

**TOWN OF LA POINTE**  
**Board of Harbor Commissioners**  
**TUESDAY April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**3:00 p.m. at Town Hall and via Zoom**  
**Approved Minutes**

**Commissioners Present:** Michael Collins, Evan Erickson Jr., Zach Montagne, Pete Ross, Mike Anderson

**Commissioners Absent:** Carol Neubauer

**Staff Present:** Lauren Burtaux, Harbor Commission Secretary, Katie Kisner, Chief Administrative Officer, Glenn Carlson, Town Board Chair, Samantha Dobson, Sue Brenna, Aimee Baxter, Town Board Supervisors, Alex Smith, Town Clerk

**Public Present:** Michael Childers, Jay Wiltz, Cal Linehan, Robin Trinko-Russell, Mark Pass, Dick Hurrelbrink

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Z. Montagne at 3pm.
2. Roll Call: Members, staff, and public present as listed above.
3. Public Comment: None.
4. Presentation for EPA Grant Application by Cal Linehan: Z. Montagne introduces Cal Linehan (MIFL) who will present the grant opportunity for a new, all electric, zero emissions ferry boat for 30 million dollars. This grant opportunity is through the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 90/10 matching grant. Application is due May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The application process will cost approximately \$20,000 to have plans drawn for the new boat (\$12,000) and a grant writer (\$8,000). Cal has been in contact with navel architects, Xcel Energy, shipyards, and Mike Halstad from the Harbor Assistance Program (HAP). This boat would become the primary boat used year-round, about the size of the Bayfield and would have ice breaking capabilities. The project and grant funding would include shoreside infrastructure for battery chargers and solar panels in the sand/dirt lot that would act like carpports, along with all electric vehicles. This grant is only for ports. Project would take around 2-4 years.

Questions Posed to Cal:

1. Is this a one-time opportunity?
  - a. Yes, this grant is not offered every year.
2. Is there a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO)?
  - a. Yes, Mike Halstad from HAP saw this opportunity.
3. Could the design be switched part way through the process?
  - a. Not really as the applications are due May 28<sup>th</sup>, and the bids are based off original submitted design work. Potential to change smaller details like where bench seats go, but the overall structure would remain the same.

4. Would the ferry services be disrupted as the building/implementation process began?
    - a. Yes, but mostly in the sand parking lot where solar panels will go. The Harbor Assistance Program 3-year statement of intentions of redoing ramp A on the Bayfield side would make this less of a disruption of ferry service.
  5. Is there a category for the grant related to ferries?
    - a. This grant opportunity is specific to ports and a portion of money is directed to small harbors.
  6. Are there shipyards and marine architects who have built boats like this before?
    - a. Yes. For example, Fraiser Shipyard is already building one for Canadian Nation Railway. Bayship and Burger also have the capacity.
  7. What is the cost analysis of running a diesel boat vs an electric boat?
    - a. The power needs to have consistent consumption when running an electric boat and it will be more cost effective.
  8. What is the difference between maintaining an ageing fleet or upkeep of a brand-new boat?
    - a. The aging fleet is very expensive to continue to upkeep whereas a new boat would have little money going into it once it is built.
  9. What would be the expected lifetime of the batteries used to power the vessel?
    - a. That is rapidly evolving but around 10-15 years. There is recycling already developed for 'older' batteries.
5. Consider Recommendation to Town Board to Apply for EPA Grant: Motion by E. Erickson to recommend the Town Board to consider approval of applying to the EPA grant, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, motion carried. Both E. Erickson and M. Collins thank Cal for all of the hardworking, knowledge and passion he has given to this project already.
6. Adjourn: Motion Z. Montagne to adjourn, seconded by M. Collins, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 3:46pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lauren Burtaux, Harbor Commission Secretary.  
Minutes approved as presented on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024, L. Burtaux.