Minutes of the February 20, 2024
Town Board Meeting

Call meeting to order – Chair Vratny called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm. The meeting with the public works candidate was canceled due to the candidate accepting another job. Chair Vratny announced all supervisors were present except for Supervisor Jensen who was excused. Also, present were Clerk/Treasurer Dascenzo, Public Works Director Jeff Scheel and Police Chief Jerry Haferman. Members of the public attending were Tom Klemke, Todd and Robin Touton, Jana Evans, Joe Evans, Tim Scott, George Anetsberger, Casey Bielen, Nathan Lipinski, Rick Kottwitz, Connie Kottwitz, Patty Strohbusch.

Verification of Notice – Clerk/Treasurer Dascenzo confirmed the meeting was properly noticed.

Public Comment – Chair Vratny gave a report about the status of the recent meetings with municipalities of the IGA with the Cambridge Area Fire and EMS Commission. Chair Vratny also reported that many taxpayers in the town had their taxes go down due to the re-evaluation.

A**pproval of Minutes from the January 16 Town Board meetings** – Supervisor Graffin moved to approve the minutes of the January 16 Town Board meeting as printed; Supervisor Palinkas seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

A**pproval of Minutes from the January 31 Town Board meetings** – Supervisor DeGidio moved to approve the minutes of the January 31 Town Board meeting as printed; Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Police report – Chief Haferman stated the DNR audit is complete; reimbursement number won't be available until April. Chief introduced Tom Klemke, who will be joining the Oakland Police Department. Clerk/Treasurer administered the Oath of Office. Speeding in the town, especially on US Highway 12, is a concern.

Cambridge Fire Chief's Report – Chief Joe Evans reviewed some of the highlights of the report that was distributed to board members. The department had 189 calls in 2023 with 48 being in the Town of Oakland. The department is using the 2% fire dues it receives to open a savings account for new fire equipment.

Clerks report – the first election in 2024 for Oakland residents will be Spring Election and Presidential Primary on April 2. Absentee ballots will be available soon. The deputy clerk has resigned, and the town is currently seeking candidates to fill the position. The Clerk's office will have reduced hours March 5 to March 22. Please see the website for more details.

Public Works report – Nathan Lipinski explained the relocation order for temporary Right Of Way land acquisition on Park Road. Supervisor Palinkas moved to authorize Jewell Engineering Associates to continue the process of acquiring Right Of Way land. Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action to authorize Dave and Rae Martin as election staff – with the resignation of the deputy clerk, the clerk's office is asking that Dave and Rae Martin, current election inspectors, become authorized to assist with election duties including mailing and inventorying absentee ballots. Supervisor DeGidio moved to authorize Dave and Rae Martin as election staff. Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action to rezone from A-1 to A-3 to create an approximate 1.3-acre around the existing home as a farm consolidation lot from parcels 022-0613-0111-000 and 022-0613-0111-001 at N4881 County Road G – Chair Vratny reported that this request received a positive recommendation from the plan committee. Chair Vratny moved to approve the rezone from A-1 to A-3 to create an approximate 1.3-acre around the existing home as a farm consolidation lot from parcels 022-0613-0111-000 and 022-0613-0111-001 at N4881 County Road G; Supervisor DeGidio seconded the motion; Motion carried 4-0.

Discussion and possible action regarding Operator's Licenses for David Schultz and Nicole Fladhammer for the time period of February 2024, through June 30, 2024 – Chair Vratny reported that staff recommends approval of license based on background check. Supervisor Graffin moved to approve the Operator's license for David Schultz and Nicole Fladhammer for the time period of February 2024, through June 30, 2024; Chair Vratny seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

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Closed Session pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute Section 19.85 (1)(c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. To consider applications for positions of employment – Motion by Chair Vratny to go into closed session; Chair Vratny invited Clerk/Treasurer Dascenzo and Public Works Director Jeff Scheel into the closed session. Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion. Roll call vote to go into closed session: DeGidio – YES; Graffin – YES; Palinkas – YES; Vratny – YES. The board went into closed session at 6:55 pm.

Discussion and possible action on items from closed session –The board came out of closed session at 7:41 pm. Supervisor DeGidio moved to offer future public works employees a hiring bonus of $2500 after 90 days and another $2500 after 6 months. Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion; Motion carried 4-0. Supervisor Graffin moved to offer the Deputy Clerk position to Laura Lowrey at $21/hour with an evaluation at 60 days to determine the number of hours needed in the office. Supervisor DeGidio seconded the motion; Motion carried 4-0.

Set a date and time for board working session to review ordinances and employee handbook amendments -. Chair Vratny asked board members to check calendars for a future meeting time to discuss ordinance #36, ordinance #2, remote meeting participation and a request for proposal for a building inspector along with amendments to the current employee handbook. The date selected is Tuesday March 5 at 4:00 pm. An agenda will be posted the week of February with the final agenda items.

Approval of Disbursements – Chair Vratny moved to approve the disbursement of checks 85 to 180 plus 5 electronic funds transfers for an amount of $2,165,414.73. Supervisor Graffin seconded the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Announcements – none at this meeting

Correspondence – draft minutes of Plan committee from February 6 and fire commission report

Next meeting – March 19, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Oakland Town Hall

Adjournment – Supervisor DeGidio moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:51 pm, Supervisor Graffin seconded, motion carried 4-0

Minutes Written and submitted by
Susan Dascenzo
Clerk/Treasurer

Town Chair _____ Clerk_____

Supervisor _____ Supervisor _____

Supervisor _____ Supervisor _____,

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