

**MAPLE GROVE TOWNSHIP
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 8th, 2024**

- 1. Call to Order.** The Maple Grove Township Board was called to order. Roll call was taken with the following members present Supervisor H. Wayne Beldo, Treasurer Karen Roy, Clerk Fran Beldo, Trustees Joe Barnett, and Gary Bowling. Jason Vess, Fire Chief.
- 2. Changes or Corrections to Agenda.** Add quote from Ron Brown & Sons Asphalt & Paving under New Business. Gary added 2 items under the Fire Department Report.
- 3. Call to the Public.** – Alin Kuuttila:

Question 1: In viewing the minutes of the June 2023 meeting, the Clerk and Treasurer received a raise. The salary for the Clerk and Treasurer were not posted in the minutes. I am wondering why they were not posted.

Question 2: In viewing the minutes of the April 2023 meeting, the Clerk was going to have surgery. She was absent for the May 8th meeting and the June 12th meeting. How much time did she take off, and was she paid for that time off? Does the board have a compensation policy that they follow? Wayne replied that all elected officials are elected for a 4-year term. They are salaried employees, and they receive that salary whether they attend meetings or not. This is the policy for all elected officials in the township. The deputy clerk and deputy treasurer will fill in when necessary. They get paid by the hour.

Zach Vega Networks Northwest - Manistee County Master Plan Update. Manistee County has asked as part of the contract with the Master Plan update to talk about the efforts to go to a Single Zoning Ordinance, and that we meet with every district in the county.

- 1.** The benefits of having a Single Zoning County Ordinance are an aging population, where it is getting harder for rural areas to recruit for planning commission and township board seats.
- 2.** Technology has changed, we no longer use Plat Maps as much, but use iPad, phones etc.
- 3.** A third-party Zoning Administrator that does not live in the area.
- 4.** Helpful for developers as well when they want to develop a piece of land, and it extends into another county or district.

Zach also handed out to the Board Members a brief questionnaire. These will be emailed back to Zach when completed.

Katie Mehl-Current director of the Manistee County Planning Department. As of the first of the year, the Land Bank Authority designated the Planning Department as staff. She is here to talk about the Land Bank Authority, answer any questions and inform of how the Land Bank Authority could benefit your district. She also explained the lifecycle of abandoned property. Habitat For Humanity is a partner with them. Additional Benefits are Grant Opportunities and Brownfield Plans. Katie will get figures to Wayne for proposed contract for a level 1 County Wide Zoning Administrator to present at the next board meeting.

- 4. Consent Agenda.** The Consent Agenda consists of minutes for March 11th, to be completed. Approval of bills for March 12th, through April 3rd, 2024. - General Fund \$13,227.29; Fire Department \$2,172.02; Cemetery \$144.00; Transfer Station \$5,237.69. MGT Community Center \$9,427.61; March Payroll \$13,538.33. The

Treasurer's Financial Statement was included. Motion to accept the Consent Agenda as presented. Motioned by Karen, Supported Gary, any discussion? AIF AYE. Motion carried.

- 5. Fire Department Report** – Gary talked about getting a pad down for the trailer and having something done regarding the sandy spot by the road, at the north–end of the parking lot. Wayne said black dirt and cement will be put in that spot and pull out all the cement pilings. Jason added that Ron Cole claimed that FD did not pay 2023 association dues. Fran will check into this.

6. Supervisors Report –

- Healing Through Hope is renting the front half of the old township hall.
- This is a 4-month trial. If all goes as planned, they may want an extension.
- They are painting and cleaning for a May 1st opening.
- They have liability insurance, and a copy will be provided to the board. Motion by Gary, supported by Karen for Healing Through Hope to move forward with their 4-month plan in renting the old township hall with a reimbursement of \$500 a month. AIF/AYE, any discussion. Motion carried.
- The generator may be here by the end of the month. A pad has been formed, and cement has been poured in preparation for it. There will be a fence around it with 2 cement pilings in front of it. The generator purchase did include an all-weather cover for the top.
- Wayne is going to have someone conduct a survey at the transfer station to ask people if they want to keep recycling. At the last MTA meeting there was talk that Manistee County might not support it in the future. The survey results will be given at the next board meeting. The cost of the green containers is very high. We will keep the trailer.

7. New Business-

A. Siren – Nothing to be done at this time, waiting for a quote on cement.

B. Old Township Hall (Wuoksi) – On hold

8. New Business-

A. Internet (Star Link option)

- Fran needs secure internet for elections. She was not able to get hooked up in the library and had to use the public internet. Kaltel was called, and they said to purchase another router and hook it up in the library. Star Link would be another option to use but start up is costly. Fran and Karen will get quotes and present them at the next meeting.

B. Copier Issues

- We have a 3-year contract with the copier. They told us we need to run a hardline from the router to the copy machine to avoid the network dropping off. They provide a wireless copier, and the internet we currently have is not their problem. Fran and Karen will add the copy situation to the internet quote.

C. Asphalt

- We received the quote from Ron Brown & Sons Asphalt Paving to get parking lot surfaced and painted. Motion by Joe, supported by Gary to move forward with Ron Brown & Sons Asphalt Paving to get parking lot surfaced and painted. AIF/AYE, any discussion, motion carried.

D. BARC – Karla Kasten-

- July 27th is the tire event at BARC. It is \$2.00 per tire.
- August 17th is the HHW event at the Manistee County Road Commission.

9. Adjournment – Motion to adjourn at 7:03 PM. Next meeting is May 13th, at 6:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Frances J. Beldo
Maple Grove Township Clerk