



## Village of Maine Minutes

Monday, August 9, 2021

Village of Maine Board Meeting

Maine Municipal Center

6111 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue

Wausau, WI 54401

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### OFFICIAL NOTICE AND AGENDA

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Maine held a regular monthly meeting at the Maine Municipal Center on Monday, August 9, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. Accounts Payable was reviewed at 5:30 p.m. p.m. General Business will commence at 5:45 p.m. **PLEASE NOTE - we are continuing to take COVID-19 precautionary measures.**

#### AGENDA

1. Call the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. – Betty Hoenisch, Village President
2. Review bills - motion to approve the payment of time slips, invoices, and statements
3. 5:45 p.m. - General Business
4. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
5. Motion to dispense of the reading and approval of the minutes from the July 12, 2021, Board Meeting and the July 22nd and July 26th, 2021, Special Board Meetings
6. President's Report
7. Administrator's Report
8. Treasurer's Report
9. Fire Department Report
10. Marathon County Supervisors Report by Jonathan Fisher
11. Comments from the audience on Other Business items A - D below
12. Other Business:
  - A. Discussion regarding Maine's fire restoration claim against MPIC Insurance

## Agenda

## Village of Maine Board of Trustees

- B. Discussion and possible action to appoint Michael Russ as Village Constable to complete Jim Behrendt's term
  - C. Discussion and possible action on 2021 and 2022 road and ditch projects
  - D. Discussion and possible action on a Weather/Emergency Plan
13. Adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting for the August 9th Plan Commission Meeting
  14. Reconvene the Board of Trustees Meeting
  15. Discussion and possible action on Well Head Protection Ordinance
  16. Report from audience on culverts, road issues and/or requests to have an item placed on the next Village Board Meeting agenda
  17. The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021
  18. Adjournment

I certify that this agenda was posted at the Brokaw Post Office, Brokaw Village Hall, Red Granite Bar & Grill, Richard's Restaurant & Bar, Schmidt's Bar, and the Maine Municipal Center, 6111 N. 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Wausau, WI August 7, 2021. (Please note - the Bars and Restaurants that are posting locations may not hold regular hours due to COVID-19.) Agenda was also posted on Maine's website. *Betty Hoenisch*, Village President

## MINUTES

1. Call the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. – Betty Hoenisch, Village President

President Betty Hoenisch called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present at the meeting were: President Betty Hoenisch, Trustee Tom Mullaley. Trustee Jon Graveen, Clerk Cindy Bailey, Attorney Randy Frokjer, Administrator Keith Rusch, Office Assistant Merriebeth Russ.

2. Review bills - motion to approve the payment of time slips, invoices, and statements

Trustee Mullaley made a motion to approve the payment of time slips, invoices, and statements. Trustee Graveen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3. 6:00 p.m. - General Business

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Motion to dispense of the reading and approval of the minutes from the July 12, 2021, Board Meeting and the July 22nd and July 26th, 2021, Special Board Meetings.

Jon Graveen asked for clarification of the reference to Rainbow Drive vs Black Bear Way in the minutes for the July 12, 2021 Board meeting. Discussion followed on the wording of the minutes pertaining to the private bridge on Black Bear Way, which is a private way. President Hoenisch explained that the 2001 Board Meeting minutes referred to the location of the private way bridge as “Rainbow Drive” because at that time the six homes were addressed to Rainbow Drive. The private way name was changed to Black Bear Way in 2009 with the address sign project. The bridge is located on the private way now called “Black Bear Way.” Attorney Frokjer said the minutes from the July 12, 2021, meeting should use the current name of the private way.

Trustee Graveen made a motion to approve the July 22, 2021, and July 26, 2021 Special Board Meeting minutes and to table the minutes from the July 12, 2021, Board Meeting. Trustee Mullaley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

