

**TOWN OF LA POINTE  
REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**

**April 23rd, 2024**

**5:00 PM AT TOWN HALL**

Approved Minutes

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

**Staff Present:** Town Administrator Michael Kuchta, Public Works Director Ben Schram, Town Clerk Alex Smith, Zoning Administrator Ed Schaffer

**Public Present:** John Carlson, Paul Brummer, Susan Widmar, Nick Widmar, Jim Peters (via zoom), Evan Erickson Sr, William Defoe (for police agenda topic)

**Call to Order:** 5:00pm

**I. Public Comment A\***

Sue Brenna made a correction on the Direct Sellers discussion in the last meeting. The information she was given from Rick Gilman, the former Zoning Administrator, was indeed correct.

**II. Administrative Reports**

A. Town Administrator's Report: Prepared and discussed by Michael Kuchta.

**III. Public Works**

A. Roads, Dock, Harbor

1. Hire Sign Installer:

Motion to hire Gary Beeksma at 20/hr, not to exceed 800 hours starting April 24<sup>th</sup>, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Disposal of old fire number signs, street signs:

Michael Kuchta suggested the former roads signs go up for auction.

Mike Anderson suggested offering the former fire number signs to the homeowner and if they are not wanted, they can be sold for scrap metal.

Ed Schaffer commented that a few individuals have already stated they would like to keep their old signs.

The topic of old fire number signs will be decided at a future meeting.

3. Contract for ESB tree removal:

The Town Administrator recommended C.A. Nelson and Son for ESB tree removal because they have better equipment capabilities than lower-priced vendors. Evan Erickson Sr endorsed and recommended Bruce's Tree Service, saying they would save the Town money and had adequate equipment and experience. The Town Administrator noted that Evan and Evan Landscaping is part of Bruce's crew and would be supplying equipment, which was not revealed during a phone interview with the vendor.

Motion to approve the contract with Bruce's Tree Service for \$3,300, S. Brenna/A, Baxter, 4 Ayes; Mike Anderson opposed, Motion Carried.

4. Purchase Order: Hagen Road culverts:

Motion to approve the purchase order for Hagen Road culverts for \$5,284, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**B. Parks**

**1. Hire Camp Host:**

Motion to hire William Krieg at 18/hr, not to exceed 700 hours, starting of June 6<sup>th</sup> and ending September 12<sup>th</sup>, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**C. Greenwood Cemetery**

**1. Contract for chapel cleaning:**

Motion to approve the contract for chapel cleaning with Barany Cleaning, not to exceed \$110 per visit. A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**IV. Committees**

**A. Planning and Zoning**

**1. Appoint members to Town Plan Commission:**

Motion to appoint Charley Brummer and Suellen Soucek to the TPC with a term expiring April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2027, M. Anderson/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**2. Appoint chair of Town Plan Commission:**

Motion to ratify appointment of Suellen Soucek as chair of the TPC, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**3. Review Rental Ordinance language on delinquent payments:**

The Zoning Administrator noted that current Rental Ordinance language means people who are delinquent on their property taxes but also want to rent out their property aren't able to use rental income as a way to get caught up with their property taxes and ultimately could lose their property. He asked if it is possible to be more lenient on the 60-day delinquency language. An option of a payment plan or payment schedule was suggested. The Town Board asked staff to develop new language for a future meeting.

**4. Rescind Resolution #2024-0409C: Consider Amendment to Zoning Ordinance:**

Research revealed there was an error in the new printing of the Zoning Map, and that the parcel in question already is zoned C-1 Commercial, making the resolution moot. Motion to rescind Resolution #02024-0409 C, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried

**B. Harbor Commission**

**1. Harbor Commission resignations:**

Motion to accept the resignations of Carol Neubauer and Mike Anderson from the Harbor Commission, S. Brenna/M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**2. Appoint members to Harbor Commission:**

Motion to appoint Joseph Wiltz for a term to expire Oct. 6, 2025, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

The Town Board would like to repost for other vacancies on the Harbor Commission with an application deadline of May 10<sup>th</sup>.

