

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

July 23rd, 2024

5:00PM at Town Hall

Approved Minutes

Town Board Members Present: Chair Glenn Carlson, Supervisor Sue Brenna, Supervisor Aimée Baxter, Supervisor Samantha Dobson, Supervisor Mike Anderson (via zoom phone)

Staff Present: Public Works Director Ben Schram, Public Works Evan Erickson, Airport Manager Paul Wilharm

Public Present: Paul Brummer, Lauren Schuppe, Lilah Guertin, John Carlson, Dave Donkers, Melissa Underwood (via zoom), Jim Miller – Congress Tiffany’s Outreach Director (via zoom), Michael Kuchta (former Town Administrator), Ryan Falch (via zoom)

Call to Order: 5:00PM

I. Public Comment A*:

Paul Brummer asked why the 0-12 age group was listed on the police survey and how they would fill out the survey. He also hopes that if the Town purchases a refrigerated vehicle for the Ferry Line that the users of the vehicle are charged for its use.

Dave Donkers suggested the Town Board members hold ‘listening sessions’ for the public to be heard and better understood.

Motion to move item V. G to the beginning of the meeting, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

V. Town Hall Administration

G. Discussion of Apostle Islands National Park proposal:

Jim Miller, Outreach Director, presented on behalf of Congressman Tiffany on the Apostle Islands National Park Bill. Congressman Tiffany has requested letters in support of his bill to change the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to Aposlte Islands National Park. Jim Miller stated that all rights and operations would remain relatively the same. He mentioned this bill has yet to be named and is in the very early stages of development. They have received roughly 30 letters of support from different areas in Wisconsin. Jim Miller highly emphasized the increase in tourism this would create. The Town Board chose not to make a decision regarding a letter of support at this meeting and discuss it further at another meeting.

Jim Miller left the meeting at 5:18PM.

Motion to return to order of business, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

II. Administrative Reports

A. Town Administrator’s Report: prepared by Michael Kuchta. Michael clarified that the ESB microgrid is the Energy Committee’s responsibility. Placed on file by unanimous consent.

III. Public Works

A. Roads, Dock, Harbor: Nothing to report at this meeting.

B. Airport

1. Authorization of Airport Terminal Grant application:

Motion to give authorization for the Airport Terminal Grant application, M. Anderson, S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IV. Committees

A. Planning and Zoning

1. Recommendation on revisions to Construction Ordinance Chapter 205:

Motion to approve the recommended revisions from the Town Plan Commission to the Construction Ordinance Chapter 205, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Recommendation on revisions to Direct Sellers Ordinance Chapter 345:

Motion to defer revisions to the Direct Sellers Ordinance Chapter 345, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Committee Minutes:

Placed on file by unanimous consent.

C. Harbor Commission

1. Lease/purchase of refrigerated vehicle:

Motion to authorize the purchase of a refrigerated vehicle for up to \$25,000, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Discussion: The Town Board clarified that this vehicle can be used by any Island business with refrigeration needs and will be managed in coordinated effort between the Ferry Line, businesses, and distributors.

V. Town Hall Administration

A. Budget Summary Report:

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

B. Special Event Permit – Madeline Island Marathon – May 17th, 2025:

Motion to approve the Special Event Permit for the Madeline Island Marathon, S. Dobson, M. Anderson, 5 Ayes. Motion Carried.

C. Cell Tower payment:

Harmoni Towers is making a final offer of \$180,000; they would like to agree upon this price before making language adjustments to the contract. Motion to approve the price contract/agreement with Harmoni Towers in the amount of \$180,000, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

D. UDC Contract:

Motion to approve the UDC contract, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

E. Use Agreement for Sauna at Joni's Beach:

Motion to defer, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

F. Budget amendment (discussion):

The Town Board conducted a first read through of the Budget amendment. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

G. Discussion of Apostle Islands National Park proposal:

This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.