6. President’s Report

President Hoenisch reported receiving complaints in person and on social media about the lack of mowing in the Village this summer. She has received calls and the municipal workers have been harassed on their off time by residents unhappy with the lack of ditch line mowing. President Hoenisch explained that when the 2006 McKenzie mower

broke in 2020, the 1978 mower was brought out of storage and used to mowed ditches. The Village ordered and received a Land Pride mower, but it would not work properly and Service Motors was unable to get it to work properly. Maine returned the Land Pride and the manufacturer refunded the entire amount paid. Maine then ordered a drop-down Tiger mower from Serwe Implement and it was due in March 1, 2021. Delivery was then postponed to May 1, 2012 due to Covid and manufacturing shut downs. The Tiger mower finally arrived the third week of June, however Serwe informed Maine that the parts needed to mount the mower to the New Holland tractor were backordered. Serwe loaned a demo mower to Maine and that mower broke down during the first 4-hour use. President Hoenisch was unable to find anyone to contract to do the mowing until a contractor had a 3-4 day opening and was able to do basic ditch mowing in the village. He was able to complete one pass through approximately 7/8 of the areas that needed mowing and his mower broke. A week later the part for the loaner mower arrived and Maine's part-time employee was able to mow for a week at which time the loaner machine was promised to another municipality. So, Maine has a new mower, but it is still in the crate and can't be mounted and used until the parts are available.

President Hoenisch explained that Clerk Bailey received information on Wild Parsnips – an invasive plant and forwarded it to Merriebeth Russ to posted in an article on the website. She then stated that if Board members finds something interesting or helpful they should forward the information to her or Clerk Bailey so that they can get interesting topics on the website.

President Hoenisch asked Administrator Rusch how his training on the well operation was going. He said that he had someone lined up to interview for a position in the utilities and would cover that in his report.

President Hoenisch explained an awning or roof needed to be constructed for the posting board at the Brokaw Post Office to keep the rain out. Trustee Mullaley stated he would take care of that project. President Hoenisch suggested that he build a roof similar to park or boat landing information boards.

#### 7. Administrator's Report

##### **August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

- Chemical feed pumps for the new wells have operated consistently lately. Our focus now is directed at fine tuning our set-up to get consistent distribution throughout the water system. We have also seen a high level of Infiltration/Inflow at the WWTP. We are assessing options to determine if it's a function of severe rain events or part of a distribution system issue.

- There is considerable time invested in sampling/testing for the new wells. We have two sets of testing that need to occur; Compliance testing (typical to verify that we continue to provide good water to customers) and Investigative testing (additional requirements from the DNR due to a water source changeover). The timing of each is different so keeping these on target is a challenging process.
- I submitted a response to the DNR regarding our Sanitary Survey (water utility review) and have received a positive acknowledgement of our plan to address deficiencies. Part of which is implementing the updated Well Head Protection Ordinance that is part of our agenda for this meeting.
- We received interest in a Public Works position and have an initial interview set up for later this week.
- DNR permitting (storm water, wetlands, stream crossings, etc.) for the construction work last year can be closed out. I plan to work on the documentation required to complete the permitting close out process shortly.
- We have received PSC staff recommendations to our rate change application for the water utility. We originally targeted a 12.5% decrease but that included some standard accounting procedures (specifically depreciation of components) that the PSC would not agree to exclude from our application. Including the PSC depreciation schedule into our submittal changed the rate decrease to 3% (rounded off). We were purposely conservative with operational costs in our assessment to be sure we are covering expenses. PSC staff did not agree with that approach and used expenses they typically see with utilities of like size to ours. What this means is that PSC staff is recommending a rate that results in a 4% decrease (rounded off) from the current rate. There are a series of requirements included with the PSC proposal, we have replied that we concur with the PSC recommendations. The next step is scheduling a Public Hearing.
- Another PSC note-the PSC is limited to charging 0.8% of gross operating costs for review services (they charge us for staff time to review our case). What this means is that we were overcharged in 2018 and 2019-I received a reimbursement check today for \$27,795.60 due to that rule. Some good news from the PSC.

Respectfully submitted: Keith Rusch, Administrator

#### 8. Treasurer's Report

### **For the Month of July 2021 Village of Maine General Accounts**

**Checking Account**

Beginning Balance as of:6/30/2021		\$34,112.37
Deposits and Interest	\$ 236,172.57	
Disbursements	\$ (210,972.72)	
Balance as of: 7/31/2021		<u><u>\$59,312.22</u></u>

**Municipal Savings Account**

Beginning Balance on: 6/30/2021		\$396,614.42
Deposits and Interest:	\$ 668,284.91	
Disbursements:	\$ (234,986.31)	
Balance as of: 7/31/2021		<u><u>\$829,913.02</u></u>

