

**TOWN OF LA POINTE  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013**

**Called to order at 5:30 PM**

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

**Staff/Dept Heads present: Pete Clark, Jen Croonborg-Murphy, Ted Pallas**

**Public Present: Dave Thomas, Burke Henry, Katy Gorman, Marty Curry, Julie Stryker,  
Greg Thury, Holly Tourdot**

**I. Public Comment A**

Deb Knopf voiced her concern regarding the rumors circulating about the Chief of the Fire Dept. She expressed regard for the integrity & commitment of Gary Flores to the community and feels that any communication/miscommunication issues should be handled with respect towards him. Burke Henry urged the establishment of a policy to not allow personnel issues to be discussed on social media.

Mike Starck made a comment about Facebook that was inaudible. He also stated that he wishes to volunteer to be on the Community Center committee. He also expressed a desire to have the audio recording of Town Board minutes placed on the Town website.

[Clerk's note: this has been attempted and is not possible due to the size of audio files.]

Ham Ross stated that he feels that public media has become an attack platform and feels it is inappropriate for elected officials to reply on public media.

Nick Nelson stated that national & state officials chat online about issues; he would prefer a possible policy for conducting interactions online.

Greg Nelson stated that he does not use Facebook because there is no way of knowing if things printed there are fact or fiction. He said that he will gladly hear people at Town Board meetings, which he feels is a better way to handle issues.

Holly Tourdot asked about the possibility of a resolution to forbid hauling of oil in oil tankers across the Lake.

**II. Town Administrator's Report** presented by Pete Clark: he stressed two points:

-the potential property tax exemption legislation: he asked for additional thoughts & ideas

Greg Nelson asked if emergency services were included

Nick Nelson stated that he doesn't know the exact crossover. exactly what services does the Town pay Ashland County for **and** provide for itself?

Greg Nelson explained that it would include all those services for which the Town pays taxes to Ashland County but does not receive from Ashland County. . . .items such as the Library that the Town must provide for itself.

Pete Clark responded to Greg Nelson that while emergency services is included with "public health," he will certainly include it separately

Jim Patterson asked for more emphasis on police protection.

Pete Clark responded that the Town is currently renegotiating the law enforcement contract with Ashland County to provide for greater coverage.

-Clarks second point of emphasis is the ongoing work with Bayfield School District

Superintendent David Aslyn to resurrect the Winter Transportation Committee beginning in April of 2013.

Unanimous Consent to place the Town Administrator's report on file.

**III. Public Works**

**A. Roads**

**B. Parks**

**C. Airport**

1. Airport Manager's Report & Checklist placed on file by unanimous consent for the following dates: 12/23/12, 12/30/13, 1/6, 1/13, 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, and 2/17, 2013.

2. Industrial Zone Hangar Leases:

(a.) Lot 1A Langer Gokey & F Land Mgmt. approved by motion for a term ending 12/31/2023. JP/HR 4A MC

(b.) Lot 2A Cliff Rodahl approved by motion for a term ending 12/31/2023. HR/JP 4A MC

**IV. Committees**

**A. Zoning**

**B. CAPP**

**C. Harbors**

1. JJR Final Report—Harbor Funding Strategy: Pete Clark reported that this is only for the Town Dock & fishing pier. The South Harbor expansion is not being considered. He stated that the potential for funding now appears to look like it will be a 60/40 split with the Town. He added that the likelihood of commencing work will not be before 2014 or even 2015. Motion to accept the report: NN/JP 4A MC

2. Re-appointment of members: Childers & Butler. Motion to approve the re-appointment of Michael Childers & Tab Butler to terms ending March 10, 2016, with the Harbors Committee to meet next week to consider new applicants. NN/HR 4A MC

**D. Trails**

1. Change of By-laws—Increase Membership: motion to adopt the following change to the Trails Committee by-laws:

Article II. 2.2 to change the number of members from 10 members to 12 members and to strike item F. JP/NN 4A MC

2. Appointment of new members: Greg Nelson stated that since the committee has not met in a long time, all committee members terms have expired; therefore, all members need to be appointed. Motion to appoint the following members to the Trails Committee

- |                           |                  |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Keith Sowl—Chair          | Ron Harrold      |
| LeeAnn Merrill—Vice chair | Carol Neubauer   |
| John Carlson              | Mary Ross        |
| Carol Sowl                | Jon Berg         |
| Margie Frederickson       | William Tibbles  |
| Ed Kale                   | Bonnie Matuseski |
- NN/JP 4A MC

**V. Town Hall**

**A. Administrative Assistant’s Report:** motion to place the Administrative Assistant’s report on file. NN/JP 4A MC

**B. La Pointe Community Center** Pete Clark proposes to put together a working group to study all aspects of a community center, including the purposes, uses, configuration and components of such a center.

