

TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
February 10th, 2026 at Town Hall
at 4:45PM

Minutes

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

Staff Present: Town Administrator Max Imholte, Zoning Administrator Rich Kula, Interim MRF Supervisor Evan Erickson

Public Present: Paul Brummer, Julie Stryker-North, Charley Brummer, Ken Goldfine

Call to Order: 4:45pm

I. Public Comment A*

Paul Brummer requested the town lay off road crew in staggering terms during this time of year with the lack of snow to save tax payer dollars.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Town Administrator's Report: Prepared by Max Imholte.

B. Public Works Director's Report: Prepared by Pete Wiggins.

C. MRF Supervisor's Report: Prepared by Evan Erickson.

D. Airport Manager's Report & Checklist: Prepared by Paul Wilharm.

E. Planning and Zoning Administrator's Report: Prepared by Rich Kula

F. Accounting Manager's Report: Prepared by Liz Brown.

G. Police Chief's Report: Prepared by Thom Rossberger.

H. Fire Chief's Report: Prepared by Jay Wiltz.

I. Ambulance Director's Report: Prepared by Sarah Schram.

All monthly department reports placed on file by unanimous consent.

III. Public Works

A. Roads, Dock and Harbor

1. PO# 2026-6 Tires for 2021 Chevy 2500:

Motion to approve the purchase order for tires in the amount of \$1,668, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Parks

1. Agreement with Bayfield School for use of Rec Center:

Motion to approve the agreement with Bayfield School for the use of the Recreation Center, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

A. Planning and Zoning: Nothing to discuss at this time.

B. MI Childcare Task Force

1. Appoint Task Force Members:

Motion to appoint Julie Stryker North to the Madeline Island Childcare Task Force, S. Dobson/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Resolution #2026-0210 Establish Big Bay Accessibility Design Task Force:

Motion to approve Resolution #2026-0210 to establish a task force for the BBTP Accessibility Project, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried

B. Update on ESB Microgrid/12-month Extension:

Glenn corrected a public comment that was made at the last meeting regarding the \$500,000 loan from 2025. It should be noted that the loan was not entirely designated for the ESB microgrid. The ESB microgrid waiver for the inverter was applied for in January 2025 and no news has been received. The original plan for having longer term power at the Emergency Services Building would require this inverter. A secondary plan, Plan B, would be to skip the inverter and use only the batteries, which is not as efficient but less expensive (\$103,000 vs \$146,000) overall. It may be possible to get the inverter down the road if the waiver is approved, but the cost is unknown. Jolma Electric is asking what direction to go moving forward and requests the Town Board make a plan.

C. Dark Sky Presentation by Sam Dobson:

Samatha Dobson discussed a presentation she attended in Bayfield that touched on the topic of municipal lighting and what can be done to retrofit lighting within municipalities. Lower lighting and color temperature decreases costs, can be more efficient, and is overall safer. Bayfield has already begun implementing the lighting techniques discussed. The Town Board unanimously consented to start investigating and looking into grants. Samantha plans to talk with the island electricians as well as Pete Wiggins, Public Works Director.

D. Consider for approval Short Term loan to Harbor Commission:

Motion to approve a short-term loan to the Harbor Commission in the amount of \$450,000 at 5% interest to be paid by July 31st, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

E. Consider amendment of Harbor Commission dock lease payment date:

Motion to amend the payment date to July 31st instead of February 15th, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried

F. Discuss parking in Bayfield during ferry shutdown:

With an increase in visitors there have been several complaints about parking issues or lack of parking during the windsled/ice road season. The Bayfield mayor offered extra parking on the upper lot up the hill on the south side of Washington Ave (\$2,000 for 30 days). The Town Board decided to ask the Harbor Commission to look at what we have for parking that is not being used as intended (leaving cars in lots for long periods of time/multiple cars parked for one family). No action was taken at this time.

G. Easement for fence at Madeline Island Yacht Club:

In October of 2025 a zoning complaint was received regarding a fence in the right of way at the Madeline Island Yacht Club. The Zoning Administrator investigated and realized a portion of the fence (6 to 9 inches) is in the right of way which violates the current zoning. However, the MI Yacht Club only replaced the fence that was already there. Fixing the fence to ~~be complaint~~ comply with code could be quite costly, other alternative including apply for a variance or easement.

Motion to move items V. H and I to after Public Comment B, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for the purpose of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(e). After the completion of the closed session, the Board will come back into the open session to act upon the discussion in the closed session or otherwise complete the business of the meeting before adjourning.

H. Kerber Rose Accounting Services Contract: Moved to after Pubic Comment B, see below.

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c). After the completion of the closed session, the Board will come back into open session to act upon the discussion in the closed session or otherwise complete the business of the meeting before adjourning.

I. TA Performance Evaluation: Moved to after Public Comment B, see below.

VI. Vouchers

A. Town of La Pointe:

Motion to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$66,166.20, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried

VII. Minutes: No minutes presented for approval.

VIII. Emergency Services

A. Police Department

1. Resolution #2026-0210 B Recognizing Police Chief's Service:

Motion to approve Resolution #2026-0210 B to recognize Bill Defoe's service to the town as Police Chief, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Ice Road law enforcement:

The Town Board discussed the law enforcement laws on the ice road and what can be done in the future for protecting the ice road which includes speed limit signs, a QR code with an instructional safety video, or weight limit restrictions. No action was taken at this time.

IX. Public Comment B**

Paul Brummer stated "Seriously, ask people to be considerate and only have one vehicle per family, because in the past. I've seen people have a car, a truck, and believe it or not, a trailer, because in case

they want to go somewhere and pick up a piece of equipment and bring it back” He also made a correction to the misspelling on the Police Chief Resolution.

John Carlson commented “I'd like to say the information I got for how much we spent on the ESB microgrid, I got through the town. Secondly, I've taken \$148,000 for the solar array back, doing the grant money, you could still, pay the electric bill for 27 years and that is something to keep in mind” Julie Stryker- North asked if there is a way to stop snowmobiles from parking in spots during windsled season.

Motion to go into closed session, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, Roll Call Mike Anderson yes, Aimee Baxter yes, Sue Brenna yes, Samanth Dobson yes, Glenn Carlson yes, Motion Carried. 5:41pm

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H. Kerber Rose Accounting Services Contract: Discussed in closed session. No action taken in open session.

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c). After the completion of the closed session, the Board will come back into open session to act upon the discussion in the closed session or otherwise complete the business of the meeting before adjourning.

I. TA Performance Evaluation: Discussed in closed session. No action taken in open session.

Motion to return to open session, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:05pm

X. Liquor Licenses: No licenses presented for approval.

XI. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for the purpose of conferring with legal counsel with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(g). After the completion of the closed session, the Board will come back into open session to act upon the discussion in the closed session or otherwise complete the business of the meeting before adjourning.

A. Petition with Ashland County Circuit Court case Regarding Ashland County Tax Levy:
Nothing new to discuss at this time.

XII. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

ESB Microgrid Decision

MI Task Force Amendment to Amount of Members

XIII. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried 6:08pm

Minutes taken from Zoom Recording, respectfully submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.

Approved with spelling correction on page 3, 3/10/26