

Town of Hamburg  
Annual Town Meeting  
April 16, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Vogel at 7:00 PM. Vogel thanked all for attending. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-five residents were in attendance.

Clerk Dawn Czech read the minutes from the 2023 Annual meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Schara and seconded by John Sturm. Motion carries.

Czech also read the 2023 Financial report. Motion was made by John Sturm and seconded by Bill Rauen to accept the report as read. Motion carries.

Kevin Borchardt, Hamburg Assistant Fire Chief, gave a Fire Department Report. Borchardt detailed the Fire Department's Annual report that gives an accounting of the Fundraising efforts of the FD members. Income in 2023 was \$40,761.25. The Department was called to 65 total calls last year, of which 48 were EMS and 17 Fire. There are 31 members on the Department and they all appreciate the Township's support in all of the Department's endeavors. This year's upcoming Tractor Pull Fundraiser Day is scheduled for June 22.

Borchardt also gave an Emergency Medical Responder Report for EMR captain Kari Moodie who was attending the Town of Berlin Annual Meeting.

The EMR group has 18 members from Hamburg and surrounding townships. Their annual fundraisers consist of helping at the Fire Dept tractor pull, providing EMS coverage at the Edgar Steam show, and a Fall Mum sale. In 2023, the ending EMR checking balance was \$10,572.26, savings balance was \$4,293.77. Motion made by Jeff Artus and seconded by Jim Schara to accept the Fire Department and EMR report. Motion carries.

Resident Cindy Artus thanked the Fire Department for their outreach into the local community. She highlighted Maple Grove's weekly Fire Up to Read program and the Halloween Trick or Treat event at the Fire Station.

Motion made to accept the Fire Department and EMR reports by Jim Schara, seconded by Jeff Artus. Motion carries.

2023 Supervisors Report.

Jordan Artus, Supervisor, reported on the 2023 highlights:

- Diabase was spread on Einert Creek Lane, Grass Creek Lane, and Deer Creek Lane.
- New large garage doors were installed at the Town shed using federal ARPA funds.
- Supervisors answered a question on Diabase vs. Granite's use as a road surface material. They felt that for the cost, diabase has held up better. Granite does have a place on the less traveled roads on the northern end of the township.

Motion to approve the Supervisors report by Bill Rauen, seconded by Jim Schara. Motion carries.

Vogel presented the Chairman's Report.

Vogel thanked the assembled residents for coming. Things have been quiet for the most part in the township. Highlights of the past year include:

1. A new residential garbage and recycling contract was signed with Waste Management for a five-year term in Fall of 2023. Please contact Vogel with any issues with pickup or service.
2. The new doors were installed at the Town Shed, and paid for by the Federal ARPA funds.
3. A used excavator was purchased in 2023 for \$198,000. Additional total monies were approved by residents at a Special Town Meeting on August 23rd.
4. A \$90,000 Fire Department tanker/pumper was purchased in September, using monies from the FD fund savings. A Special Town Meeting was held on September 12<sup>th</sup> to authorized this purchase. This is a 2000 International truck bought from a Fire Department in Northern Wisconsin.
5. Granite, Road Base and Dust control Bids were opened last week at the April Town Board Meeting. Accepted were a granite bid of \$9.75 a cubic yard from Kafka Road Materials and a Diabase bid of \$10.60/ton from Haas, Inc. A Dust Control bid was accepted for \$1.44 a gallon from Kafka Dust Busters.
6. There has been no Town Board action on the Wind Turbine issue. Rib Falls has passed a regulating Ordinance on Wind Turbines and is looking into possible Solar panel restrictions. There have been no Rib Falls residents signing paperwork to allow construction on their properties.

Cindy Artus made a motion to have the Hamburg Town Board explore creating an ordinance stating, "As a Township, residents are against putting up Wind Turbines in Hamburg." Motion seconded by Jim Schara. Motion carries.

Motion was made by Kevin Borchardt, seconded by Jim Schara to accept the Chairman's Report. Motion carries.

#### New Business

-Treasurer Teri Tucker reports that People's State Bank has notified us that the Town checking account will be no longer earning interest as of April 15, 2024. This account has earned over \$13,000 in interest alone in the last year. Tucker has spoken to Forward Financial Bank in Athens and is open to other ideas from residents as to banking options. Motion made by Bonnie Nofsinger and seconded by Cindy Artus to switch banking institutions to Forward Financial Bank. Motion carries.

-Vogel reports that the Township has approximately \$30,000 of ARPA funds remaining. These will have to be used by December, 2024 or be returned to the Federal Government. Suggestions are to replace the windows/sills and install air conditioning at the Town Hall. The Town Board will explore these options.

-The Town Board will be looking at the Hamburg Comprehensive Plan to possibly update minimum lot size/acreage to build a home and how close to the lot lines that build can be.

-Brad Borchardt recommended the Township increase the Fire Department Fund annual payment from \$27,000 to \$40,000 due to the rising cost of equipment. After some discussion, it was decided to table this topic until the annual Budget meeting in October. The Town Board is thanked for being good stewards of the people's money.

-Bill Rauen questions the large increase last year in Rental Fees for the Town Hall. Discussion was had to the impact on rental income, as well as the cost of repairs. The Town Board will look into this issue.

-John Sturm wonders if the Roads could be plowed earlier in order for residents to get to work in a more-timely manner.

-Cindy Artus reports that the K-5 Maple Grove Charter School is doing well. Enrollment has increased from 72 students in 2022, to 105 students this year. This increase is expected to continue in the upcoming years. There is a 125-student maximum capacity in the building, and at that point a lottery system would be instituted to determine the students who could attend. The Marathon School district is currently at its student capacity. Maple Grove is benefiting from its proximity to Marathon and its innovative learning style.

The Maple Grove Foundation exists to raise monies to support the vision of the Maple Grove Charter School. All monies that are raised are invested in the building or its programs. The Foundation recently paid 2/3 the cost of updating the buildings heating system, as well as other maintenance needs. Fund raising options include the sale of Kwik Trip Script cards. All donations are tax exempt. Over 400 people were served at the most recent Maple Grove Pancake Breakfast. Monies raised there will benefit syrup production at Maple Grove in the future.

-Residents question if the area ditches will be cleaned up after the Broad Band installation is complete. Vogel states he will be attending an upcoming Western Towns Association meeting and will get more information on the installation plan.

Vogel announces the next Annual Meeting is set for April 15, 2025 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

Jim Schara made the motion to adjourn at 8:15 pm, seconded by Bonnie Nofsinger. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn R. Czech,