

TOWN OF LA POINTE
Board of Harbor Commissioners
Thursday March 12th, 2026
9:00am at Town Hall and Live via YouTube
Amended @ 4:30pm on Tuesday, March 10th, 2026
Approved Minutes

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

Staff Present: Lauren Burtaux, Temporary Chief Administrative Officer and Harbor Commission Secretary, Rich Kula, Zoning Administrator

Public Present: Cal Linehan (Zoom), Evan Erickson Sr., Charley Brummer

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 9am by Z. Montagne.
2. Roll Call: All members, staff and public present as listed above.
3. Public Comment A*: None.
4. Minutes – 2/23/26: Motion by G. Carlson to approve the minutes as presented, seconded by M. Collins, Z. Montagne abstains, all in favor, motion carried.
5. Chief Administrative Officer Report – Lauren Burtaux: Motion by Z. Montagne to place the CAO report, seconded by G. Carlson, all in favor, motion carried.
6. MIFL Updates (by Cal Linehan)
 - a. Vessels: C. Linehan informed the Commission that the Island Queen is down due to a steering gear box tooth missing. The part needs to be custom made. Repairs could take two days to one week, costing \$2,000 at the low end or up to \$10,000.
 - b. Fire Suppression Systems: The quote for the system came in under \$35,000 from Sea Fire Marine. Two options available: Option 1 is FM200 gas, not automatic suppression, coast guard approved. Option 2 is a potassium solution, automatic suppression, not coast guard approved but not required. C. Linehan recommends option 2 and the Harbor Commission prefers option 2 as well. The cost is around \$16-18 thousand for one boat and could probably be installed on two boats for around the budgeted amount of \$35,000, which will save some money to do two boats at the same time.
 - c. Ice Conditions: Wednesday, 3/11, the Island Queen ran a trip over to the Island. This took about three hours to get through the ice. Ice is thick in the harbors but between the winds and weather things could change quickly.
 - d. EMS Ferry Runs: There is a staffing shortage for emergency captains on the Island due to the loss of *full-time* on call captain. C. Linehan suggests getting a second room for the captains on the Island, along with reevaluating the compensation for on-call captains for emergency runs.
7. PVA Report from Rich Kula: R. Kula informed the Commission of the various benefits to attending the Passenger Vessel Association Convention. He also suggested that someone from MIFL and/or the Harbor Commission go to a fly in event hosted by the PVA with elected officials to inform them of the unique operation with MIFL.

8. Consider Approval of Amended Town Dock Lease Agreement: Motion by E. Erickson to approve the amended lease, seconded by M. Collins, E. Erickson thanked the town board for adjusting the agreement, all in favor, motion carried.
9. **Consider Approval of 2025-2026 Cooperative Agreement for WTC:** Amount for the agreement went down from \$10,000 to \$6,000. Motion by E. Erickson to approve, seconded by Z. Montagne, all in favor, motion carried. M. Ross suggests renegotiating the agreement with the Bayfield School District for next year.
10. Long Term Financing Discussion: G. Carlson suggests starting a long-term financing task force to prepare for various loan payments due in the future, especially with the merger of Bremer Bank to Old National Bank.
11. Approval of Bills: Motion by Z. Montagne to approve the bills in the amount of \$147,320.35, seconded by E. Erickson with discussion. E. Erickson asked why there are bills to pay for cleaning during the boat shut down, all in favor, motion carried.
12. Future Agenda Items: Consider approval of fire suppression system, on Island housing solution discussion for emergency on-call staff, April PVA fly in event, form a long-term financing task force.
13. Meeting Dates: Monday, March 30th at 4:30pm.
14. Public Comment B**:
 - a. Charley Brummer noted due to the heavy load weight limits on roads there should not be a lot of requests to MIFL for large vehicles to be coming across on the ferry.
 - b. Evan Erickson, Sr. asked if there would be a captain that will stay in the Island housing to help cover emergency call runs. He also asked for an update on designing an ice breaking boat.
15. Review of MIFL Management Contract: Motion by G. Carlson to go into closed session, seconded by E. Erickson, roll call vote, 7 ayes, motion carried. Meeting in closed session at 9:54am.
Motion by G. Carlson to go back into open session, seconded by Z. Montagne, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting back in open session at 10:40am.

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.

Minutes respectfully submitted by L. Burtaux, temporary Harbor Commission Secretary, Monday, March 30th, 2026.

Minutes approved with edits in italics on Monday March 30th, 2026.