

**TOWN OF LA POINTE
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2014
5:30PM AT TOWN HALL**

Approved Minutes, Approved as Submitted, 2-25-14

Called to order at 5:30pm

Present: Nick Nelson, Jim Patterson, Greg Nelson, Marty Curry

Absent: Ham Ross

Staff present: Pete Clark, Kristian Larsen, Lisa Potswald, Michael Dalzell

Public Present: Michael Starck, Paul Brummer, Charlie Brummer, Jim Peters, Keith Sowl, Carol Sowl

Motion to address agenda item III. A. 2. first, Recognition of Retiring Foreman. N. Nelson/ J. Patterson 4Ayes, Motion Carried. The now retired Foreman, Keith Sowl, was recognized for his 12 plus years on the job. A statement from the Town Board was read, K. Sowl was given a certificate of appreciation, K. Sowl thanked the Town and the Town Board, and there was a brief recess to enjoy some refreshments and congratulate Keith Sowl on a job well done, and happy retirement.

Motion to return to agenda M. Curry/ N. Nelson 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

I. Public Comment A*: None

II. Town Administrator's Report: Presented by Administrator Pete Clark and placed on file by Unanimous Consent. Administrator Clark informed the Board that he had been in Madison, testifying for the *Greg Nelson Memorial Property Tax Exemption* legislation, and that things are progressing well. Discussion also included Clark looking into ways to handle legal costs, and unexpected litigation costs, especially in the future, recognition of County Representative Mike Starck and Planning and Zoning Administrator Lisa Potswald for their work with County Zoning issues.

III. Public Works

A. Roads

1. Foreman's Report: Presented by Kristian Larsen and placed on file by Unanimous Consent. J. Patterson was glad to see that Foreman Larsen was picking up on some of the important issues. Discussion included placing a crosswalk and possible lights for crossing the highway at Big Bay Town Park, Joni's Beach improvements, new thermostats, and use of the blue van.

2. Recognition of Retiring Foreman (addressed at beginning of meeting)

3. Road Mechanic Job Description. In posting for the Mechanic position, some modifications were made to have a greater focus on mechanical skill and maintenance, as well as changing the requirement of having a CDL license to 'ability to secure a CDL'. Motion to adopt the modified job description for Road Crew Mechanic J. Patterson/ N. Nelson 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

4. Ice Road Signage: It was recommended by the Foreman to place signs directing car traffic back to the approach so visitors do not wander around trying to find how to get back

off of the island. Temporary signs have been placed, and the Town Board agreed to have more 'permanent' signs created. The signs will be removed when Ice Road is not in use. Supervisor N. Nelson also would like to use the Ice Road and it's signs as a first run for the Ojibwe Signage. He is hoping to have some of the Ice Road signs made with the Ojibwe language as well, about six signs for now, created by local artists and builders.

B. Parks

1. Invasive Species Interns

a. Job Description: The description for Invasive Species Interns was created and needed Board approval. Wage and housing for interns to be provided by the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve. J. Patterson would like to add to the description that when possible, the use of natural, non-toxic products will be used. Motion to approve Invasive Species Job Description with the amendment about chemical use N. Nelson/ M. Curry 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

b. Hiring of Interns: Foreman K. Larsen and Bonnie Matuseski of the Madeline Island Wilderness Preserve (MIWP) have been working together to get things in order for the hiring of two (2) interns for the upcoming season. MIWP has confirmed a combination contribution/ grant award in the amount of \$23,000- 25,000 for the program. Motion to post for the two Invasive Species Intern positions M. Curry/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. MRF

1. MRF Supervisor's Report: Placed on file by Unanimous Consent. Discussion included status of aluminum bails. Administrator Clark reported that there is a full trailer in Bayfield waiting for higher aluminum cost, and there are still a few bails here on the Island that did not fit.

