

TOWN OF LA POINTE
Board of Harbor Commissioners
MONDAY July 14th, 2025
4:30p.m. at Town Hall and Live via YouTube
Approved Minutes

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

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

Public Present: Cal Linehan (via Zoom), Paul Brummer, Charley Brummer, Bob Vaa, Jeff Theune

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 4:30pm by Z. Montagne.
2. Roll Call: All members, staff and public present as listed above.
3. Public Comment A*:
 - a. Paul Brummer submitted his public comment in writing, see attachment A.
 - b. Jeff Thuene explained his experience riding the ferry with his truck tailgate down and the added costs. He requested the Harbor Commission consider a different tariff for tailgates being down on a truck.
 - c. Charley Brummer said thank you for holding the meeting later in the day. He also agreed with Jeff and Paul.
 - d. Zach Montagne read in a public comment, see attachment B.
This portion of public comment is restricted to one minute in length. The opportunity to speak for longer than one minute appears later in the agenda. You may also submit a public comment to the Harbor Commission secretary via email (harbor@townoflapointewi.gov) or drop it in the suggestion box outside Town Hall.
4. Minutes – 7/3/25: Motion by M. Collins to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Chief Administrative Officer Report – Katie Kisner: Discussion on the permanent wall installed in the visitor’s building in Bayfield, the Dockside lease agreement, and the budget. It has been decided by the budget committee not to amend the budget. Motion by E. Erickson to put the report on file, seconded by S. Widmar, with the amendment to change #5 to read July, not June.
6. Harbor Assistance Program Project Updates: Cal Linehan informed the Commission that the DNR had responded to the permit application. It could delay the project by 30 days as the permit request would need to be published 30 days before awarding the permit. Cal is working with the DNR to resolve the matter. Janke will start July 29th, assuming the permit is obtained, and the contract is signed.
7. MIFL On Call Employee Trailer Benefits: Cal Linehan stated that if the employees were given trailer benefits, it would be taxable if doing business related activities. Motion by G. Carlson to oppose offering trailer benefits to on-call employees due to many reasons, including discrimination against employees who do not own a business or a trailer, seconded by Z. Montagne, E. Erickson abstains, all in favor, motion carried.
8. Discuss MIFL Staff Housing Lease Agreement: K. Kisner noted that the lease agreement includes utility expenses which was not previously known or approved.

Motion by G. Carlson to approve the additional rent expenses, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, motion carried.

9. Letter for School Student Transportation Summer Protocol: Discussion to include summer only to the letter. Students will lose their free ferry privileges if any MIFL employees or crew feel they have been treated disrespectfully.
10. Consider Approval of Contract with Janke General Contractors for HAP Project: Motion by G. Carlson to approve the contract with Janke, pending the DNR permit, seconded by J. Wiltz, all in favor, motion carried.

Motion by Z. Montagne to move item #12 up, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.

12. Request to the Town Board to Extend Loan: Motion by G. Carlson to request the town board extend the loan until August 15th, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.
11. Consider Paying Off Bremer Line of Credit: Motion by E. Erickson to pay off the line of credit for \$600,000, seconded by S. Widmar, all in favor, motion carried.
13. Approval of Debt Service Transfer: Motion by G. Carlson to approve the debt transfer in the amount of \$91,755.01, seconded by Z. Montagne, all in favor, motion carried.
14. Consider Engagement Letter for Legal Counsel: Motion by G. Carlson to approve the letter of engagement with von Brisen Roper, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.
15. Approval of Bills: Motion by Z. Montagne to approve the bills in the amount of \$16,580.05, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried.
16. Future Agenda Items: Dockside Lease, Janke Contract, HAP update, DNR permit update, Town loan repayment.
17. Meeting Dates: Thursday, July 24th at 9am and August 4th at 4:30pm.
18. Public Comment B**: Cal Linehan responded to the complaint in Public Comment A regarding the morning's ferry: MIFL was unexpectedly down a captain this morning. He informed the Commission that the Madeline will be offline for about five days due to alignment issues.
19. Review of MIFL Management Contract: Motion by G. Carlson to go into closed session, seconded by M. Ross, roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried. Meeting in closed session at 5:48pm.

Motion by G. Carlson to come out of closed session, seconded by E. Erickson, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting back in open session at 6pm.

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.

20. Adjourn: Motion by E. Erickson to adjourn, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Burtaux, Harbor Commission Secretary.
Minutes approved as presented on Thursday, July 24, 2025, L. Burtaux.