

**TOWN OF LA POINTE**  
**REGULAR TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**August 14th, 2024**  
**5:00PM at Town Hall**  
*Approved Minutes*

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

**Staff Present:** Internal Accounting Coordinator Lauren Burtaux

**Public Present:** Paul Brummer, Steve McHugh, Dave Donkers, Michelle Hines, Charlie Bertel, Mark Matuseski, Ruth Teisberg, Connie Ross, Alice Ross, Steve Law, Lee Bujold (via zoom), Sherry Kempf (via zoom), Jon R. (via zoom)

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

Town Chair Glenn Carlson acknowledged the loss of two significant community members, Todd Carlson and Norm Castle.

**I. Public Comment A\***

Paul Brummer asked why the Town is asking for proposals to study for a community center and where is the money coming from. He suggested studying the need for black top improvements. Paul Brummer in regard to the National Park, asked that Town Board to send a letter of opposition rather than a letter of support. He also offered to help write said letter of opposition.

Glenn mentioned the numerous letters in opposition of the National Park that have been submitted to the Town in the past few weeks. Please see attached letters following the minutes.

**II. Administrative Reports**

A. Town Administration Report: Prepared by Glenn Carlson.

Samantha Dobson thanked the Harbor Commission for working to get an evening boat for the school children.

B. Public Works Director's Report: Prepared by Ben Schram.

C. MRF Supervisor's Report: More of a budget report rather than a monthly report. Prepared by Marty Curry.

D. Airport Manager's Report & Checklist: Prepared by Paul Wilharm.

E. Planning and Zoning Administrator's Report: Prepared by Ed Schaffer.

F. Accounting Report: Prepared by Lauren Burtaux.

G. Police Chief's Report: Prepared by William Defoe.

H. Fire Chief's Report: Prepared by Rick Reichkitzer

I. Ambulance Director's Report: No report available at this meeting.

Unanimous consent to place monthly department head reports on file.

**III. Public Works**

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

B. Airport

1. Revised Hanger Leases: Dorgene is working to correct and revise the language for the Airport Leases. Motion to table item 3B #1 for Hanger Leases, S.

Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

a. Lease for 2A

b. Lease for 7A

c. Lease for 9

d. Lease for 9A

e. Lease for 13A

f. Lease for 13B

g. Lease for 3A

**IV. Committees**

A. Energy Committee

1. Appointment of members:

Two member terms are expiring on August 31, both members wish to be reappointed. There were no new applications for these terms.

Motion to reappoint Scott Hayman and Lilah Guertin with terms ending 8/24/27,

**V. Town Hall Administration**

A. Discussion of Apostle Island National Park proposal:

Sue Brenna stated she is completely opposed to making the Lakeshore into a National Park. Sue mentioned what happens when things go Federal and the possible lack of attention to the voices of present people while this is happening. Aimee Baxter said she is opposed to writing a letter of support, that would be a letter that should come from the chamber not the Town. She stated if we write a letter of opposition, it should include language that we need way more money for infrastructure before such a significant change. Sue brought up that the search and rescue teams would need to be five times larger with the increase in tourism. Samantha Dobson stated she is strongly opposed. Samantha mentions there's a complete lack of consideration and outreach to the local region as a whole, also a lack of studies and reports for the environmental effects and economic impacts. It is unclear if our community as a region can even handle the increase in tourism. Mike Anderson agreed with what the Tribal Council said, that being there is not enough information or studies to move forward with the change. Glenn Carlson is also opposed. Glenn stated he is concerned about the transparency and questions where the idea really came from. We've seen a grand swell of opposition and it is clear that this is not what the community wants. After this further discussion, all Town Board members are against writing a letter of support.

Motion to not write a letter of support for the National Park project, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Samantha Dobson mentioned that it would be appreciated if the Chamber also stood by our decision to not support changing the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore into a National Park. The Town Board is in favor of having the Town Chair write a letter in opposition.

