

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2012
AT 5:30 PM AT TOWN HALL**

Called to order at 5:38 PM

Present: Nick Nelson, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Ham Ross, Larry Whalen

Dept. Heads present: Pete Clark, Keith Sowl, Jen Croonborg-Murphy

Public Present: Dave Thomas, Kate Bortell

I. Public Comment

Jen Croonborg-Murphy complimented the behavior of the teams at the Star Bar Tournament over the weekend of August 11-12, 2012; she also expressed dismay over the state of the water at the Rec Center. [Clerk's note: earlier in the summer the water had tested non-potable.]

Dave Thomas read a letter into the record. The letter was placed on file.

Tony Turrutin sent an email which was made a part of the record.

Both expressed continuing opposition to the Harbor improvement project.

II. Vouchers for July 2012 approved in the amount of \$15,696.62 JP/HR 5A MC

III. Alternative Claims for July 2012 approved in the amount of \$114,913.01 JP/HR 5A MC

IV. Treasurer's Report for July 2012 approved showing balances as follows: Checking account: \$752,051.97; Total: \$1,096,790.42 JP/NN 5A MC

V. Minutes

A. Special Town Board Meeting 6/14/12: Correction: approved as corrected JP/NN 5A MC

B. Regular Town Board Meeting 7/31/12: approved as corrected showing that (under V. Public Works B. Parks (3) Review of Pember bid) Greg Nelson referred to the Special Town Board Meeting of 6/10/11 when talking about Big Bay Town Park Improvements funding, stating that it was always the intention of the Town Board to use the least amount of money possible from taxes to complete the Big Bay Town Park Improvement project. NN/JP 5A MC

C. Special Town Board Meeting 8/7/12: approved as submitted 4A 1 Ab. [GN absent from that meeting] MC

VI. Public Works

A. Roads

1. Foreman's Report placed on file by unanimous consent of the Board. Keith Sowl stated that the well water at the Rec Center is not safe to drink. Discussion followed regarding the best method for sanitizing the well at the start of each season. Per the Addendum to the Foreman's Report [Addendum dated 8/14/12], Motion to authorize the Foreman to place a Class I Notice in the Ashland Daily Press as follows: The Town Board of the Town of La Pointe will enter into a contract for construction services related to the replacement and restoration of a culvert on the North Shore Road. A Class I Notice of Intent to Contract will be posted on passage of this Motion. HR/JP 4A 1 Ab [NN] MC

B. Parks & Recreation

1. Hiring of Big Bay Town Parks Assistant: motion to accept the recommendation of the Town Foreman and hire Jeff Goss as Big Bay Town Parks Assistant: effective August 20-December 31, 2012, at a rate of \$12.00 an hour for hours not to exceed 599. JP/HR 5A MC

2. Campers at future RV sites [per H. Ross] H. Ross stated that he believes that the Town assumes liability risks by letting campers camp on the north side of County Road H [Big Bay Rd.] across from Big Bay Town Park, and that it should not continue. Greg Nelson stated that it will not continue.

3. Recreation Center Rental & Camping: Request from Rhiannon Tourdot for All Nations Rainbow Water Ceremony on August 18, 2012. Discussion followed regarding the advisability of allowing camping at the Rec Center. It was agreed that this will be a subject of extended discussion this winter. Motion to approve the Rec Center Rental and camping request from Rhiannon Tourdot for the year 2012 only. JP/NN 5A MC

C. MRF

1. MRF Supervisor's Report: placed on file by unanimous consent.

D. Harbors

1. Recommendation from Harbor Committee to contract with SmithGroup JJR for Services described in Task 1 of proposal dated 6/1/12 (Rev. 6/21/12) Much discussion, the points of which are summarized as follows:

Pete Clark stated that, while there is more work to do regarding deseminating information about the plan, accepting the recommendation of the Harbor Committee is the next logical step in the process. He also stated that the Harbor Committee has the \$16,100 in its budget.

Larry Whalen asked if there will still be an opportunity to tweak the plan.

Pete Clark responded that this funding will only be for the Town Dock, Shoreline and Special Anchorage part of the plan, and that yes, no blueprints or drawings exist, so there can be tweak.