Ham Ross asks about the 1% voluntary contribution.

Pete Clark explains that businesses in Bayfield have placards that offer to remove the contribution if patrons object to paying it; Bayfield reports that they almost never have anyone ask to have it removed. He added that the revenue from the 1% is solely responsible for the upkeep of the Bayfield Recreation Center.

Jim Patterson stated that this could be mechanically problematical for busy shop owners.

Pete Clark stated that this could certainly be voluntary for business as well.

Motion to assemble a working group for the purpose of researching for a La Pointe Community Center. HR/JP 4A MC

**C. Update & revision of Comprehensive Plan** represented by Jen Croonborg-Murphy & Ted Pallas.

Greg Nelson stated that revision of the Comprehensive Plan had been removed from the 2013 budget, and that perhaps if the Town receives money back from the proposed legislation to

exempt the Town from a portion of its County taxes, that money could be used to hire a professional to help with this project. In the meantime the Town Plan Commission/Zoning Administrator could fix the incorrect predictions that appear in the Plan.

Jen Croonborg-Murphy pointed out that the census data trickles down into the rest of the document. She added that the entire Plan needs to be looked at.

Greg Nelson stated that the Plan can be amended by anyone during a certain time of the year—he believed it is May 15 to June 15 of every year.

Croonborg-Murphy stated that the way to begin is to discuss this again at budget time, but go ahead and use the \$1000 that has been budgeted for this year. The University of Wisconsin Extension Office offers free help, and the work could begin this year with a survey mailer and public information meetings. She added that the statutory requirement for updates to the Comprehensive Plan is every ten years and the process will take 18 to 24 months to complete.

Ham Ross asked if General Code is a part of this process.

Croonborg-Murphy replied: no.

Ted Pallas suggested laying out the procedure now: have two public meetings and a survey. He added that he doesn't see how the job can be completed without professional help.

Jim Patterson agreed that it's time to get the ball rolling

Greg Nelson also agreed with doing what we can now—anything glaring can be fixed now as well.

Motion to authorize the Town Plan Commission & Zoning Administrator to schedule one to two public information meetings and do a public opinion mailing for the purpose of reviewing the Comprehensive Plan. JP/HR 4A MC

Nick Nelson stated that he feels a joint meeting between the Town Board & the Town Plan Commission for the purpose of reviewing concerns in this regard is in order.

Ted Pallas (TPC Chair) agreed with the need to hold a joint meeting.

Croonborg-Murphy suggested inviting Tom Wojciechowski from the University of Wisconsin Extension Service to attend this meeting.

**D. Draft Legislation—County Property Tax Exemption** Pete Clark renews his request to find other items that may need to be included in the draft legislation.

Nick Nelson asked if the legislation is creating any possible loopholes for other communities.

Greg Nelson stated that it appears to him that the legislation is specific to Madeline Island & Washington Island.

Pete Clark stated the need to get what we deserve without over-reaching.

Ham Ross asked for reasonable parity.

**E. Penokee Mining Resolution+** Presented by Pete Clark

Ham Ross pointed out that this would be the largest open pit taconite mine in the United States, that he trusts the mine owners to behave responsibly, and that the Lake must be considered.

Jim Patterson agreed with Ham Ross except for the part about the mine owners acting responsibly.

Ross stated that the mine may create jobs, but at what cost?

Patterson responded that the number of jobs that will be created is still very much in doubt.

Pete Clark stated that once the resolution is signed, he will FAX it to appropriate individuals in advance of a meeting on February 27, 2013.

Motion to adopt & sign the Mining Resolution: HR/JP 4A MC with congratulations to Pete Clark for the work done on the document.

Audience applause follows.

Nick Nelson leaves the meeting.

**F. Review/Approve—Amended Winter Transportation Agreement** Pete Clark points out that the amendment has been added by attorney Mike Fauerbach and provides that any conflicts are to be decided in favor of the Town. Motion to adopt the Second Amendment to the Winter Transportation Agreement Between the Town of La Pointe, Windsleds Transportation, Inc., and Madeline Island Transportation, LLC: JP/HR 3A MC

**VI. Vouchers** motion to approve vouchers in the amount of \$26,876.35 HR/JP 3A MC

**VII. Minutes**

**VIII. Police Department**

**IX. Emergency Services**

**A. Ambulance Service** placed on file by unanimous consent

**B. Fire Department**

**X. Library**

**XI. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

**XII. Public Comment B**

**XIII. Lawsuits & Legal Issues**

**XIV. Liquor & Operators' Licenses**

**XV. Adjourned at 6:37 PM**

Submitted by Patty Hobin, Town Clerk

Approved as corrected on 3/26/13

Patty Hobin, Town Clerk