**Municipal Savings Account (Shared Revenue)**

Beginning Balance on: 6/30/2021		\$647,818.29
Deposits and Interest:	\$ 82.54	
Disbursements:	\$ -	
Balance as of: 7/31/2021		<u><u>\$647,900.83</u></u>

**Village of Maine Fire Department Accounts****Checking Account**

Balance as of: 6/30/2021		\$227.86
Deposits and Interest	\$ 0.01	
Disbursements	\$ -	
Balance as of 7/31/2021	.	<u><u>\$227.87</u></u>

**Memorial & Donations Money Market Account**

Balance as of: 6/30/2021		\$36,905.94
Deposits and Interest	\$ 3,266.98	
Disbursements	\$ -	
Balance as of : 7/31/2021		<u><u>\$40,172.92</u></u>

**Equipment Outlay Account**

Balance as of: 6/30/2021		\$5,709.10
Deposits and Interest	\$ -	
Disbursements	\$ -	
Balance as of: 7/31/2021		<u><u>\$5,709.10</u></u>

Respectfully Submitted

*Patricia Neumann*

Trustee Mullaley made a motion to approve the August 2021 Treasurer's Report.  
Trustee Graveen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

9. Fire Department Report

There was no report from the Fire Department.

10. Marathon County Supervisors Report by Jonathan Fisher

Marathon County Supervisor Jonathan Fisher was present at the meeting to update the Village Board on news from Marathon County.

Supervisor Fisher reported that sales tax was ahead of 2020 by 17% and increased over 2019. The County is 5.1 million ahead of budget due to decreased revenue, but there has been a decrease in expenses as well. Marathon County is at 6.8% of debt capacity and has a AAA rating. In prioritizing projects, the County Board has decided to change from using a team of County Supervisory and citizens to using a team of County Supervisors and County Staff to ensure that needed projects (such as repairs and maintenance) are funded before projects that may be wanted.

They continue to push hard for improved broadband service, but it is still about 2 years out. The county held a public meeting to gather input on how people would like the AARPA money spent. The guidelines for use of the AARPA money are still not complete. So far it would seem that utilities, water, sewer are options, but roads are not. Guidelines do include broadband, but not the final mile.

11. Comments from the audience on Other Business items A-D below.

There were no comments from the audience.

12. Other Business:

A. Discussion regarding Maine's fire restoration claim against MPIC Insurance.

Attorney Frokjer updated the Trustees on the settlement for the fire restoration. In the final discussions with MPIC Insurance, Attorney Frokjer did remind them that the Village Board had authorized him to proceed with legal action if an agreement was not reached. Although the Village had hoped for \$30,000, MPIC agreed to settle the claim in the amount of \$27,500.

B. Discussion and possible action to appoint Michael Russ as Village Constable to complete Jim Behrendt's term.

Village resident Mike Russ, who has helped with the Rainbow Drive cat/kitten issues, is interested in helping with other animal control issues. He is willing to attend Human Officer Training.

The Board previously approved Mr. Dave Woods as an Animal Control Officer, but it has not been working out due to Mr. Woods having a full-time job. President Hoenisch said that Mr. Russ is retired, has past law enforcement experience, and would also be willing to complete Jim Behrendt's term as constable.

Trustee Mullaley made a motion to terminate Mr. David Woods, appoint Michael Russ, Sr. as Village Constable to complete Jim Behrendt's term, and authorize Michael Russ to attend Humane Officer Training. Trustee Graveen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

C. Discussion and possible action on 2021/2022 road and ditch projects.

President Hoenisch informed the Board that Trustee Schoepke expressed concerns about a site for a second PW and/or FD storage building and yard waste site on west side of N. 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue because of traffic. The three-way stop signs at Hillcrest and N. 60<sup>th</sup> Avenue has helped slow down traffic. A three way stop sign on the corner of N. 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Town Hall Road might be the answer. She listed the sites that had been discussed in prior meetings: N. 39<sup>th</sup> Avenue land, Burnell's pit. Schmieden land, and Van Der Geest land. She asked Trustees to review the sites for terrain, traffic and other issues that would become a problem. A Board meeting will be scheduled to discuss further.

President Hoenisch held four meetings to inform the affected residents and business owners about the Merrill Avenue project. Work has begun on the ditch line along Merrill Avenue.

