

Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

8 July 2024, 7:00pm at Town Hall

Attending: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Kyle Gibbens, Wendy Von Haden, Mandy Wagner, Cody Schaub, Jodi Powers, Barb Welch, Patrick Welch, Bruce Meiners, Suzanne Baker-Young, Cody Johnson

Meeting was called to order at 7:00
Pledge of Allegiance

Previous Month's Minutes – Kyle motion to approve both sets of minutes, Loren second. No discussion. All in favor no oppose.

- Treasurer's Report –
- Fire Call Bills – things are looking good. Filed one to the state. Was denied on one from the state. The vehicle owner and the driver need to be billed.
- Citizen Concerns - Jodi Powers asked about fireworks permits. Her neighbor has been lighting fireworks.
- Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues – nothing new. Brock will check with Greg about the signs.
 - Honor Roll Concept -
 - Hwy 21 Property
 - Junk Ordinance – Brendan is working on this.
 - LaGrange/Boynton Cemetery Signage – someone contacted Loren regarding a donation for the Boynton sign. Suzanne Baker-Young mentioned there are still family members in the area.
- Election Prep/Execution (13 Aug, 5 Nov) - Wendy gave a brief update regarding absentee ballots and training.
- Old Business
 - Personnel Update
 - Appointed vs. Elected Clerk/Treasurer - nothing new
 - Road Projects Update
 - Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – pulverizing started today; the grading should be done tomorrow. The Elixir Rd bypass was finished, we discussed needing to remove a few more trees to widen it. Brendan will talk to Gerke's. Mailboxes are a little bit of an issue. Gerke's talked to the Postmaster, but they did not communicate it to the Mail Carrier. Had one request to not replace a culvert, Brendan said all culverts will be replaced. Brendan will have Gerke's stop by the residence and talk to the homeowner. Barb Welch had a concern about a tree branch. One citizen asked if his property was going to have a ditch. Bruce Meiners asked about getting Mathy phone number for a bid for individual driveways when they are here doing Ellsworth. Asked if driveways are assessed if they are blacktop or concrete, Brendan will look into this. There are two right of way easements that need to be completed. Brendan has been working with the Town attorney. The agreed amount will be \$600 each for the right of way easement.
 - Ellsworth Bridge: 2027 Construction, Overage Issue
 - Embay/England LRIP: 2024 Construction - starting week of July 22nd to pulverize.
 - Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025? - we have not received formal notification but have had verbal that we are getting the funding. Out of 150 projects Town of La Grange scored 3rd. This is a joint project with Bryon township. We will have to pay about \$200,000 for this project.
 - Ensign Chipseal – no date scheduled yet.
 - Patrolman Issues/Concerns (Staffing, Recycle Center, Equipment, Facilities) - no concerns
 - New Plow Truck – should be here this fall.
 - 3 Point Broom - \$8000-\$9000 – going to think about this some more.
 - Side-mount Rotary Mower – Cody believes it is getting towards the end. We have had it 6 years. Talked about probably needing more of a brush hog type piece of equipment.
 - Chipper – DNR may rent one for a day
 - Backhoe – still having problems. Overheating and oil issues. Cody has been calling Titan for help with repairs. Also talking to another company from DeForest. Could be \$15,000-\$16,000 to fix it. We put \$5,000 into it last year. It has about 1850 hours on it. Looking at \$160,000-\$170,000 to replace it. Kyle made a motion to do the \$6000 diagnostic and proceed from there up to \$20,000. Loren second. Discussion was had. All in favor no opposed.
 - Culvert Identification
 - Boynton Cemetery Additional Property & Fencing – have a signed offer with Melissa for the sale of some property to the Town for the Boynton Cemetery. Once this is completed, we will start working on access to the cemetery. Susan Baker Young was here to give some information/history on the Boynton

cemetery. All the burials are related except one. She is going to share the information she has with the board via email.

- The Range Legal Fee Reimbursement - got notice that they are sending a check to the county. Wendy will check with the County to see how we get the money.
- Painting Town Hall – no date scheduled – Wendy will reach out to the painter
- Interstate Bridge on Empire – Cody will reach out to the County
- Town Hall Cleaning – The hall was cleaned this month.
- New Business
 - Hiawatha Alcohol Permit Renewal – Kyle made a motion to accept permit. Loren second. No discussion. All approve no oppose
 - Loan for Ellsworth Rd – Wendy will send it in.
 - New Building Inspection Services - discussed a new building inspector. Brendan had a contract from GEC. Also discussed that the town needs an ordinance regarding inspections. Brendan asked GEC to give us a draft ordinance. Kyle has some questions but wants to read the contract and the ordinance more. Kyle wants to meet with GEC to ask questions. Brendan will try to set up a special meeting with GEC. Will discuss the contract and ordinance at that meeting.
 - Support of Towns Association Mtg, 21 Nov - This is scheduled with Taphouse Twenty.
 - Contingency Plans – on Brendan’s to do list
 - Town Hall/Fire Station Weapon Posting – had a discussion regarding this. Adrian is the only town hall out of 8 that Loren went around to that has a weapons posting. Discussed talking to the election workers. Brendan will be at the training on July 23rd to see how they feel about it. Brendan will ask Legal counsel if we need an ordinance. Kyle made a motion to post it at all town buildings including town vehicles. Brendan second. A discussion was had, Brendan will change his vote if the election voters are overwhelmingly against it. Kyle amended his motion to say if the election workers are opposed to it the motion fails. Kyle and Brendan in favor. Loren opposed.
 - Fire Association Meeting Backbrief – very little, low number of fire calls. Remember to bill for rent and utilities. Need to add the wireless amount to the invoice. Kyle asked if we should post when the Fire Association has meetings.
 - Noxious Weeds on Town Right-of-Ways – Cody did some spraying. We discussed what we can do in the right of way areas. Brendan asked Loren to put together something to address this issue. Kyle suggested maybe educating the people regarding what they can do to help with the issue.
- Treasurer/Clerk/Supervisor Inputs – Mandy – was asking about the fire bills who collects the information for the bills. The Chief gets the information at the scene of the accident. She mentioned that sometimes we are not getting correct or enough information.
- Brendan brought up a few budget issues. We are getting \$6000 more from ATC, need to amend the budget. Brendan made a motion to put the \$6000 into the repairs budget line and Kyle second. No discussion. All in favor no opposing.
- Wendy asked about the Bond for the Treasurer, Clerk and Deputy Clerk – Kyle made a motion to add the deputy clerk to the bond. Brendan second. No discussion. All in favor no oppose
- Ho Chunk liquor license – Loren made a motion to set the fee at \$250 annually Kyle second. No discussion. All in favor no opposed.
- Brendan made a motion to go with 1000 gallons of prepay propane with Allied Coop Loren second. All in favor no opposed.
Brendan will pick up \$1000 worth of postage stamps before the price goes up on 7/14/24
Budget training – Wendy has been doing this with the software people.
Loren asked about the Sand Creek landfill situation. Carmichael sent a letter to the other attorney. This is basically a closed situation.
Kyle talked about mowing England the week before the pulverizing.
- Pay Bills - Kyle made a motion to pay the bills Loren second. No discussion. All in favor no opposed.
- Adjourned at 9:10