

Maple Grove Township Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 2025/01/20 Presented by: Tish Yaros - Clerk

The meeting was held in person and called to order at 7:00 p.m. Supervisor Peterman, Treasurer Jaster, Clerk Yaros, Trustee Erhardt and Trustee Ebenhoeh were present.

A motion was made by Clerk Yaros to approve the December 16th, 2024 meeting minutes, seconded by Supervisor Peterman. One correction needs to be made to Scott Tallon's name. Motion passed with corrected spelling.

Chief Andres is working with Treasurer Jaster to put together his budget for next year. Hunter Knieper was hired as the New Lieutenant for the Maple Grove Fire Department. Clerk Yaros motioned to hire Scott Tallon as the next Fire Chief once Chief Andres retires on April 1, 2025, seconded by Supervisor Peterman. Motion passed. Andres also noted that Scott Tallon was awarded a grant for \$662 with a 50% cost share for a new saw, blades and case.

Treasurer Jaster noted tax collection was in process. The Fire Department account was reconciled. Josiah Jaster was appointed as Deputy Treasurer. Jaster discussed moving money and utilizing CD's to get more interest on our accounts. Treasurer Jaster noted that a new auditor has been selected as our current auditor rates increase significantly. Treasurer Jaster motioned to approve Resolution 2025-01-01 to appoint new Authorized Signatures on the township bank accounts to include Josiah Jaster, seconded by Trustee Ebenhoeh. Motion passed.

Clerk Yaros noted the following items:

- The Cabling has been pulled in the office and the contractor will be scheduled to come in and finish this project.
- Migration of the website has been completed. Awaiting training for editors.
- New Wage/Sick Time policy was tabled till February, but will be discussed at that meeting.
- Discussed the potential of several new policies that will be shared with the board to be discussed at future meetings.
- Handed out 2024 budgets and expenses to each department to be discussed at the budget meeting
- Discussed the Early Vote Center and how valuable it is that we have partnered with Saginaw County. There will be quarterly billings even in off years to cover costs to maintain our footprint in the County building.
- Encouraged everyone to get on the Permanent Ballot list, even on off election years.
- Yaros had a new security door installed in the office as part of an election security grant for \$1,000.

Trustee Ebenhoeh reminded everyone that the Master Plan Open House will take place on Sunday, January 26th from 10:00-1:00 p.m.

Trustee Erhardt discussed the park and hall upgrades.

Supervisor Peterman discussed the following items:

- Peterman noted the ceiling in the Hall is now complete. There are new tiles, grid and lighting throughout the Hall. Discussed many other issues that still need to be fixed in the hall and these will be discussed at the budget meeting.
- Peterman motioned to set the Budget Meetings, seconded by Clerk Yaros. Motion passed. Preliminary budgets are to be submitted to Clerk Yaros by February 10th. Times are below:
 - 1st Budget Meeting - Tuesday, February 18, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. - Township Hall
 - 2nd Budget Meeting - Monday, March 14, 2025 @ 6:45 p.m. - Township Hall
- Peterman proposed the following Resolutions:
 - 2025-01-02 - Examine salary of Township Trustees, Seconded by Clerk Yaros. Motion passed.
 - 2025-01-03 - Examine salary of Township Treasurer, Seconded by Trustee Ebenhoeh. Motion passed.
 - 2025-01-04 - Examine salary of Township Clerk, Seconded by Treasurer Jaster. Motion passed.
 - 2025-01-05 - Examine salary of Township Supervisor, Seconded by Clerk Yaros. Motion passed.
- Peterman motioned to approve Resolution 2025-01-06 to waive the property tax penalty fee, seconded by Trustee Ebenhoeh, after some discussion a roll call vote was called. Supervisor Peterman - Yes, Trustee Erhardt - Yes, Treasurer Jaster - No, Clerk Yaros - No, Trustee Ebenhoeh - No. Motion failed. Taxes are to be paid by February 14th to avoid incurring a penalty fee.

- Now that the Ball Fields are frozen, slide safe will be ordered and distributed to each diamond. Parts of the fence will be removed to allow equipment access to the fields. Peterman will be applying for a DNR grant and will work to create a long term plan for the park.
- Peterman noted that the Board of Review will be meeting March 4th for the Organizational Meeting and on March 11th & March 12th for issues. Times and dates will be posted on the website.
- MMWA has Special Waste Days. They are available by appointment only and all information will be put on our webpage or you can go to recyclemotion.org to get more information.
- Peterman is putting together a list of roads to chip and seal this year.
- Following up on a public comment from the last meeting, All Planning Commission members will be attending their meetings this year.
- Supervisor Peterman contacted the township lawyer and it was decided that with regard to the 2 urns in 1 burial plot can be decided by the Township Board. No motion was necessary. Supervisor Peterman, Treasurer Jaster, Trustee Ebenhoeh and Trustee Erhardt agreed to allow this situation to proceed. Clerk Yaros disagreed as it went against the Ordinance that's in place.
- Supervisor Peterman discussed Resolution 2025-01-07 for Performance Resolution for Municipalities that was in the board packet. After several questions, this was tabled until more information can be provided.

Clerk Yaros motioned to pay bills 21409 thru 21447 for a total of \$63,797.49, seconded by Supervisor Peterman. Motion passed.

Public Comment: A question was asked regarding the Zoning Officer/Ordinance Officer performing inspections for Ordinance Violations. The Township Attorney is working with Supervisor Peterment to create a citation ticket book for these positions. It was noted that there are lights out, on the outside of the Township Hall and a resident offered to donate a new flag for the hall.

Trustee Ebenhoeh motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Supervisor Peterman. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.