

Town of Hamburg
Annual Town Meeting
April 15, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Vogel at 7:00 PM. Vogel welcomed all gathered and asked those that would be making motions to state their names for the record. We opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-seven residents were in attendance.

Clerk Dawn Czech read the minutes from the 2024 Annual meeting. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Jeff Artus and seconded by John Sturm. Motion carries.

Czech also read the 2024 Financial report. Motion was made by Misty Vogel and seconded by John Sturm 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 2024 was \$38,756.69, and Expenses totaled \$39,762.74.

FD member Brad Borchardt stated that the Department spent \$5700.00 of their fund-raising efforts for new rubber hoses. The new hoses replace the older cloth hoses which were more labor intensive. The posterior dump on the new tanker/pumper was also replaced.

The Department was called to 84 total calls last year, of which 44 were EMS and 40 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 21, 2025.

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 2024, the ending EMR checking balance was \$9,324.86, savings balance was \$14,294.21. Hamburg EMR were called to 57 incidents last year.

Fire Department member Colton Bloch made the Department's recommendation to refit the existing brush truck with a flat bed to carry tools and a pump. The bed would be aluminum to avoid a rusting problem that plagues the current truck. The truck's existing frame is solid, though could use a coat of paint. The Department has received multiple bids on this project. Gold Metal Trailer can do the refit for <\$20,000, and submitted the best price for the project. Cindy Artus made motion to spend up to \$20,000.00 out of the FD fund for the refit of the Brush Truck, seconded by Bonnie Nofsinger. Motion carries.

Resident Cindy Artus thanked the Fire Department for volunteering in 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 by Jeff Artus and seconded by Andy Hoeft to accept the Fire Department and EMR report. Motion carries.

2024 Supervisors Report.

Jordan Artus, Supervisor, reported on the 2024 highlights:

-Granite was spread on Deer Creek Lane, Schoolhouse Lane, and west of the County Line.

-Ditching and brushing will continue this year.

-The Road crew has dealt with downed trees and washouts due to the recent heavy rain and ice in March of 2025.

Motion to approve the Supervisors report by Cindy Artus, seconded by Brad Borchardt. Motion carries.

Vogel presented the Chairman's Report.

Vogel thanked the residents for returning the existing members to the Town Board in the recent election. It is a pleasure serving the Township.

Highlights of the past year include:

1. New windows and sills were installed at the Town Shed and Town Hall in 2024. Air conditioning was also installed in the Community rooms of the Town Hall. This all was paid for by the last of the Federal ARPA funds. These monies were required to be spent by December, 2024 or would have to be returned to the Federal Government.
2. There has been no Town Board action on the Wind Turbine/Solar issue. The Wisconsin Towns Association had advised Vogel the State of WI can overrule any action the Town attempts to regulate these items.
3. Marathon County states no updates are necessary for the Hamburg Comprehensive Plan at this time.
4. Vogel polled the assembled residents if minimum lot sizes were something they were interested in pursuing. There was no consensus, only questions on need to purchase additional land if current parcels didn't meet the minimum lot size. Residents were assured existing residences would be grandfathered in if minimum lot sizes were put into any ordinance.
5. Road material bids for 2025 were opened at the April, 2025 Town Board meeting. Diabase bid was awarded to Haas, Inc. for \$10.85/ton and Granite for \$9.85/cubic yard to Kafka Road Materials.

Old Business

-Resident John Sturm stated he is concerned with the timely plowing of snow this past winter and feels it could be done sooner to enable safe travel to work and school on Township roads. He applauded the plowing job that is being done, but suggested plowing in the middle of the night if necessary. Vogel thanked him for his recommendations and will discuss it with the board and road crew.

New Business

-Vogel stated that a brushing head for the excavator was rented for a week, last year, at the cost of \$1700. Previously, the original Cruz Aire excavator was used or we had hired Westfall Construction to do the brush work. The Town Board recommends purchasing our own brush attachment. This would enable us to brush on our own schedule during the year. The John Deere tractor and mower attachment would still be used to mow the roadsides closest to the road.

Motion by Coleton Bloch and seconded by John Sturm to spend up to \$20,000 on a brush head attachment for the Cat excavator. Motion carries.

-Treasurer Teri Tucker questioned the assembled residents on investing Machinery and FD funds in other financial vehicles in addition to simple bank CD's. Tucker states Fidelity Investments does have a higher interest rate available, but she doesn't know if these are available to Municipalities. Motion by Cindy Artus, seconded by Charles Hoeft to have Tucker shop additional higher interest rate CD options.

-Vogel reminded residents that Hamburg's 150th Anniversary is in February, 2026. It was suggested that a celebration could be held in conjunction with the Hamburg FD Tractor Pull in June, 2026.

Vogel asked for committee volunteers to organize this event: Cindy and Jeff Artus and Brad Borchardt volunteered to work on the Anniversary Celebration in 2026.

In a related item, Keith Tucker asked if anyone knows of a 100th anniversary time capsule that was buried in 1976. Contact him if you have information.

-Cindy Artus reports that the K-5 Maple Grove Charter School Governance Board is looking for 2-3 people to join their board. The Governance Board has input into the curriculum and staffing issues. Maple Grove School enrollment is at 116 students this year, of which 54% are Open enrolled from outside of the district. There is a 135-student maximum capacity in the building, and at that point a lottery system would be instituted to determine the students who could attend. The students are looking forward to the new playground equipment next fall.

Maple Grove uses a variety learning experiences for the students. They include: Maple Syrup production, raising chickens and bee's, growing greenhouse and Prairie scape plants.

Around 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.

Vogel announces the next Annual Meeting is set for April 21, 2025 at 7pm at the Town Hall.

John Sturn made the motion to adjourn at 8:16 pm, seconded by Jeff Artus. Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn R. Czech,