Motion to request the Town Chair to write a letter of opposition for the National Park, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Ordinance #2024-0814: Temporary Grant of Power to Town Chair:

With the resignation of the Town Administrator, the Town Chair has been filling in where he is able. This Ordinance clarifies the temporary power and authority of the Town Chair that involves supervision of the department heads.

Motion to approve Ordinance #2024-0814, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

#### **VI. Vouchers**

A. Town of La Pointe: Motion to approve the town vouchers in the amount of \$32,003.62, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

B. Harbor Commission

1. Harbor Designated Fund:

Motion to approve the Harbor Designated Fund vouchers in the amount of \$299.47, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

2. MIFL Utility:

Motion to approve the MIFL Utility vouchers in the amount of \$225,916.35, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

#### **VII. Minutes**

A. Regular Town Board Meeting – July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024

B. Special Town Board Meeting – July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Motion to approve the minutes as presented, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

#### **VIII. Emergency Services**

A. Police Department

1. Vacation extension for William Defoe and Thomas Rossberger:

Motion to extend vacation for Chief Defoe for 160 hours to 1-1-25 and Sergeant Rossberger for 40 hours to 6-23-25, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

Discussion: With a few occurrences of the need to extend vacation hours, the Town Board would like to review the vacation personnel policy at the next Town Board meeting.

B. Ambulance

1. Purchase order for Stryker Power Lifts Maintenance:

Motion to approve the purchase order for Styker Power Lifts Maintenance in the amount of \$6,633.70, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.

#### **IX. Public Comment B\*\*:**

Paul Brummer mentioned again that he would be more than willing to help write a letter of opposition for the National Park.

Mr. Hines stated that we need more information on the National Park proposal and what the reasoning is.

Steve Law stated that he wrote a letter to Tom Tiffany about the National Park proposal and his questions/oppositions.

Jon R. curious to know if there had been any support from the Congressman's office as it relates to the current police situation and any funding towards the Madeline Island Ferry Line.

Glenn clarified that we have not gone to the congress office and requested financial support.

However, we did go to the congress office requesting a letter of support when applying for the grant through US Department of Transportation.

**X. Liquor & Operators' Licenses:** Nothing to report at this time

**XI. 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 new to report at this time.

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

Vacation Personnel Policy

Airport Leases

Letter of Opposition for National Park

**XIII. Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/S. Dobson, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 5:28pm.

Minutes taken from zoom recording and submitted by Town Clerk, Alex Smith.

## Alex Smith

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**From:** Troy Hutchinson <thutchinson@rockhutchinson.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** Alex Smith  
**Subject:** Objection to Rep. Tiffany's National Park Proposal

Dear Town Staff and Board:

I, along with my wife Erin and our three boys, Heath, Ben, and Joey, are summer residents at 1099 Southshore, LaPointe. While this is only our third summer owning a home on the island, we have been visiting Madeline Island and the Apostle Islands for over 25 years. We are proud members of this community and stakeholders to the preservation of the Apostle Islands and the waters of Lake Superior.

I write to voice my strong opposition to Rep. Tiffany's proposal to change the designation of the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore to the Apostle Islands National Park. His proposal – and I say his proposal because he has not sought sufficient input from stakeholders – claims that the redesignation would increase tourism and protect landscapes. However, he provides no evidence of how his proposal would protect the water and landscapes. More troubling, he fails to explain how increased tourism benefits the people or the natural resources. Our community already struggles with infrastructure and housing constraints. There is no explanation for how the communities of Bayfield and LaPointe would handle or house an increase in tourism without significantly impacting what makes these communities unique and desirable.

Rep. Tiffany has failed to provide any studies that should have been completed prior to bringing his proposal, including the following: environmental impact; economic impact; infrastructure impact; or cultural and treaty rights impact. He has also failed to identify what specific federal fiscal resources his proposal would bring to the area. It is my understanding that Rep. Tiffany has been in favor of reducing the budget of the National Park Service. If he wants to bring more resources to our communities, he should instead advocate that more funding be granted to our existing federal park – the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore, which is just one of three nationally designated lakeshores in the country. A focus should be made on taking care of what we already have. For example, the dock at Devil's Island has been unusable to boaters since the storm in 2017. There is no legitimate reason for his proposed redesignation. And given his past failure to support funding for the National Park Service, this proposal should be taken with a high degree of skepticism, especially given the lack of any studies, details, or stakeholder involvement.

