairman Soyring noted that it's next to impossible to close an existing road and that Degerman Road will remain open.

Makela also wanted to confirm that the town seeks out available funding and aid that is available to towns for road maintenance. Supervisor Soyring spoke to the various programs that the town avails itself of to help fund road maintenance.

Town resident Tracy TePoel mentioned developing a more streamlined Code of Conduct for town meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *Update on the Wisconsin Elections Commission (WEC) email grant application, including costs associated with the transition.*

Clerk Lintula noted that she'd been in contact with Citon, a local IT company recommended by the IT department at the county level; to date, the company has not provided an estimate.

2. *Update on picnic table purchase as well aesthetic improvements at the park and community center.*

The town won the bid for the picnic tables and paid \$587 for sixteen aluminum tables; eight tables will be put in the pavilion and secured in some way to prevent theft. Last year's budget allocated funds for the purchase and installation of bathroom doors at the town park.

MOTION by Supervisor TePoel, seconded by Soyring to approve the purchase and installation of the bathroom doors for the bathrooms at the park by Larry Brown; motion carried

unanimously.

3. *Approve the 12.0 battery donation, secured by Thad Lintula, by Acme Tools to the Town of Maple. Discuss re-allocating those funds to painting supplies for the community center's wood exterior.*

T. Colby noted that she'd secured donations from several local businesses and noted that the Town will send a thank you note to Acme Tools for the battery donation.

4. *Review and discuss signage and barrier needs for Degerman Road.*

Foreman R. Colby noted that maintaining signage on Degerman Road has been difficult. To date, the town has lost 18 cones, 8 flags, 3 barricades, and 3 signs to vandalism; he estimates it's nearly \$5,000 in signage lost to theft. He has also been in contact with the county and has asked for additional surveillance by county law enforcement in an effort to deter vandalism. Also discussed was potential need for more permanent barricades such as jersey barricades in order to prevent use when the road is posted as closed. R. Colby also noted that he hopes the water table will drop enough so that he can reinstall the culvert and the town can reopen the road.

Planning Commission chair Gaye Erkel forwarded some articles about signage needs to the clerk, for the board's review.

NEW BUSINESS

5. *Review the current Code of Conduct for town meetings; discuss the potential need for changes to the code.*

The town board will review - over the course of several months - the development of a streamlined Code of Conduct document.

6. *Review and discuss the town's sign ordinance.*

Planning Commission Chair Erkel pointed out several facets of the current sign ordinance that warrant revisiting, particularly as it relates to internally lit signs. The Planning Commission will meet to discuss revising the ordinance as well as the sign application.

7. *Discuss authorizing the purchase of new voting booth equipment, in amounts up to \$750; amounts to be reimbursed by the Wisconsin Elections Commission(WEC) via the 2023 Accessible Voting Equipment Subgrant Reimbursement Program.*

Clerk Lintula spoke to the need to purchase newer ADA compliant voting booths, commenting that the subgrant reimbursed such purchases in amounts up to \$750. Lintula noted she would verify the eligibility of the purchase with the Wisconsin Elections Commission, before making the purchase.

MOTION by Supervisor TePoel, seconded by Soyering, and carried unanimously to purchase the voting booths, pending verification of the eligibility of the purchase.

8. *Review and discuss the development of a Recreation Committee per the recommendation of the Comprehensive Plan document.*

Clerk Lintula volunteered to head a Recreation Committee and to reach out to potentially interested community members, as well post a sign-up sheet.

MOTION by Chairman Soyering, seconded by TePoel to approve the development of a Recreation Committee; motion carried unanimously.

9. *Review and discuss drafting shared road maintenance agreements with the Towns of Cloverland, Lakeside, and Amnicon in an effort to effectively maintain shared roads.*

The town of Maple has both verbal and written agreements with other towns. Discussion included drafting three year service agreements, formalizing verbal agreements as well as utilizing town resources, such as the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) to streamline the process.

