

TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 8, 2023
5:00 PM AT TOWN HALL
Approved Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Kuchta, Public Works Director Ben Schram, Airport Manager Paul Wilharm, Elected Clerk Micaela Montagne

Public Present: Katie Sanders, John Nielsen, Paul Brummer

Called to Order: 5:00pm

I. Public Comment A*: Katie Sanders, Chair of the Affordable Housing Committee invites the Town Board to their 8/15/23 5:00pm community outreach informational meeting.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Town Administrator's Report: prepared by Michael Kuchta: paving survey will be open until Labor Day. There was a typo in the report- La Pointe's equalized value is \$383,140,000 an increase of 23%. The \$1.72 billion is the total for Ashland County.

B. Public Works Director's Report: Prepared by Ben Schram.

C. MRF Supervisor's Report: Prepared by Martin Curry

D. Airport Manager's Report & Checklist: Prepared by Paul Wilharm

E. Planning and Zoning Administrator's Report: Prepared by Ed Schaffer

F. Accounting Administrator's Report: Prepared by Barb Nelson

G. Police Chief's Report: prepared by William Defoe

H. Fire Chief's Report: prepared by Rick Reichkitzer

I. Ambulance Director's Report: Prepared by Cindy Dalzell

Reports for July 2023 placed on file by Unanimous Consent.

III. Public Works

A. Roads, Dock and Harbor

1. Approve Items for Auction: Motion to approve items including the old police Ford Explorer, canoes, kayaks, accessories, a salt sand spreader, port-a-potties, 10.5hp engine, pumps, and folding tables, A. Baxter. S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Airport

1. Authorize Rate/Draft Lease for Month-to-Month Rental of Terminal Hangar: Motion to approve the lease of the terminal building to John Nielsen for \$240/month, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

- A. Planning and Zoning: none
- B. Public Arts Committee
 - 1. Appoint Member for Term Ending 7/31/25: Motion to appoint Robin Trinko Russell, A. Baxter/ S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
- C. Library Board
 - 1. Rescind Library Board Appointment: Motion to rescind Jessica Belt as she moved off the Island, M. Anderson/ S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
- D. Harbor Commission
 - 1. Proposed Acquisition of Business Assets of the Madeline Island Ferry Line by the Harbor Commission: No updates at this time.

V. Town Hall Administration

- A. Draft Policy on Documents Available to Public/ Public Records Guidance: one suggested change- change 'should' to 'shall' in informing the Clerk of requests. First read. Motion to postpone approval until the next meeting, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
- B. Fiscal Capitalization Policy Updates: Motion to approve changes (raised asset amount from \$1500 to \$5000), effective 8/1/2023, M. Anderson/ S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
- C. Consolidation of Bank Accounts: Motion to approve combining the designated funds account to the general fund account (all amounts will still be accounted for but won't have to transfer money each month), A. Baxter/ S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
- D. Contract with Ehlers & Pierce for Accounting: Motion to approve contract (about 10-15 hours/ week at \$85/ hour, not to exceed \$25,500 for 2023 and \$66,300 for 2024), S. Brenna/ S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion to move agenda item V. E. to after public comment, S. Brenna/ S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VI. Vouchers: Motion to approve vouchers in the amount of \$75,206.85, M. Anderson/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VII. Minutes

- A. Regular Town Board Meeting July 25, 2023
- B. Special Town Board Meeting August 1, 2023

Motion to approve both sets of minutes as presented, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VIII. Emergency Services

- A. Police Department
 - 1. Staff Schedule: Chair G. Carlson stated that due to staffing shortage and budget restraints (mostly due to overtime), there will be some days that Ashland County will

provide the primary coverage for the Island. This is different than what the Town Board decided at the beginning of the year. The change will hopefully provide some relief to the La Pointe officers and they will not get burned out.

IX. Public Comment B:** Paul Brummer inquired about when speed limit signs will be placed on Snow Place Rd.

Gravel survey discussed- over 200 surveys already completed.

Motion to go into closed session to first discuss the lawsuits and legal, then to discuss the TA performance evaluation after M. Kuchta has left, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes by roll call vote, Motion Carried. 5:29pm.

Motion to return to open session, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:30pm.

X. 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.

A. Petition with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Regarding Ashland County

B. Claim against Ashland County pursuant to WI Statute 893.80(1d)(a)

C. Possible Lawsuit Against Ashland County

No action.

V. Town Hall Administration

E. Town Administrator Annual Performance Evaluation

This meeting may, upon duly made motion, be convened in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1) (c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. If the Town goes into closed session, it will reconvene in open session before adjourning.

No action. Follow up will be on next agenda.

XI. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings: Harbor Commission updates, Public Records Policy, TA evaluation, Town Clerk appointment.

XII. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Adjourned at 6:32pm.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk.

Approved with Correction (incorrect number in II.A), August 22, 2023. M. Montagne, Town Clerk.