

**Town of La Pointe**  
**Special Town Board Meeting**  
**2025 Budget Workshop**  
**Thursday, October 24, 2024**  
**5:00 pm at the 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:** Town Clerk Alex Smith, Public Works Director Peter Wiggins, Airport Manager Paul Wilharm, Fire Chief Rick Reichkitzer, Accounting Coordinator Lauren Burtaux, Zoning Administrator Ed Schaffer, Public Works Evan Jr Erickson, Sextons Paul and Charley Brummer, Library Director Lauren Schuppe, Harbor Commission President Zach Montagne

**Public Present:** Madeline Rupp (Public Arts Committee member)

1. Call to order:  
Meeting called to order by Glenn Carlson at 5:00pm.
2. Public Comment:  
Paul Brummer mentioned his request for pickup truck for the cemetery. He also commented on the inability to touch the library funds for other needs or departments and cutting back/reducing expenditures within the library.
3. Compensation Adjustment for Mechanic/CDL Driver:  
Motion to adjust starting Mechanic/CDL Driver at \$30/hr, with a requirement of retaining a CDL license within 3 months or decrease pay of \$28/hr, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
4. Purchase order for Ambulance portable radios:  
Motion to approve the purchase order for portable radios in the amount of \$27,519.00, A. Baxter/S. Brenna, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
5. Vouchers  
Motion to approve the town vouchers in the amount of \$31,021.06, M. Anderson/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.  
  
Motion to move 6B Harbor Commission to the first budget workshop discussion, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried.
6. Budget Workshop with each of the following departments:
  - B. Harbor Commission:  
Harbor Commission President Zach Montagne was present to discuss the 2025 Harbor Commission budget. The Commission did not request any funds for 2025 and believes there will be enough to cover their expenses. Montagne mentioned the EPA grant for an electric ferry was denied. He plans to have the full proposed budget finished in the next week or so.  
A. Public Works

Roads:

Peter Wiggins and Evan Jr Erickson were present and discussed the budget requests for 2025. The department has been working hard on culvert replacement, ditching, & paving. The town is in dire need of gravel and has put in a request for \$100,000. The department has also requested adding a new 2,000-gallon tank for gasoline, a back-up heating unit, and air conditioning for offices in the snow removal building.

Parks:

Peter Wiggins and Evan Jr Erickson were present and discussed the budget requests for 2025. The department saw an increase in park wages from last year. The department has requested a new turn-zero mower in the amount of \$13,500. They also requested hiring parks employees sooner than July as the Public Works Department is shorthanded.

Materials Recovery Facility (MRF):

Peter Wiggins and Evan Jr Erickson were present and discussed the budget requests for 2025. There is a significant difference in 2024 actual MRF wages versus what is requested for 2025. The 2025 proposed is what wages would be if the employees worked a full 40 hours a week compared to the actual of 2024. The department has requested a trash compactor replacement for \$34,000 and hook lift truck replacement for \$20,000.

Airport:

Paul Wilharm was present to discuss the budget requests for 2025. The airport continues to run smoothly. The department has requested a new tractor with attachments for \$18,847.00 to cover their portion (the remainder is covered by BOA and FAA).

Dock: There are no changes to the budget.

Cemetery: Paul and Charley Brummer were present to discuss the budget requests for 2025. The department has requested a pickup truck and gravel overlay to cleanup/fix some land. Another request being to clear the ditching on the sides of the cemetery for proper drainage.

C. Fire Department:

Rick Reichkitzer was present to discuss the budget requests for 2025. The Fire Department has grown significantly this year. Some of the budget requests made by the fire department include; computer upgrades (\$1,900), ESB gutter replacement (\$3,616 for their portion, more discussion between other departments split costs needed), ESB lighting (\$5,000 for their portion, more discussion between other departments split costs needed), Jet-ski (\$20,000), portable radios (2) (\$15,000 including \$4,000 in grant funding). The Town Board and department also discussed the control over emergency calls and who shows up to what calls.

D. Library:

Lauren Schuppe was present to discuss the budget requests for 2025. The library has been having issues with the elevator and it needs to be fixed. The hope is to fix the control board, however if this fails a request for a new elevator is added to the budget for \$25,000. The lower levels of the library roof need repair (\$24,000) and an RFP has been published.

E. Committees:

Affordable Housing Advisory Committee:

The AHAC has not requested any funds for 2025 and plans to use their remaining funds from 2024 of about \$11,000.

Community Awards Committee:

The CAC has not requested any funds for 2025 and will use the remaining funds from 2024 of about \$200.

Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee:

The CPSC no longer exists. The remaining funds will be transferred into the general fund.

Energy Committee:

The budget has not changed since the OEI grant was submitted. The total cost is \$288,773 (EIGP grant \$142,310, In-kind contributions \$6,651, Focus on Energy Funding \$5,175, Elective Pay tax credit \$84,637, Town Capital \$50,000). The 2025 end of year balance is negative because some reimbursement won't be applied until 2026.

Public Arts Committee:

The Public Arts committee focused on 3 events in 2024 (Porta Potty Art, Chalk Art event, and Medallion Hunt). The Committee has requested \$1,500 to continue and expand the committee for 2025.

Winter Transportation Committee:

The WTC has requested \$6,000 from each entity for the 2025 budget.

Town Plan Commission/ Zoning:

The Commission's budget remains the same as prior years. The short term rental property renewal fee will change from \$300-350, which will add an increase in revenue. No other changes were requested.

F. General Government:

The 2025 budgets requests were prepared and presented by Lauren Burtaux. There was last year's request for new technology items in Town Hall. The Town has gotten a new printer/copier this year and has \$14,000 left to replace the town router and a few employee computers. The Town Administrator salary example was set to the highest salary option, which adds a significant increase to wage and retirement, but can be adjusted with actual hiring. Burtaux plans to clean up some items and redistribute documents for the follow up meeting.

~~7. Budget Workshop~~

~~A. 2025 Fee Schedule~~

~~B. 2025 Budget Follow up from previous workshops~~

There will be a follow-up meeting on Tuesday, October 29, 2024, at 5:00pm to follow up and discuss the 2025 schedule of fees.

8. Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn, S. Brenna/A. Baxter, 5 Ayes, Motion Carried. 6:01pm

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

**Approved as submitted, 11/12/24.**