President Hoenisch updated the Trustees on her meetings with Kelly Zagrezebski from WPS on the 46K line rebuild. The lines cannot be underground. Residents are not entirely happy with the plans, but most understand the need to have the lines. President Hoenisch is still working with WPS. She would like it to come down Campus Drive to Monk Gardens and follow the current line north to limit the impact on Maine residents. She has also suggested that WPS install metal poles that can get higher up, so the wires are not so close to the homes or as noticeable. She will keep the Village Board updated as she hears more.

There have been many calls regarding N 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kellar Drive, and N 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue roads. Public Works reclaimed the granite this spring and with the monsoon rains the granite is back in the ditch. The washouts are repaired with granite and the road needs to be graded after every storm. Public Works received instructions to not add a lot of granite, but to try to push back what was already there and add DOT spec rock from the

AB & J quarry. There will need to be a significant lift of DOT spec rock added before the paving is done to give the asphalt strength. She has been doing a lot of explaining to the residents who have complaints on the rutting and washouts. She will be meeting with a contractor to obtain an estimate for the ditching that is needed in preparation for paving those three roads. The estimate is needed in order to budget for those projects.

President Hoenisch included an e-mail from John Ohrmundt in the meeting packets as there are continued water problems with the property. This is the only property in 152 miles of ditch line that has had multiple obstructions. To date, there has been a tree pot, plastic bags, Amazon package bubble wrap, and most recently a deposit of brush. She will need to work with Bobbi Fisher, the supervisor for Casey Jones, who is taking over the matter.

President Hoenisch explained that there are a few roads where it appeared the chip was peeling off. However, when meeting with two contractors it was noted that the issues is happening in many municipalities due to the poor quality asphalt. The top lay of asphalt is letting loose on roads that were paved in the 2006 timeframe. The problems are also occurring on County highways. Spray patching will be applied this year in hopes that it will hold up and give a better ride. If successful, the spray patching can be used to repair other roads with ride ability issue.

Action on these items was tabled until Trustee Schoepke is available to participate.

D. Discussion and possible action on a Weather/Emergency Plan.

President Hoenisch stated that she will be meeting with the Fire Department Chief and suggest that they have plasticades and signs on their trucks that indicate a road is closed due to fallen electrical lines. She also plans to create a Weather Emergency Plan, divide Maine into six segments, and assign a segment to the Constable and each of the Trustees. The segments would be driven to identify areas where there is storm damage such as downed trees, power lines, and flooding. Small trees could be cut and/or pulled to the roadside. The information would be reported to President Hoenisch to create a list for Public Works to address the non-emergency items the following day. This emergency plan will allow Public works to concentrate on the larger trees or other high priority issues. All vehicles will be equipped with a plasticade to mark a washout, and a plug-in light to light the area(s) being checked.

Attorney Frokjer will check on liability issues and President Hoenisch will check with Maine's insurance carrier regarding coverage for the constable and trustees personal vehicles.

No action taken on this item. Tabled until discussed with Trustee Schoepke and Fire Department officers.

13. President Hoenisch asked for a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting for the August 9, 2021, Plan Commission Meeting.

Trustee Mullaley made a motion to adjourn the Board of Trustees Meeting for the August 9, 2021, Plan Commission Meeting at 7:25 p.m. Trustee Graveen seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

14 Reconvene the Board of Trustees Meeting

President Hoenisch reconvened the Board of Trustees Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

15. Discussion and possible action on Well Head Protection Ordinance.

There was a public hearing held on Monday, June 14, 2021, and there were no objections to the Well Head Protection Ordinance. The day after the public hearing, Burnell Utecht stopped and suggested that the protection area be expanded. Administrator Rusch explained that the DNR will not allow the protection area to be expanded at this time. The Well Head Protection Ordinance was presented to the Plan Commission at tonight's meeting and recommended that the Village Board approve the Well Head Protection Ordinance.

Trustee Graveen made a motion to repeal and replace the Well Head Protection Ordinance and revise the zoning map. Trustee Mullaley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

16. Report from audience on culverts, road issues and/or requests to have an item placed on the next Village Board Meeting agenda.

No comments from the audience.

17. The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be Monday, September 13, 2021

18. Adjournment

Trustee Mullaley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Trustee Graveen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by

*Merriebeth Russ*, Office Assistant

Approved September 13, 2021