

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

February 27th, 2024

5:00 PM AT TOWN HALL

Approved Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Michael Kuchta, Town Clerk Alex Smith, Public Works Director Ben Schram, Internal Accounting Coordinator Lauren Burtaux

Public Present: Paul Brummer, Jim Peters (via zoom) Robin Russell (present during Bayfield Wireless presentation), Michael Cariveau (present during Bayfield Wireless presentation), Cal Linehan (present during Bayfield Wireless presentation), Mary O'Brien (via zoom)

Call to Order: at 5:00pm

I. Public Comment A*:

Paul Brummer stated with the lack of snow, the Town Board should look into laying off the road workers in staggering terms to save money.

Robin Russell mentioned she is all in favor of the Harbor Wireless Agreement and their plan to install better wireless for the ferry service. She is also in support of the Energy Grant for the Emergency Service Building Microgrid.

Ben Schram commented that money could be saved by reducing police time spent at certain businesses.

1. Bayfield Wireless Presentation by Michael Cariveau:

Michael Cariveau presented the company's proposal to add an antenna at the ferry line office, on the Town dock, and on the Bayfield dock to improve service for ferry crews and other users between the island and mainland.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Town Administrator's Report: Prepared by Michael Kuchta.

III. Public Works

A. Roads, Dock, Harbor

1. Bid Notice for Dust abatement:

Motion to approve the bid notice for dust abatement, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried

2. Ice Road labor, equipment rates:

Motion to approve the labor and rates with clarification of what is considered overtime with Nelson Construction, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Purchase order for 1998 dump truck repairs:

Motion to approve the purchase order for 1998 dump truck repairs, S. Brenna/A.

Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Materials Recovery Facility

1. Purchase order for compactor box:

Motion to approve the purchase order for MRF compactor box, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Purchase order for “Woodstock” towing:

Motion to approve the purchase order for “Woodstock towing”, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Purchase order for “Woodstock” repairs:

Motion to approve the purchase order for “Woodstock” repairs, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

A. Planning and Zoning

1. Resolution #2024-0227 A: Amend 2024 Fee Schedule:

Motion to approve Resolution #2024-0227A to amend the 2024 Fee Schedule for long term rental permits, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. Property owners who have paid the higher rate will receive a refund.

2. Clarification of Rental Ordinance: effective dates and revocations

There was a consensus that the increase to an 8% room tax applies to reservations made and paid after February 29, 2024. The Board asked the Town Administrator to bring back language making clear that rental permits will not be revoked for delinquent Town charges. In the letter to property owners with their permit, the Zoning Administrator will highlight the room tax change effective date and the requirement for 60 minutes response time to property for safety issues.

B. Harbor Commission

1. Lease for ferry wireless (first reading):

The Town Board conducted the first reading of the Harbor Wireless Network Coalition Lease Agreement. Glenn requested if the Town Board members have any questions to direct them to Michael Kuchta and himself. The town attorney has pointed out some possible changes. The Town Board will discuss the lease agreement at the next regular town board meeting.

C. Energy Committee

1. Resolution #2024-0227 B: Emergency Service Building Microgrid:

Motion to approve Resolution #2024-0227 (B) and give permission to file a grant application, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Committee Minutes: Placed on file by unanimous consent.

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Summary Report:

Motion to approve the budget summary report for December and January, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Policy for selling town equipment:

Motion to approve the revised policy for selling town equipment, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Repost for Treasurer job vacancy:

Motion to approve posting for the Treasurer job vacancy, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. Procedures for approving purchase orders:

Motion to adopt the practice of approving purchase orders at Town Board meetings excluding emergencies, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 4 Ayes, M. Anderson opposed, Motion Carried.

E. Fire Number Signs: special assessment or special charge:

Motion to use the Town's budgeted funds to pay for the fire number signs/installation; any unpaid balance becomes a special charge, A. Baxter/M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VI. Vouchers:

Motion to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$48,353.49, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VII. Alternative Claims:

Motion to approve the alternative claims in the amount of \$159,131.10, M. Anderson/ S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VIII. Treasurer's Report: Postponed.

IX. Minutes

1. Special Town Board Meeting – February 20th, 2024

Motion to approve the Special Town Board meeting minutes as presented, S. Brenna/ A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

X. Emergency Services

A. Police Department

1. Purchase order for squad laptops:

Motion to approve the purchase order for squad laptops, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Fire Department

1. Permission to dispose of 1994 Ford ¾ ton crew cab pickup

Motion to grant permission to dispose of the crew cab pickup, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Ambulance

1. Monthly Report:

Prepared by Cindy Dalzell. Placed on file by unanimous consent.

XI. Public Comment B**

Paul Brummer stated that several years ago he and his brother requested (and have since received) increased police visibility at their business following a perceived threatening anonymous letter sent to ~~them~~ *the Town of La Pointe*.

XII. Liquor & Operators’ Licenses

1. Madeline Island Marathon – May 18th, 2024

Motion to approve the temporary license for the Madeline Island Marathon, S.

Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

XIII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

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

Nothing to report at this time, reply briefs are due February 29th.

XIV. Town Administrator Performance

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.

Motion to go into closed session, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:02pm

Roll Call: Mike Anderson yes, Sue Brenna yes, Aimee Baxter yes, Samantha Dobson yes, Glenn Carlson yes

Michael Kuchta left the room at 6:03pm.

Michael Kuchta returned to the room at 6:12pm.

Michael Kuchta left the room at 6:16pm.

Motion to go into open session, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

There was no action taken by the Town Board.

XV. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Treasurer's report

Ashland County Highway items

Bayfield Wireless

Riemen parcel

Library Grant: Community Center

Comprehensive Plan

XV. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:21pm

Submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.

Approved with minor change of Paul Brummer’s public comment, 3/12/24