I respectfully ask that the Town Board submit a response letter to Rep. Tiffany objecting to his proposal, asking that he withdraw his bill to redesignate the Apostles, and requesting that he instead work to increase funding to the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore by no less than 20% over the existing budget. I also respectfully ask that this submission be shared with and read into the Minutes of the August 14th Town Board meeting, which I am unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Hutchinson

## Alex Smith

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**From:** John Carlson <jcarlsonelectric@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 7:33 AM  
**To:** Alex Smith  
**Subject:** National Park

On July 23 2024 Jim Miller Gave a Long winded take on turning the Apostle islands national lakeshore into a national park, This was coming from Tom Tiffany Having this idea but no real answers to questions just that this was going to be great for us, And that we could handle the aftermath of there plan. Thanks Government. In the meantime Bayfield and Red Cliff have sent letters of non support, This town needs to do the same. This will have a long term effect on this area now and for the future Once again thanks to the government. I hope our town board will see the urgency of drafting a letter of non support and if need be have a special meeting to get this done. Please read into the minutes

-- thanks  
John Carlson

## Alex Smith

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**From:** Alex Smith  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:13 PM  
**To:** Lauren Burtaux  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public Comment : 8/14/2024 Regular Town Board Meeting  
**Attachments:** Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Statement on Bill Seeking to Redesignate Apostle Islands as a National Park.PDF

Would you mind distributing this to the Town Board?

Thanks,  
Alex

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**From:** Elizabeth Ellis <melizabethellis@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 14, 2024 4:11:23 PM  
**To:** Alex Smith <clerk@townoflapointewi.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment : 8/14/2024 Regular Town Board Meeting

To Whom it Concerns & With Respect:

Please read aloud the attached statement currently posted on the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, News & Updates web page - Title: Statement On Bill Seeking To Redesignate Apostle Islands As A National Park (8/01/2024) and include in meeting minutes for public records.

Please read the entire article outloud followed with this:

To Town of LaPointe, Town Board Supervisors:

The following public, thorough and comprehensive statement was posted August 1st. on the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa website. As of yet, I've neither heard nor read your concerns or response. I am thoroughly disappointed that our Town Leadership & Elected Officials have taken so long to respond to Wisconsin Congressman, Tom Tiffany's request for a Letter of Support nor made your statement public on our Town's website. I wonder what is taking you so long to call out the short & long term impact & damage that would happen when promoting this area as a National Park and encouraging even MORE year round Visitors, Cars, Apostle Island Access restrictions, Delivery Trucks, Garbage, Air Pollution, increase on the Cost of Living, Impact on infrastructure, parking challenges, already stretched Emergency Responders and impact on limited Human & other Resources available to protect & maintain this Sacred Land & the pristine waters of Lake Superior. Surely you're not entertaining supporting this concept & focusing on the potential jackpot and increase in revenue due to MORE people visiting the area & our tiny Community. What questions & concerns do you have? What questions have you asked? Please share.

Respectfully,  
Elizabeth Ellis - Island Resident

## Alex Smith

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**From:** Michael Geluardi <geluardi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, August 2, 2024 2:39 PM  
**To:** Alex Smith  
**Subject:** AINP

It would be reckless to designate a new, fringe national park without study or adequate input from local communities including tribes. Tom Tiffany is throwing spaghetti on the walls of Congress hoping a personal legacy will stick. If it did, it would be a mess. A national park here may be the right thing. So study it, then get proper input, and if supported do it right. Otherwise, don't do it. I oppose Tiffany's Bill.

-Mike Geluardi  
Property owner  
2343 Hagen Road

Sent from my iPhone