

TOWN OF MALDEN
DECEMBER 13, 2022 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Mayor Dan Harwood opened the regular meeting at 7:00 pm. Councilmembers in attendance were Bob Law, Lori Dickinson and Scott Shauf. Councilmember Janell Turner joined by phone. Councilmember Ben Hale was absent. Town Maintenance personnel Ernie Brown was present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town water contractor John Goyke was present to give an update on the current water system improvement project. The connection at Grouse Road and Broadway Avenue has been delayed due to the fiber line being clipped.

Marissa Siemens with TD&H said that they are suggesting a winter shutdown on the water project. The contractor will return in the spring. The connections at Rose Avenue and Broadway Avenue are left. The Broadway Avenue project will include new transmission line to the location of the new town well.

Mayor Dan opened the public hearing for the 2023 Final Budget at 7:05pm. No public or councilmember comments were received. Hearing ended at 7:06pm.

The public hearing for the 2022 Amended Budget opened at 7:08pm. No public or councilmember comments were received. Hearing ended at 7:09pm.

The public hearing for Variance 2022-002 was open at 7:10pm. The variance is for a required front yard setback of 25 feet to be lessened to 10 feet. No public or councilmember comments were received. Hearing ended at 7:12pm.

Bob L. moved to approve the agenda, Scott S. seconded, motion carried.

Bob L. moved to approve the November 22, 2022 regular meeting minutes. Scott S. seconded, motion carried.

Announcements: Bob Law gave a report on the food bank. This is included in new business section below.

Committe Reports:

LTRO Committee update-Chandelle Frick discussed employment training opportunity for those who were in the process of doing so before the 2020 Babb Road fire. LTRO is seeking funding for the resilience plan follow-up. There will not be a LTRO meeting on December 21st. LTRO has received 16 applications for assistance. Three applications have been denied.

Building Committee- No formal written notice has been received from FEMA showing the amount the town will receive.

Code Enforcement Committee- The attorney has been in communication with the courts. No date set yet.

Park Committee-The next meeting will be on January 3rd. SCJ Alliance is finalizing the park plan and map revisions which show the location of playground areas

Old Business:

Temporary Use Permits-Two of the families in RVs have not submitted a TUP. Staff will send a notice to them to complete and return.

Verizon Tower Update-No public comments were received in regard to the cell tower project. It will start being worked on mid-January.

Variance 2022-002 – Bob L. moved to approve the variance. Scott S. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-03-Scott S. moved to approve the ordinance. Lori D. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ordinance 2022-4-Scott S. moved to approve the ordinance. Lori D. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Architect for New Fire Station- Mayor Dan reported that Integrus Architect was selected for the fire station project only. They withdrew their preliminary quote for the project. Architect West was the second company selected. It was the consensus of the Council that Mayor Dan ask Architect West if they will handle the fire station project but also the community building project. If so, what will be the time of completion?

New Business:

Housing Authority-Mayor Dan attended a Whitman County Mayor’s meeting on December 8th. Legislators approved that towns can have their own housing authority. This is for low income families-Section 8 housing. A white paper is being prepared that will discuss pros and cons of the program.

Food Bank: Councilmember Bob Law talked about the future of the food bank. There may be a different vendor starting in January and the days that the food bank is open may change. It will be open on December 14th from 12-2pm. CHAZ will also be here; December 23rd 2-6pm and on December 28th from 12-2pm where the senior boxes for December and January will be distributed.

Public Comment: A resident asked why Integrus Architect backed out from the contract for the fire station. Mayor Dan stated that there was a vast difference from they offered and what the Town could afford.

Warrant Register-Checks# 7385 through 7401– TOTAL \$137,285.90 –

Claims-\$133,592.45 Payroll-\$3,693.45

Bob L. moved to approve the checks, Lori D. seconded. Motion carried

Department Reports

Clerk: No report.

Water: No report

Streets: Ernie will has plowed the road. Some roads are slick but everyone should be able to get around.

Park Department- No report.

Fire Department: There is a meeting tomorrow night. More volunteers are need. Ernie asked if the fire equipment can be moved from the maintenance shed to the temporary fire station as he needs the room.

Public Comment: No comment.

Council Comments-Janelle T. gave congratulations for the new families that have moved into town. Bob L. asked about how long building permits were good for. Mayor Dan said that it is six months to one year.

Mayor Comments-He discussed the Whitman County Library Digital Navigation program. The library will have longer hours. This program offers computer training and those being trained

receive the laptops for free. Technical assistance is being offered. With fiber soon available throughout town and training it makes it easier for those who work from home. There will be no meeting on December 27th. Mayor Dan thanked all the councilmembers and staff for all they have done to help the town of Malden to move forward. Bob L. moved to adjourn, Scott S. seconded, motion carried. Meeting ended at 7:44pm.

Micki Harnois/Clerk/Treasurer

Dan Harwood/Mayor