

**AGENDA FOR TOWN MEETING  
MAPLE, WISCONSIN**

Thursday, August 10, 2023

7:00 p.m. – Maple Community Center, 11037 E US Hwy 2, Maple

READING & APPROVAL OF MINUTES

13 July 2023

TREASURER'S REPORT

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The town received LRIP reimbursement monies from the Autio Road project.
2. The town expects \$13,000+ in aid from the Wisconsin Disaster Fund (WDF) to offset the expenses incurred as a result of the April/ May floods. Special thanks to Foreman Colby for his help in putting together an effective grant application.
3. The Community Work Day was a success! A handful of volunteers from the community and a crew from NBC helped prime and paint the bathroom exterior at the park. An additional work day is being planned to complete the exterior painting.
4. Town board members will attend a budgeting workshop - presented by the Wisconsin Towns Association (WTA) - on September 20.
5. Clerk Lintula attended a week-long clerk training presented by the Wisconsin Municipal Clerks Association (WMCA) in July; she looks forward to applying the knowledge gained.

BRIEF PUBLIC COMMENT

OLD BUSINESS

1. Review and discuss the adoption of a Town Board meeting Code of Conduct by resolution.
  - a. See Document A for a copy of the proposed resolution.
2. Review and discuss signing a resolution that outlines the board's opposition to the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate proposal of AB292 and SB289, laws that stipulate an email requirement in assessment practices.
  - a. See Document B for the link to both proposed laws.
  - b. See Document C for a copy of the proposed resolution of opposition.

## NEW BUSINESS

1. Review, discuss and approve additional members of the Planning Commission.
2. Review and discuss the driveway permit application for Richard Magerl.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. County Supervisor
2. Town Foreman
3. Fire Department
4. Town Plan Commission

## FUTURE BUSINESS

## ADJOURNMENT

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Rachel Lintula  
Clerk, Town of Maple

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<sup>1</sup> ***In compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law, this agenda was: Posted in three public locations on August 4, 2023.*** If you need accommodations to participate in public meetings, please contact the Town Clerk at (715)815-0848 before 4:30 p.m. on the day prior to the scheduled meeting. The Town will try to accommodate any request depending on the amount of notice we receive.

## Document A | Proposed Resolution to adopt a Code of Conduct for Town Board Meetings

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TOWN BOARD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the WISCONSIN OPEN MEETING LAWS give members of the public the right to attend meetings of public bodies but does not give the public the right to speak or otherwise participate at those meetings, except at public hearings and under other limited circumstances, and;

WHEREAS, the WISCONSIN TOWN LAWS authorize a town board to enact rules and regulations regarding the conduct of public meetings and public hearings conducted by the town board, and the WISCONSIN LAWS agree that a public body can adopt reasonable rules that treat members of the public equally, and;

WHEREAS, that any such rules could serve as a basis for preventing verbal interruptions, shouting or other outbursts, as well as slanderous or obscene language or signs, and that a town board can regulate actions of its members and of the public attending meetings so as not to interfere with meetings or prevent others in attendance from observing or hearing the deliberative process, and;

WHEREAS, a town board has a responsibility to insure that everyone has the right to participate in a public hearing and therefore can reasonably limit the length and general nature of public comments to the subject of the public hearing and to limit the expression of facts and opinions to one occurrence of such facts or opinions, so as not to go over and over the same things, so that a town board can consider various points of view, and

WHEREAS, a town board can limit other comments from the public at town board meetings to a specific time set in the agenda for public participation and comment, and

WHEREAS, the Town Board finds that public input during the agenda portions of the meeting can many times aid in making realistic decisions for the Township, at the discretion of the Town board and Town Chair.

NOW, therefore, be it resolved by the Town Board of the Town of Maple will hereby adopt the following rules for public participation AND Town Supervisor decorum at meetings of the Town Board:

1. Except for public hearings as required by the Laws of the State of Wisconsin, public participation at meetings of the Town Board shall be limited to the public participation segment of the agenda of Town Board meetings, and such portions where public input is requested by the Town Supervisors, and,
2. Public comment, whether during the public participation segment of the Town Board meeting or during a duly designated public hearing, shall be limited to five minutes per person. An individual's time may not be given or traded to other speakers or reserved for other portions of the meeting.
3. Any person wishing to speak at a public meeting during the public participation segment or during a public hearing must sign in upon entering the room, when such a sign-in sheet is available, indicating his or her intention to speak, which sheet will be used by the Town Chair or designated meeting facilitator to recognize speakers.