Larry Whalen stated that there is a need for a pubic hearing whether it's required or not.

Greg Nelson stated that he thought that it is premature for a public hearing.

Pete Clark stated that in his opinion a good effort was made to get public opinion, but that more input from the public will be needed once the Town has moved past the concept stage.

Keith Sowl stated that he adamantly disagrees with Dave Thomas' remarks: he described the process used by the Harbor Committee and stated that people had plenty of opportunity to give input no matter whether the sessions were called Listening Sessions or Public Hearings.

[Sowl added that the U.S. Department of Transportation considers the Town Dock a commercial dock.]

Pete Clark stated that there are a number of funding opportunities for the fishing pier that is planned to be an extension of Middle Rd. He added that there are grants that will mitigate the matching funds required of the Town and minimize the tax burden.

Greg Nelson stated that he doesn't see why other towns can afford municipal docks but the Town of La Pointe cannot.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the Harbor Committee to contract with SmithGroup/JJR for Services described in Task 1 of the proposal dated 6/1/12 (Rev. 6/21/12) More discussion followed:

Nick Nelson stated that he has reservations: will the Town really turn down a grant? He does not agree that due diligence was observed. He feels that there is a next step in the process, which is for the Town Board to sit down with SmithGroup/JJR and the Harbor committee, that the Town Board should not "rubber stamp" the project. He feels there needs to be more in the process, and that a sense of urgency is ridiculous.

Ham Ross stated that the Town Board is a filter and will make responsible decisions.

Jim Patterson stated that the plan was published in the *Gazette* and has been on the Town Board agenda for a while. He added that he has not heard people say that they oppose the plan, and that it is in the best interest of the Town to proceed cautiously. The first step is to survey financing options.

Motion on the floor: HR/JP 3A 1 Ab.[LW] 1 Nay [NN] MC

2. Letter of resignation from Harbor Committee Chair: accepted by motion
HR/JP 5A MC

VII. Police

1. Police Chief's Report placed on file by unanimous consent

VIII. Emergency Services

A. Ambulance Service

1. Ambulance Director's Report placed on file by unanimous consent

B. Fire Department

1. Fire Chief's Report July 2012 placed on file by unanimous consent

IX. Library

A. Library Memo regarding appointments process: not available

X. Committees

A. Zoning

1. Zoning Administrator's Report placed on file by unanimous consent.

B. CAPP

XI. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Report for July 2012 placed on file by motion: HR/NN 5A MC with notes from Pete Clark, Town Administrator as follows:

-The Bremer Bank loan 2012 payment in the amount of \$293,548.59 was made in August: this was for the gravel purchase and Fire Dept. truck.

-The August tax settlement payment should arrive from Ashland County August 20, 2012. This will be the final tax collection money until January 2013.

-The Town Board approved, in 2011, borrowing \$250,000 to pay for the crack/chip sealing/line painting project. This project will be completed next week, and the vendor will need to be paid at either the Board Meeting on 8/28/12 or 9/11/12.

-Department Heads' request for 2012 funds to be transferred from the General Fund budget into Designated Funds total \$33,400. Requested approval for these fund transfers will be on the agenda for 8/28/12.

-Foreman Sowl is projecting that the Big Bay Town Park project expenditures will take place in 2013. This may require a review of the 2012 budget.

B. Town Administrator Report given.

1. Tasks, goals, hiring agreement, additional benefits: consensus of the Board to provide a Town cell phone and a Town Ferry Line swipe card for the Administrator. Any further benefits will be discussed in the future.

C. Approval of new Agenda Format to include Town Administrator Report: the Town Administrator's report will appear as Town Hall Administration Item B on both the first & second agendas of each month. Approved by motion: HR/NN 5A MC

D. Memo from Jeff Beirl RE: 2013 Ashland County Budget: motion to authorize the Zoning Administrator to request \$15,000 from Ashland County as a part of the Zoning Dept. budget.

XII. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

- A. Campground hosts
- B. Agenda format [zoning]
- C. Library minutes
- D. Opening of Bid proposals for Big Bay Town Park

XIII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

XIV. Liquor & Operators' Licenses

XV. Adjournment at 6:57 PM

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as submitted on 8/28/12

Patty Hobin, Town Clerk