Town of Oakland, Burnett County, Wisconsin
January 13, 2022

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by Chairman Wayne Larrabee following the public hearing held to solicit input to the proposed subdivision ordinance. All members (Chairman Wayne Larrabee, Supervisor Harm Weber, Supervisor Tim McIntyre, Clerk Sherril Anderson and Treasurer Melinda Lippert) were present. Several members of the public were also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited during the Public Hearing.

The minutes from the December 2021 meeting were reviewed. Harm Weber made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Tim McIntyre seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes carried.

Melinda Lippert provided copies of the December 2021 Treasurer's report. Harm Weber made a motion to accept the report as presented; Tim McIntyre seconded and the motion carried.

Sherril Anderson presented the December 2021 invoices for payment. Harm Weber made a motion to approve the monthly invoices as presented; Tim McIntyre seconded and the motion carried.

In an update regarding the town constable position, Wayne Larrabee reported that there had been no new input received from the Village of Siren but that he believes we are still on track for an April 1 implementation of constable services.

Jason Towne, Burnett County Land Services Director, was present and Harm Weber asked for his opinion regarding the necessity for a subdivision ordinance for the Town of Oakland. Jason responded that, professionally, he has no opinion. He did, however, express his belief that we can accomplish what we want through zoning. Harm pointed out that the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) calls for cluster development and questioned whether this ordinance would remove that option; Jason confirmed that the ordinance would remove the option of cluster development. In response to a question from Tim, Jason confirmed that existing large lots cannot be developed into more lots than a 10-acre minimum would allow. Mark Krause explained that anyone looking to develop more than 4 small lots (less than 1.5 acres) in less than a five-year period would have to apply for a State Plat which can be prohibitive and, in his opinion, few people want to do. Jason also clarified that once a large parcel is "density developed" (combining lots less than 10 acres with a remaining large parcel), it cannot be redivided and that information is captured in the permit system linked to the individual parcels. The subdivision ordinance with its 10-acre minimum would eliminate the possibility of density development and negate zoning allowances for zones RR1, RR2, RR3 and C1 (Residential and Commercial zones).

Wayne asked both Harm and Tim to state their current position on the ordinance. Harm's stated that he opposes the ordinance for four reasons: 1) because it's duplicative--we already have zoning; 2) he feels it oversteps the Town Board's regulatory responsibilities and is over-legislative; 3) he believes it feels heavy handed; and 4) he doesn't like changing the rules on people mid-stream. Tim stated that after looking at the explanations provided by Jason, feels he could look at something other than a 10-acre minimum. He expressed that he wants to find a way to protect the township and is concerned that folks could bring in campers or older mobile homes as permanent residences. It was pointed out that such concerns are around "people" issues as opposed to land use. Wayne stated that he believed most everyone knew his stance…he wants to protect the rural feel of the township for his grandchildren and generations to come.

Further action was tabled as an additional public hearing is scheduled prior to the February Board Meeting; a vote on the ordinance will take place at the February Board Meeting.

As decided at last month's meeting, discussion regarding the proposed Temporary Dwelling Ordinance was tabled until the March meeting to allow time for campground owners to work with the Land Use Planning Committee to see if they can come up with a mutually agreeable proposal.

Charlie Weis, Assistant Fire Chief of the Webster Fire Department stopped in to share information regarding the Department's efforts to solicit donations to purchase a new "Jaws of Life". He explained that while the current equipment works, new equipment brings technology that makes the equipment far more efficient. The Department is hoping to raise $35,000. Flyers will be posted throughout the areas served by the Department that include an option for making a donation electronically; those wishing to donate non-electronically can mail a check to: Webster Volunteer Fire Department, PO Box 343, Webster WI 54893. Any donation made in support of this purchase is considered tax deductible.

Sara McLain and Joe Cremin, owners of Starwire Technologies, were present to request Town participation in a Wisconsin Public Service Commission Grant Partnership. Starwire is an internet provider and they have been in business for 15 years. They would like to bring fiber optic service into Oakland Township and are looking to get a grant through the Public Service Commission (PSC); this would be the same type of grant previously supported by the Town Board for SirenTel. Joe provided maps to designate areas in the Township where there currently is not fiber optic coverage. He explained that the PSC looks for a public/private partnership and that while in the past a letter of support from the Township was sufficient, the PSC is now looking for some kind of financial support. He suggested that such support could come from ARPA (American Recovery Plan Act) funds and that other municipalities have committed to contributing

from their second ARPA payment. Based on other applications Starwire has seen, investments from a municipality of our size in the $5K to 10K are sufficient for procuring a grant. In Oakland there are 24 miles of road included in their proposed project and they anticipate a total budget of $900K - $1M. Applications to the PSC are due in March with awards to be given in May or June. Given the current state of the economy, their project would not complete until sometime next year.

Wayne commented that there are two providers in the township already and no financial support has been given; he expressed his concerns regarding duplication and/or precedents already set. He further stated that the budget for this year is set but that we have not yet determined how to use the ARPA funds awarded to the Town. A large portion of the initial ARPA payment has been earmarked to fund the Town Constable position but nothing further has been planned at this time. Joe clarified that the town would need to commit to providing funds prior to the application deadline but payment would not be due until the end of the project. No action was taken at this time.

Harm reported that he had attended the recent meeting of the Oakland Collection Center (OCC) Board; the primary action taken at that meeting was a vote to raise wages for the OCC employees.

Tim reported that he had been notified that the County has found an alternative, less expensive source for road signage.

Wayne reminded all that Board of Review training would be scheduled soon and requested that Sherril sign him up for the online session when it is announced.

In a follow-up to previous discussions about the possibility of drafting Board Meeting minutes in draft form prior to formal approval, Wayne explained that, according to the Wisconsin Towns Association, we can post meeting minutes in draft form provided a disclaimer is included indicating that the minutes will not be formally approved until the next Board meeting. The Board agreed that it would be reasonable to post the minutes in draft form within 10 days of the meeting barring unforeseen circumstances.

The next regular meeting of the Town Board will take place on February 10, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Webster Fire Hall.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim McIntyre, seconded by Harm Weber. The motion passed.