10. *Review of the proposed variance request for Austin Johson and Rachael Gardner - parcel number MA-020-00296-00 - to allow for an access driveway within 300 feet of an existing access driveway on the same side of the road on County Rd FF.*

Planning Commission Chair Erkel recommended - based on the site, the lot size and configuration - that the board not object to the variance request..

MOTION by Chairman Soyring, seconded by TePoel and carried to not object to the variance appeal. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. County Supervisor

County Supervisor Loustari reported that the trestles on the Poplar, Brule and Fish Crick Bridges will need to be replaced this season. The ATV corridor also requires additional crossing signage, particularly as fiber optic cable will be laid under Hwy 2 at some point.

DNR drone footage revealed extensive damage to forested areas, caused by the snow loads this winter.

Several representatives from Douglas County attended RECON in Vegas in an effort to connect the municipality to larger businesses; Cobblestone Hotel & Suites - located on Tower Avenue in Superior, WI - was developed as a result of connections made at previous RECON events.

The county continues to draft campground language. Other zoning efforts include clarifying what entity is responsible for pit restoration, particularly as it relates to high walls left when a pit is closed.

The Hwy G and Hwy Y Pulverize and Pave Projects will begin May 15th. The Hwy U Pulverize and Pave Project will start in early August. Hwy W is in the process of getting approved for a potential 2025 project; the highway has been closed for 5 years. Attached please find the schedule for road projects in Douglas County.

Douglas County Committees are being reconfigured as persons resign and /or change jobs at the county level.

Douglas County hopes to get the mobile home park located in Parkland back on the tax roll; interested parties can place a bid between June 27th -29th; there is no minimum bid. For more information, please contact County Supervisor Loustari.

2. Town Foreman

Foreman Roger Colby reported that the roads need rain before both grading and calcium chloride applications can be done effectively; the town will also need to increase the cost of calcium chloride applications to town residents, given the increase in cost of product and the limited availability of calcium chloride. Calcium chloride will be applied to Wuori Road, with Milestone Quarry paying for the application.

The town might need to find additional haulers for the summer to haul material this summer.

The ball field and ice rink need additional weed killer application, as more weeds grow during the summer. Chairman Soyring might be able to procure free weed killer for the town.

Colby also noted that he's hoping to install the culvert on Goncherek Loop in the near future, and on Degerman Road.

3. Fire Department

Fire Chief Lundeen noted that the Department responded to 6 Emergency Calls this last month. In Maple there was 1 EMS call. Mutual Aids to Poplar for 2 False Alarms and 2 MVA calls. Mutual Aid to Lakeside for 1 False Alarm call. The trucks and equipment seem to be in good working order.

The department continues to wait for an opportunity to look at two potential trucks, vis a vis the Pomasl Fire Equipment. As yet, the opportunity has not presented itself.

The department Emergency Medical Service License has been renewed for the next 3 years. Our newest member of the department, Grant Saari, just finished his Entry level fire class. Congratulations to him for accomplishing the training.

Remodeling of the office at the fire station continues; the glass on the two windows on the west side of the building that broke needs to be replaced. The broken panes have been removed and replaced with a piece of plywood until fixed.

Lundeen also reiterated the importance of getting a burning permit, and checking fire restrictions before burning, especially given the dry weather the area is experiencing.

As always, the VFD is always seeking folks for both EMS and FD volunteerism. If you're interested in joining the department, please stop by on any of our Training or Meeting nights, which are the 3rd Wednesdays of the month and last Monday or Wednesday of the month. New members are always welcome.

4. Town Plan Commission

Erkel noted that she'd like to have the Planning Commission meet to draft new language regarding the sign ordinance.

FUTURE BUSINESS

At the July 13th town meeting, the Board will fill the Supervisor vacancy left after Supervisor Johnson's resignation. Interested parties may submit letters of interest to the clerk, by 4:00 p.m. on July 11th. Letters will be distributed to the board for their review. Please note that submitting a letter of interest does not guarantee appointment.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Supervisor TePoel, and seconded by Soyring, and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Lintula
Clerk, Town of Maple