

Town of La Pointe
2026 Budget Workshop
Thursday, October 16th, 2025
5:00 pm at the Town Hall

Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Clerk Alex Smith, Town Administrator Max Imholte, Police Chief William Defoe, Sargeant Thom Rossberger, Library Director Lauren Schuppe, Assistant Fire Chief Jay Wiltz, Clinic Board President Eric Eloff

Public Present: None

1. Call to order:

Meeting called to order by Glenn Carlson at 5:00pm.

2. Public Comment:

None.

Motion to move item 3C 'Police' to beginning of department discussion, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:

C. Police: Chief William Defoe and Sargeant Thom Rossberger were present to discuss the 2026 budget. They presented a wage comparison for the surrounding area. Bill Defoe plans to retire in July of 2026, therefore the current requested wages may be inaccurate. Employee insurance has increased significantly with the 2025 projection being around 28,000 for a 2026 budget of \$68,000 (Two family plans at \$28,000 each and a single at \$12,000). The Police Department has also requested a \$5/hr raise in compensation for the trained EMT officers. There was a significant increase in line items for Police Training Costs (2025 projection of \$3,000 and \$8,000 requested in 2026 budget) and Vehicle Expenses, with the Durango vehicle showing issues & needing new tires of two vehicles.

A. Fire Department:

Assistant Fire Chief Jay Wiltz was present to discuss the 2026 budget. The Town Board questioned why the Fire Recuse Expense is budgeted so low (\$759) compared to last year (\$15888). This should be fixed in the amount of \$1,500 for the 2026 budget. Fire Vehicle Maintenance has increased significantly due to using Big Water Apparatus, this could be reduced by using the trained Town Mechanic and possibly eliminating Ambulance and Police vehicle maintenance. The Fire Department has requested the following for capital outlays, Husky Windsled (\$240,000), SCBA (\$20,000), Tanker 2 (\$340,200), Turnout Gear (\$11,385). It was mentioned that there is a possibility to train

operators of the current windsled versus purchasing a Husky. Also looking into the possibility of replacing the tank of the current Tanker 2 over buying a new tanker.

B. Ambulance:

Ambulance Director Sarah Schram prepared the 2026 budget and was present to discuss. The biggest change from 2025 to 2026 is Sarah position becoming full time and adding insurance with family insurance adding \$28,000. The Town Board requested an analysis of impact on wages for the proposed Police/EMT wage request (Police Officers receiving an additional \$5/hr). The Town Board thanked Sarah for providing justifications for nearly all of the budgeted line items. No capital outlay requested.

D. Community Clinic:

Clinic Board President Eric Eoloff was present to discuss the 2026 budget. He presented the Town Board with a 2025 Statement of Activity which shows the expenses for 2025. In the past few years, the clinic has requested \$24,000 with the clinic relying heavily on donations to run operations. This year the clinic has requested an extra \$11,000 due to higher expenses, more patients, and being open an extra day/increase in hours. The Town Board requested an analysis of the full year of 2024 to get a better idea of the cost expenses.

E. Library:

Library Director Lauren Schuppe prepared and was present to discuss the 2026 budget. The library budget has increased significantly this year due to a shifting of internal job roles. The department is looking to have three full-time positions; this adds a new position of a year-round Library Recreation Director. The employee insurance for these three positions is roughly \$84,000, with 2025 projection being around \$39,000. The library has requested \$10,000 for installing ADA compliance doors.

4. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 5:56pm.

Submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.

Approved as submitted 10/28/25.