D. Airport

1. Airport Tie Down Fees: Airport manager undertook a survey and researched what other similar airports charged for their fees. It has been recommended that the fees be reduced from the current \$16 for single engine and \$21 for twin to \$10 and \$15 respectively. Motion to return Airport Tie Down Fees to \$10 and \$15.00 (tax included) N. Nelson/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

A. Zoning

1. Zoning Administrator's Report: Motion to place Zoning Administrator's Report for January 1, 2014 through January 31, 2014 on file, J. Patterson/ M. Curry, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Ashland County Certified Survey Map: On Big Bay Road, former Stevenson property. Survey Map number 1167. Motion to approve the Ashland County Certified Survey Map, J. Patterson/ M. Curry 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

3. Memo of Understanding: Town of La Pointe and Ashland County: Memo in regards to Investigation, Enforcement and Prosecution related to zoning in shoreland area on Madeline Island. Ashland County agreed to take up the Island's requested initiative, but the Town of La Pointe agrees to be financially responsible, in regards to Kale case. (the Town will not spend more than it would have had it pursued the court case without County assistance).

Motion to approve Memorandum of Understanding, N. Nelson/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Community Awards Committee

1. Appointment to the Community Awards Committee: Elizabeth Ellis signed up for the Committee for the term ending May 31, 2014. Motion to approve and appoint Elizabeth Ellis as a member of the Community Awards Committee, N. Nelson/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Report: Motion to approve Budget Summary Report dated 2/11/14, J. Patterson/ N. Nelson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Video/ Streaming of Meetings: The old laptop was returned because it was not working with the video system, and full reimbursement was received. N. Nelson would like to purchase a new and upgraded laptop to get the meeting streaming again. N. Nelson prepared two options for the Board to review, Motion to authorize N. Nelson to purchase a new laptop computer at \$600.00 with the primary purpose to be for video streaming, and a secondary purpose as a workstation in the Old Town Hall. J. Patterson/ M. Curry, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Grants Update: Prepared by Lisa Potswald, dated February 10, 2014, updating on current status of grants. Waiting to hear on a Federal grant for Fire Department training.

D. Apostle Islands Area Community Fund Grant: Grant due March 1st, will hopefully fund Bilingual Signage.

E. Property Tax Exemption Legislation Update and Effect: Administrator Clark traveled to Madison to testify. The hearing was productive and it is believed that the Committee will unanimously recommend the Bill to the full House. The Administrator also met with Jeff Burhardt, of Sen. Bob Jauch's office. The bill will be on the floor next week in the Senate. There is a general belief that the Bill will be passed through both Houses in the next 3-4 weeks. The Bill was amended to indicate that it is applicable to expenditures in 2014.

F. Discussion of Legal Representation: on-going discussion, contract issues, etc. G. Nelson would like to see a range of rates, what different offices charge to help in considering possibilities of representation.

VI. Vouchers: Motion to approve vouchers in the amount of \$29,536.70 J. Patterson/ N. Nelson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

VII. Alternative Claims: Motion to approve alternative claims in the amount of \$146,164.86 and \$463.67 for the Library. N. Nelson/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

VIII. Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve Treasurer's Cash Summary Report as of January 31, 2014 with a total balance of \$3,057,668.16 and a total available checking account balance of \$286,300.68 J. Patterson/ M. Curry, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

IX. Minutes

A. Regular Town Board Meeting January 28, 2014: Motion to approve minutes as submitted N. Nelson/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

X. Police

A. Police Department

1. Police Chief's Report: Motion to approve Police Chief's Report dated February 6, 2014 J. Patterson/ M. Curry, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

XI. Emergency Services

A. Fire Chief's Report: Report dated 1/7/14- 2/11/14 placed on file by Unanimous Consent. Discussion concerning the Husky Windsled, it was taken off the ice for warm up and repairs, but should be back in service soon.

XII. Public Comment B:** none.

XIII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues

A. Possible Litigation with Chequamegon Bay Engineering: No new development at this time.

B. Kale Litigation: Has been taken up by the County. The county is giving Kale until June first to comply with Zoning regulations before pursuing legal action.

XIV. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

1. Wage Resolution to reflect change in EMT wages.
2. Town Park crosswalk/ lights.

XV. Adjourn @ 6:43 M. Curry/ J. Patterson, 4Ayes, Motion Carried.

Submitted by Micaela Montagne, Town Clerk
Approved as submitted, February 25, 2014
Micaela Montagne