**3. Resolution #2024-0423A: Allocation Use of Proceeds of Ferry Line Service System Bonds and Notes:**

Motion to approve Resolution #2024-0423A: Allocating Use of Proceeds of the Ferry Line Service System Bonds and Notes, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

4. Resolution #2024-0423B: Ratification of Bank Loan:  
Resolution #2024-0423B was not available at this time.

C. Affordable Housing Advisory Committee

1. House at 687 Middle Road:

The Town Board came to a consensus allowing inspection of the building at 687 Middle Road for rehabilitation.

2. Town-owned land between MRF and ESB:

The Town Board came to a consensus on the Town-owned land between MRF and ESB, allowing consideration of a portion of the parcel on the north side and exploration of relocation of the sanitary disposal site, which could be more cost effective.

D. Public Arts Committee

1. Support for Make Music Day:

The Town Board came to a consensus and authorized the committee being a sponsor of statewide Make Music Day.

E. Committee Minutes:

Unanimous consent to place the committee minutes on file.

**V. Town Hall Administration**

A. Budget Summary Report:

Motion to approve the Budget Summary Report as presented, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Grant Updates

1. Resolution #2024-0423C: Knowles Nelson Stewardship Grant application for the Big Bay Town Park accessibility project:

Motion to approve Resolution #2024-0423C, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

C. Discussion of policy for Zoom attendees:

The Town Board and Town Clerk discussed the most accurate way to list Zoom users in meeting minutes. Listing the Zoom users as “zoom attendees” rather than each individual name is adequate unless the Town Board, staff, or specific person requests to be on the record.

D. Waiver for employee use of Town/MIFL garages

The Town Board conducted a first reading of the waiver for employee use of Town/MIFL garages. The Town Board will discuss this topic further at a future meeting.

E. Revisions to Direct Sellers Ordinance:

A revision to the Direct Sellers Ordinance which gives the town the ability to lease out town property to sellers/merchants. Motion to approve the revisions, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

F. Purchase order for Town Hall printer/copier:

Motion to approve the purchase order for a new Town Hall printer/copier in the amount of \$6,830.67, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

G. Addition to fee schedule for purchasing Comprehensive Plan:

Motion to approve the addition to the fee schedule of purchasing printed copies of the Comprehensive Plan at \$50 a copy, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**VI. Vouchers**

A. Town vouchers:

Motion to approve the Town vouchers in the amount of \$18,178.05, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Harbor Commission vouchers:

Motion to approve the Harbor Commission vouchers in the amount of \$8,952.00, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**VII. Alternative Claims:** Motion to approve the alternative claims in the amount of \$177,231.65, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**VIII. Treasurer's Report:** Motion to approve the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$1,459,740.26

**IX. Minutes**

A. Regular Town Board Meeting – April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

B. Special Town Board Meeting – April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024

C. Special Town Board Meeting – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes with removal of Michael Kuchta being present on April 12<sup>th</sup>, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

**X. Emergency Services**

A. Police Department

1. Letters to Ashland County, Bad River re: emergency services expectations on tribal land:

Motion to approve sending the letters, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Survey for La Pointe Policing:

The Town Board came to a consensus of conducting a survey for La Pointe Policing. John Carlson suggested having public meetings to discuss this topic.

B. Fire Department

1. Purchase order for maintenance of SCBA, hydraulic equipment:

Motion to approve the purchase order for maintenance of SCBA, hydraulic equipment in the amount of \$3,355.00, M. Anderson/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Fire Department Monthly Report: No report at this time.

**XI. Public Comment B\*\***

Paul Brummer thanked the Town Board for accepting one of the lower of the bids for ESB tree removal. He mentioned a similar situation he experienced with the Sanitation District.

**XII. Liquor & Operators' Licenses:** Nothing at this time.

**XIII. 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 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.

1. Petition with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Regarding Ashland County  
Nothing to report at this time.

2. Cell tower lease conversion proposal

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 Town Board goes into closed session; it will reconvene in open session before adjourning.

Motion to go into closed session, roll call, S, Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes Motion Carried.

6:08PM

Motion to return to open session, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:20PM

#### **XIV. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

Fire Department Report

Appoint Harbor Commission members

Police Survey

Rental Ordinance delinquent payments

Bad River Tribe response

The Town Board will hold a Special Town Board meeting next Tuesday at 5:00PM.

#### **XV. Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/M. Anderson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:24PM

**Submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.**

**Approved as submitted. 5/28/24**