

TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY MARCH 28, 2023
5:30 PM AT TOWN HALL
Approved Minutes

Town Board Members Present: Chair Glenn Carlson, Supervisor Michael Anderson, Supervisor Aimée Baxter, Supervisor Sue Brenna, Supervisor John Carlson

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Kuchta, Public Works Director Ben Schram, Elected Treasurer Carol Neubauer, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne

Public Present: Michael Childers, Michael Collins, Peter Ross, Samantha Dobson

Called to Order: 5:00pm

I. Public Comment A*: None.

Motion to move to agenda item IV. B., S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

B. Harbor Commission

1. Request for Additional Funding: Motion to approve an additional \$50,000 transferred to the harbor commission from the cell tower fund, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion to move to agenda item V. H., S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

V. Town Hall Administration

H. Personal Property Tax on Short Term Rentals: Treasurer is asking to remove personal property tax for short term rentals as it is not much income and is time-consuming. Discussion on double checking on the legality of it, and if it has to stay, to find a way to make it more equitable. Motion to postpone until the next meeting to gather more information, J. Carlson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion to return to the regular agenda, A. Baxter/ S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Town Administrator's Report: Discussion on the new cell tower, in operation, waiting to get professional baseline reading of radio exposure, though current readings are showing risk is highly unlikely.

III. Public Works

A. Roads, Dock, Harbor

1. Transfer Hours Among Temporary Driver Positions: Motion to approve transferring 50 hours from Evan J. Erickson to Paul Wilharm from 4/12/23 to 12/31/23, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Parks

1. Increase Parks #1 Position Wage and Hours: Motion to approve the increase from \$19.25 to \$20.50/ hour (for 864 hours effective 5/14/23), S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF)

1. Reduce the MRF Transportation Specialist Position Hours: Motion to approve changing the position from 40 hours to 30 hrs/ week max effective 4/12/23, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Airport

1. Resolution Petitioning the Secretary of Transportation for Airport Improvement Aid: Motion to approve and have the Chair and Airport Manager sign, M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
2. Agency Agreement and Federal Block Grant Owner Assurances for Department of Transportation, Bureau of Aeronautics: Motion to approve and have the Chair and Airport Manager sign, J. Carlson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

A. Planning and Zoning

C. Energy Committee

1. Application for “Energizing Rural Communities Prize” through the US Department of Energy for the proposed Town microgrid: Motion to approve, J. Carlson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Committee Minutes: No discussion

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Summary Report: Motion to approve the report for February 2023, M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Grant Updates: No discussion

C. Town Employees as EMTs Policy: Motion to adopt the policy, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Authorization to sign changes to WTA group life insurance policy through The Standard for employees who average 17.5-23 hours per week: Motion to approve and have Michael Kuchta sign, S. Brenna/ A Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

E. Agenda Items for the Annual Town Meeting, April 18, 2023

1. 2022 Annual Financial Report: Will be on next agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Other Items?: Town Board consensus to add updates on the claim against Ashland County and updates on the harbor commission and purchase of the ferry line.

F. Letter of Support for La Pointe Center: Indigenous Music Day, July 8, 2023, at Rec

Center: Motion to approve the Town Administrator writing the letter if needed for funding, M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

G. Letter of Support for Madeline Island Yacht Club Fuel Tank Relocation: Motion to approve The Town Administrator writing the letter if needed, M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VI. Vouchers: Motion to approve vouchers in the amount of \$16,644.17, M. Anderson/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VII. Alternative Claims: Motion to approve alternative claims for February in the amount of \$850,815.82, M. Anderson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VIII. Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve the Treasurer's Cash Summary Report showing a total of \$3,017,338.85 and a total available checking of \$1,132,738.91, M. Anderson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IX. Minutes

A. Public Hearing March 14, 2023: Motion to approve, J. Carlson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Regular Town Board Meeting March 14, 2023: Motion to approve with the addition that there was no Town Board objection to the location of the dog park, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

X. Emergency Services

A. Ambulance

1. Contract with Cvikota Medical Billing for Ambulance Billing (3 year contract): Motion to approve and have the Town Administrator sign, S. Brenna/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Adjust Ambulance Service Compensation Schedule: Motion to approve changing the 12 hour holiday/ weekend shift pay from \$100 to \$85, S. Brenna/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

XI. Public Comment B:** None.

XII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g). After the completion of the closed session, the Board will come back into open session to act upon the discussion in the closed session or otherwise complete the business of the meeting before adjourning.

Motion to go into closed session as posted, S. Brenna/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes by roll call vote, Motion Carried. 6:10pm.

Motion to go back to open session, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:20pm.

A. Petition with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue and potential Ashland County Levy Litigation: no action.

B. Claim against Ashland County pursuant to WI Statute 893.80(1d)(a): no action.

C. Writ of Mandamus: Motion to direct the Attorneys to proceed with drafting the Writ of Mandamus, S. Brenna/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

XIII. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Hire MRF transportation specialist, annual financial report, dust abatement bids.

XIV. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/ J. Carlson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 6:23pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.

Approved as submitted April 11, 2023. M. Montagne, Town Clerk.