4. Any individual wishing to speak during the public participation segment or during a public hearing when a sign-in sheet is not available, shall raise his or her hand. When recognized by the Town Chair or meeting facilitator, the individual must state his or her name and, if appropriate, group affiliation, and must state the subject he or she will be addressing.
5. Comments must relate to the purpose of the public hearing or to legitimate town business.
6. The Town Clerk or designated facilitator shall function as timekeeper or shall designate another elected official as timekeeper.
7. Members of the Town Board, speakers, and audience members must observe proper decorum. Any statements made during the meeting or during a public hearing by the Supervisors, town officials or employees, or members of the public shall not involve personal, impertinent, or slanderous attacks on individuals, regardless of whether the individual so attacked is an elected official, a town official or employee, or a member of the public.
8. The Town Chair or a facilitator designated by the Chair shall supervise the meeting. The use of profane, vulgar, inflammatory, threatening, abusive, or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs directed at the Supervisor, members of the Town Board, town officials or employees, and members of the public, shall not be tolerated.
9. It is inappropriate to utilize a public meeting for the purpose of making political speeches, including threats of political action, and the same will not be allowed.
10. Comments by speakers must be addressed to the Town Board. Attendees may not address the Town Board unless recognized by the Town Chair.
11. Discussion between speakers and attendees of the public meeting or hearing are prohibited. A speaker may disagree with or support prior speakers in comments directed to the Town Board. Re-statement of comments is not allowed.
12. Any person who disregards the directives of the Town Chair or designated facilitator in enforcing the rules, or who conducts himself or herself in a boisterous or inappropriate manner while the meeting is in session, or otherwise disturbs the peace at a meeting, will be declared out of order. Continued action that is out of order subjects the violator to removal from the meeting, per State Law.

#### Document B | Read Proposed Laws, AB292 and SB289

Link to AB292 : <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/proposals/ab292>

Link to SB289 : <https://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/2023/related/proposals/sb289>

#### Document C | Proposed Resolution of Opposition to Laws

A Resolution in the Town of \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ County, Wisconsin

Resolution Number \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Whereas the Wisconsin Assembly and Senate are currently considering passage of AB292 and SB289, respectively, and

Whereas, If passed AB292 and SB289 will result in the following effects on the Town, property owners within the Town, and the assessment process as a whole:

- The technology to comply with the email component does not exist.
- Adding time to the process will be financially detrimental to the Town due to disrupting the ability to provide accurate municipal assessment reporting to the Dept. of Revenue for their calculations of changes to equalized values.
- The timeline of the exchange of data through local and State entities with assessors does not permit an extension of the timeline for the annual assessment process.
- Rural assessors may provide services for multiple municipalities and these Bills will compound the following issues:
  - The northern part of the State often has winter conditions that prohibit comprehensive field inspections of properties far into the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter.
  - There is a March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for Property Tax Exemption applications, which after received, must then be reviewed.
  - Department of Natural Resources does not publish Managed Forest Land and Forest Crop Land Master Lists until March. Rural Towns have changes to properties involved with these programs each year. Those changes must be processed on the assessor's side and reconciled with these Master Lists.
  - Some Counties do not provide assessors with each year's data for splits, new ownership, land description changes, acre changes, and parcel attachments until March or April. All that information must then be processed by the assessor.
  - Some Counties provide ownership information to rural assessor's once a year and are often months behind processing property transfers. Maintaining additional required ownership information in the form of email addresses will slow that process down.
  - Adding 2 weeks to the notice requirement would push the Board of Review process into the fall for many municipalities.
  - Late Boards of Review produce additional DOR 70.57 adjustments that can be avoided by completing the process by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in June, and inaccurate New Construction values.
  - Few municipalities will be able to complete the process by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday in June by adding 2 weeks to the notice period.
  - Towns will lose levy increase opportunities without accurate new construction values.
  - The logistics and resources required to comply with the requirements of these Bills will exponentially outweigh any perceived benefit.
  - These Bills will present a clear danger to property owners in the form of unprecedented exposure to fraud and identity theft.
  - These Bills provide no benefit to the Towns, the effect will be to the contrary.
  - Assessment services will dramatically increase in cost due to the volume of added processing with less time to accomplish it.
  - Rural assessor's receive ownership information from the County Tax listers. Until Tax Listers can collect email information and transfer that data to the assessor, CAMA software is able to produce blast emails, and assessors are guaranteed that returned emails and responses are electronically safe; an emailed notice of assessment to each owner is impossible to process.
- The increased costs of creating the ability to comply with and maintain the email requirement will be a burden to property owners.
- No assessor has the resources to manually assemble this type of mass communication. It is not possible to comply.

- An email requirement would exclude the Amish community.
- Requiring 2 forms of the notice of assessment for each property is redundant, wasteful, and confusing for property owners.
- Tax bills that are based on assessments are sent by regular mail. Requiring notices of those assessments to be emailed in addition to regular mail is wasteful.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of the \_\_\_\_\_ County, Wisconsin Town of \_\_\_\_\_ does oppose the passage of AB292 and SB289 and demands that all State Officials representing the constituency of the Town of \_\_\_\_\_ also stand in opposition to said bills.

\*Resolution approved / rejected on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ on a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ ayes, \_\_\_\_\_ nays and \_\_\_\_\_ abstentions.

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\_\_\_\_\_, Town Chair                      \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

\* The vote of the Town Board shall be by roll call with the results of such vote being recorded in the minutes of the meeting during which the vote was taken.