

TOWN OF LA POINTE
Board of Harbor Commissioners
THURSDAY January 2nd, 2025
9:00 a.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom
Approved Minutes

Commissioners Present: Michael Collins, Zach Montagne, Glenn Carlson, Susan Widmar, Evan Erickson Jr.

Commissioners Absent: Pete Ross, Jay Wiltz

Staff Present: Katie Kisner, Chief Administrative Officer, Lauren Burtaux, Harbor Secretary

Public Present: John Carlson, Elizabeth Ellis, Robin Trinko-Russell

1. Call to Order: Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Z. Montagne at 9:00am.
2. Roll Call: All members, staff and public present as listed above.
3. Public Comment A*:
 - a. Z. Montagne read four public comments regarding the ferry schedule. See attached.
 - b. Z. Montagne noted that the current schedule that was due to end January 2nd will run through the 10th of January.
 - c. E. Erickson thanked the crew who worked during the holidays.
 - d. J. Carlson asked about budget reports.
 - e. R. Trinko-Russell asked about students who are homeschooled or open enrolled (not enrolled in Bayfield School District) and their ferry ridership.
4. Marketing Communications Committee Updates – Lee Baker: M. Collins noted the website is in progress with the Marketing/Communications committee. The website will include data regarding budgets, profit/loss, and other operations data. Hope to launch in one month.
5. Minutes – 12/18/24: Motion by G. Carlson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by S. Widmar, no discussion, all in favor, motion carried.
6. Review of Cvikota Ambulance Billing Contract: Sarah Schram (Ambulance Director) and Cvikota are set to meet. Will wait for further information after meeting to continue discussion.
7. Chief Administrative Officer Report – Katie Kisner: Motion by Z. Montagne to put the CAO report on file, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.
8. January 2025-Freeze Up Schedule Discussion: Question of 6:45am boat leaving Bayfield and keeping the 5pm Monday-Friday. C. Linehan notes one of the biggest concerns is ice on the docks and boats.

9. Update on Wisconsin Surplus Auction: E. Erickson informed the Commission the auction ends 1/3/25 at 10:30am. Another auction will be planned for the spring. Motion by Z. Montagne to sell the fridge truck for minimum of \$20,000, seconded by G. Carlson, all in favor, motion carried.
10. Approval of Bills: Motion by E. Erickson to approve the bills in the amount of \$66,597.80, seconded by Z. Montagne, all in favor, motion carried.
11. Review of MIFL Management Contract: Motion by E. Erickson to move item #11 to after item #14: Public Comment B.

This meeting may, upon duly made motion, be convened in closed session under State Statute 19.85 (1)(e) Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session. If the Commission goes into closed session; it will reconvene in open session before adjourning.

12. Future Agenda Items: Homeschooled/Open Enrolled Student Ridership, Holding Boat Protocol, Final Update on WI Surplus Auction, 2025 Tariffs, Marketing/Communications Update, 2025 Schedule Discussion, Ambulance Billing.
13. Meeting Dates: Wednesday, January 8th, 2025, at 9am.
14. Public Comment B**:
 - a. E. Ellis commented on fluctuating ferry rates and the difficulties it presents for budgeting purposes.
 - b. J. Carlson commented on boats running through the ice, and summer versus winter tariffs.
 - c. L. Burtaux noted that the current tariff schedule is posted on the Town's website, and any budget report is available by public records request.

#11: Motion by E. Erickson to go into closed session to discuss the MIFL Management Contract, seconded by Z. Montagne, roll call vote, 6 ayes, motion carried. Meeting in closed session at 10:02am.

Motion by G. Carlson to go back into open session, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting back in open session at 10:36am.

15. Adjourn: Motion by E. Erickson to adjourn, seconded by Z. Montagne, all in favor, meeting adjourned at 10:37am.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Burtaux, Harbor Commission Secretary.
Minutes approved as presented on Thursday, January 16th, 2025, L. Burtaux.

1/2/25 Harbor Commission Public Comment #3a.

Lauren Burtaux

From: Alex Smith
Sent: Monday, December 30, 2024 7:39 PM
To: Zach Montagne; Katie Kisner; Lauren Burtaux
Subject: Fw: New Submission: Contact Form

Just saw this in my other email from the website, so it sometimes gets lost in my emails. Apologies for not seeing this sooner but wanted to forward this along

Thanks,
Alex

From: Website <noreply@jbtowns.com>
Sent: Sunday, December 29, 2024 3:56 PM
To: Alex Smith <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>
Subject: New Submission: Contact Form