H. Reschedule the Regular Town Board Meeting on August 13th:

Motion to move the Regular Town Board meeting to August 14th at 5pm, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Motion to go into closed session, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, Roll Call Mike Anderson yes, Sue Brenna yes, Aimee Baxter yes, Samantha Dobson yes, Glenn Carlson yes, Motion Carried. 5:46PM

The Town Board may go into closed session during the meeting for Considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility in which it is or is likely to become involved in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes 19.85 (1)(c). 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.

I. Clarification of compensation adjustment for Internal Accounting Coordinator:

See underlined details below for motion made in open session.

J. Future Town Administrator Compensation:

This item was discussed in closed session. No action was taken.

Motion to return to open session, S. Dobson/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 5:56PM

*I. Clarification of compensation adjustment for Internal Accounting Coordinator:
Motion to approve a \$4.00 merit raise effective July 15th for the Internal
Accounting Coordinator, G. Carlson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.*

VI. Vouchers

A. Town of La Pointe:

Motion to approve the town vouchers in the amount of \$28,615.53, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes. Motion Carried.

B. Harbor Commission

1. MIFL Utility:

Motion to approve the MIFL Utility vouchers in the amount of \$240,706.40, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. Harbor Designated Fund:

Motion to approve the Harbor Designated Fund vouchers in the amount of \$3,422.50, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VII. Alternative Claims:

Motion to approve the alternative claims in the amount of \$137,762.54, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

A. May Report:

B. June Report:

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for May and June as presented, A. Baxter/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

IX. Minutes

A. Regular Town Board Meeting – July 9th, 2024:

Motion to approve the Regular Town Board minutes from July 9th, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Special Town Board Meeting – July 11th, 2024:

Motion to approve the Special Town Board minutes from July 11th, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

X. Emergency Services

A. Ambulance

1. Purchase order for EMS medications:

Motion to approve the purchase order for EMS medications in the amount of \$3,034.32, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

XI. Public Comment B:**

John Carlson made a few comments on the police survey. He asked why anyone other than taxpayers are allowed to take the police survey. He asked why there is a 0-12 age group option. He asked why the survey asks if locals or tourists are treated better. He suggested that sex and race should not matter or be apart of the survey. John stated the Town Board are elected officials that we elected to make decisions.

John Carlson made a public records request for the letter of approval from the Town attorney that approved this survey.

Paul Brummer stated in regard to the Apostle Islands bill, "The representative of Congressman Tiffany sings the virtues of a National Park and all the tourist and business it will bring." Paul asked where these employees would come from, how much would it cost for them to live here, and where would they live. He stated this is typical thinking of most Chamber of Commerce, we get people here and you figure out how to deal with them.

Dave Donkers stated important things were missed in the Apostle Island Bill proposal, such as the airspace/drones allowance if this becomes a National Park which could dramatically change things.

John Carlson also stated we already have problems with emergency services and police department, bringing more tourists in would not be sustainable to afford.

John Carlson said relating to the refrigerated vehicle, there are semis that come over and do deliveries for restaurants and stores on the island.

Lilah Guertin asked if there will be public discussion before the letter of support decision for the National Park bill is decided. Lilah suggested reaching out to the local tribe to hear their input and discussion on this bill.

Glenn Carlson clarified and encouraged that public comments can be made or submitted in response to the National Lakeshore/National Park letter or support proposal at the next meeting.

XII. Liquor & Operators' Licenses

A. Temporary Class "B" License

1. Madeline Island Marathon – May 17th, 2025:

Motion to approve the Temporary Class "B" license for the Madeline Island

Marathon, S, Dobson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

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 to 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.

A. Petition with the Wisconsin Department of Revenue Regarding Ashland County:

Nothing to report at this meeting.

XIV. New Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Budget Amendment

Use Agreement for Joni's Beach

Direct Sellers

Medical supplies discussion

Letter of support Congressman Tiffany AINL to AINP

XV. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:10PM

Submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.

Approved as submitted, 8/14/24.