

TOWN OF LA POINTE
Board of Harbor Commissioners
THURSDAY March 2, 2023
8:00a.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom
Approved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michael Childers, Carol Neubauer, Mike Anderson, Michael Collins, Evan Erickson Jr., Pete Ross, Zach Montagne

Staff Present: Lauren Burtaux, *Harbor Commission Secretary*

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 8:00am by M. Childers.
2. Roll Call: Members present as listed above.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Minutes; 2/23/2023: Motion to approve minutes as presented by Z. Montagne, seconded by M. Anderson, all in favor, 7 ayes. Motion carried.
5. Review and Approve recommended Municipal Advisory Services Firm – Ehlers Public Financial Advisors – Commissioner Neubauer:
 - a. Per recommendations from Amundsen Davis, four financial firms were reviewed. Ehlers Public Financial Advisors is the recommendation from C. Neubauer. Ehlers focuses on municipalities and has a good reputation. Motion by M. Anderson to approve hiring of Ehlers, proposal dated February 22nd, 2023, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, 7 ayes. Motion carried.
 - b. C. Neubauer requests a financial workshop in person to discuss financial structures as a collective. See meeting date in #10.
6. Committees – Updates:
 - a. M. Childers: Written copy of RAISE grant and letters of support will be given to the commissioners. Childers had a phone call interview with Ashland Daily Press for an article regarding the transaction of the MIFL. A contract for M. Kutcha for the Grant writing needs to be finalized, agenda item for next meeting. Documents from Barb Nelson, Town Accountant, outlining the Harbor Commission finances. There is a need for additional funding in the upcoming months; a point to discuss at the financial structure meeting.
 - b. C. Neubauer: Rob McMahon from Pinnacle Marine has finished his appraisal of the ferry boats. He wanted to know if there are any comments, questions, or needs from the HC. Robin (MIFL) has been forwarded the appraisal for review as well. Pinnacle Marine bill will be submitted at the next meeting. Neubauer has a call to the land appraiser, Jon Gargulak, to see where he is at with his work.
 - c. M. Collins: RAISE Grant Application: DOT offered process by which the applications will be evaluated. Pods of people will be designated to review in

sections and there may be repetitive language or points that applied to several parts of the grant – this is normal. A new Gazette article has been written. M. Childers requested M. Collins and L. Burtaux to start the process of “thank you” letters for those who offered a letter of support for the grant application.

- d. P. Ross: Reached out to Tim Feldhausen (lawyer from Amundsen Davis) to get a schedule for what is needed to further the details of the operations agreement to be ready for execution.
7. Offers of Assistance – Updates:
 - a. C. Neubauer stopped at Representative Chanz Green’s business, where he works on the weekends. She introduced herself and thanked him for his letter of support for the RAISE Grant. They had a nice conversation and he assured that the Harbor Commission is on his radar and has his full support in their endeavors.
 8. Approval of Bills: One bill from Amundsen Davis for \$4,189.00 for legal fees for the month of January. Motion to approve bill by Z. Montagne, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor of approving bill; 7 ayes. Motion carried.
 9. Future Agenda Items: Specific meeting for financial workshop – see date in #10, Meeting Dates, below. Potential Q/A in the future with Amundsen Davis lawyers regarding various legal questions the commissioners may have. Specific question from M. Anderson: when/if the MIFL employees will become town employees. Motion for approval of Pinnacle Marine’s fleet appraisal. Approval of contract for services for M. Kutcha for grant writing.
 10. Meeting Dates: Thursday, March 9th, 2023, 8am. Financial Workshop: Saturday, March 18th, 9am.
 11. Adjourn: Motion by E. Erickson to adjourn the meeting, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, 7 ayes. Motion carried. The meeting is adjourned at 8:27am.

Respectfully submitted by L. Burtaux, Harbor Commission Secretary.

Minutes approved as presented on Thursday, March 9th, 2023. L. Burtaux.