New Contact Form Submission

Date Submitted	12/29/2024 3:56pm
First Name	Elizabeth
Last Name	Elizabeth
Company Name	
Phone	(612) 280-9410
E-mail Address	melizabethellis@gmail.com
Contact Method	Phone
Comments	<p>To the Harbor Commission: Please read aloud and respond with results of this request.</p> <p>As A full time Island resident and employee on the mainland, I'm dependent on the 5pm transport from the mainland home Monday-Friday. I work full time ,Monday-Friday, 8am-4:30pm and regularly take the 5pm ferry home. I was surprised to see, as of January 3rd, that the last boat to the Island Monday-Thursday is at 4:00pm and Friday at 5pm.. This schedule change would require me to loose 1hr. of work Monday-Thursday AND require use of 4 hrs of GL (General Leave) weekly. This proposed schedule is unrealistic and insensitive to families working full time jobs on the mainland. This puts an extreme hardship for those who currently and/or hope to live on Madeline Island .How do you expect families to live on the Island and pay the</p>

continuous increase cost of Ferry passage if the ferry schedule restricts them from working in order to do so. Requesting the schedule be revised to last boat Monday-Friday at 5pm. Please address this issue immediately as this schedule change will impact the financial stability of all who work full time jobs on the mainland. Please contact me as soon as possible with this issue resolved.
Elizabeth Ellis

1/2/25 Harbor Commission Public Comment #3a.

Lauren Burtaux

From: Alex Smith
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 2:34 PM
To: Katie Kisner; Zach Montagne; Lauren Burtaux
Subject: Fw: For Harbor Commission

From: Honey Dale <honeydale@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, December 20, 2024 12:42:58 PM
To: Alex Smith <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>
Subject: For Harbor Commission

Greetings, hope this is a good way to contact you. This is your one and only local postal worker asking for some consideration as you decide on upcoming ferry schedules.

In terms of the Saturday schedule, the PO closes at 12:45 and currently the next boat to the mainland is 2:30 so a bit of a wait for me on what is my potentially somewhat shorter day. Please consider a trip closer to 1:00 if possible.

Thanks for your time!

Honey Dale

1/2/25 Harbor Commission Public Comment #3a.

Lauren Burtaux

From: Jeff Boutin <jeffboutin84@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 7:31 AM
To: Lauren Burtaux
Subject: Ferry Schedule

To the members of the Town of LaPointe and the MIFL.

As a contractor to the Bayfield and Madeline Island area for many years working on Madeline Island has its many challenges from logistics to finding employees who will work on the island to getting materials and yes even the boat schedule. The current 7:00 to the island can be at times difficult to make on time for people traveling from as far as Herbster to make the boat on time if traveling is difficult. Changing the schedule to 6:45 not only makes it more difficult for those people traveling to make the boat it also makes getting the every day things for the daily job more difficult as businesses are usually closed at this time in the morning and they are closed when we return to the mainland. I would hope that you reconsider your January 3 to freeze up schedule and possibly go back to the pre- covid schedule witch seem to be working.

Thanks for your time Jeff Boutin.

1/2/25 Harbor Commission Public Comment #3a.

Lauren Burtaux

From: Katie Kisner
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 9:19 AM
To: Lauren Burtaux; Zach Montagne
Subject: Fw: Policy questions

I just received this as well. Should it be added to the public comment?

Katie Kisner
Chief Administrative Officer
Town of La Pointe Harbor Commission
(919)819-1522

From: Stu Baker <remotestartguy@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 31, 2024 8:54:17 AM
To: Katie Kisner <harborstaff@townoflapointewi.gov>
Subject: Policy questions

Hello,

Today is the second time in about six months that the ferry has turned around for late passengers.

First time, we were leaving Bayfield and clear of the break wall, when the boat went back for one truck. When I asked the crew how to get on the VIP list for back to dock treatment. I was told "There is only one Cedric".

Then again today on first boat leaving the island. Untied and on way to come back for two cars that were not at the dock when boat tied back up. Putting pressure on the timeline to get to Superior for scheduled surgery.

This is frustrating given the following experiences also occurred in 2024.

Boat was full of cars, left before scheduled time by over ten minutes. We were walking on and we're late for our appointment after waiting for next boat.

Was walking to the boat (island side) and they raised the ramp once my foot hit the wood ramp. Yes maybe 20ft from the boat. Wait for the next one.

Slept in vehicle at dock in Bayfield. Last boat was still inside the break wall when I pulled up to the ramp. Did not come back for me.

Took first boat from Bayfield (incurred hotel stay, could not make last boat day before by 1 hour). Had a meeting for work at 815am. Need to be home to take it. Boat is seemingly waiting for someone as it's 710, we're loaded but not moving. 715 we are told to move our vehicle to a different spot on deck. A few more vehicles were loaded and we left close to 720. I was late to the meeting. This makes me feel like whoever we were waiting for, their time is more important than mine to MIFL or MIFL LLC. Who is deciding who's

time is more important than others? Is it the same person that is imposing their "sin tax" and stealing from my family? Maybe, maybe not.

Perhaps I do not understand the rules and processes correctly. These are being perceived as non linear applications of whatever policy is. I understand the lake and weather are uncontrollable factors and tried to only use fair weather examples.

Lastly, please consider a sub compact vehicle rate. 8.8ft long being charged as a 16ft vehicle currently.

Thank you for your time.

Martin Novak