

Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

12 August 2024, 7:00pm at Town Hall (in Fire Station)

Attending: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Kyle Gibbens, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden, Cody Schaub, Fred Zinke, Tim Garrels, Jon Larson, Vicky Rugg, Pat Welch, Corey Clay, Paul Marten, Jeff Dauterman

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

Previous Month's Minutes Kyle made a motion to approve all three sets. Loren second all in favor no oppose.

Treasurer's Report – report attached. Fire Call Bills – currently have three open invoices.

Citizen's Concerns - Brendan talked about a letter from the County regarding Mr. Waldner conditional use permit. Mr. Waldner has requested another conditional use permit for his property. A public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 16th at the County board meeting. Brendan would like to ask the county for an extension for the public meeting because the town did not receive the letter until today. Mr. Dauterman asked if Mr. Waldner had spoken to any town people. Mr. Dauterman discussed his concerns with this permit. Concerned about setting a precedence. Kyle mentioned that the town can't make any decisions until they know more facts.

Mr. Dauterman asked if Ellsworth Road north of Elgin will be done in the future. Brendan explained that there are plans to redo the road from Elgin to La Grange Hills.

Brendan explained that the Town will only be paying about \$6000 for the Ellsworth Road project. The rest is coming from a State Grant and Ho Chunk

Mr. Welch asked about the dust from the Ellsworth project. Wondering about spraying the gravel.

Kyle explained that you can't do that when you are going to be paving within one year.

Brendan explained the change orders for the project. Ho Chunk is going to help pay for these. Mr. Welch also talked about his culvert. Concerned about the water from the town shop. He may need another section of culvert. It was decided to wait and see how it looks like as the project moves forward.

Paul Martin asked about trees by the Cram property on Flint. Brendan and Cody have discussed this.

Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues

Honor Roll Concept – 2 residents killed in action. Brock is going to check on the status of the plaques

Hwy 21 Property – no updates

Junk Ordinance – was put on the back burner but will get back to it. The biggest issue with this ordinance is the enforcement.

Discussed if the Waldner situation needs to be sent back to the planning commission.

LaGrange/Boynton Cemetery Signage – Zingler is a little behind. Hoping to have these done in the next month or so.

Election Prep/Execution (13 Aug, 5 Nov) 75 absentee ballots sent out. Received 59 back. And 7 people voted absentee in person on Aug 2 and Aug 9. The public test was held on Aug 6th. Four election workers attended the public test.

Old Business

Personnel Update

Appointed vs. Elected Clerk - Nov election

Wanitta Irwin has resigned from mowing for the Township. If anyone knows anyone looking for a part time job, please let the Chairman know. There is an age limit of 18 years old.

Road Projects Update

Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – on schedule.

Loan for Ellsworth Rd—Review/approve resolution – Kyle made a motion to take a short-term loan from Commissioners of Public Lands in accordance with the associated resolution noted in

the application package to cover the expenses until we get reimbursed from the state for the TRID grant. Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Ellsworth Bridge: 2027 Construction, Overage Issue – no changes

Embay/England LRIP: 2024 Construction - going as scheduled

Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025? - Brendan working on a letter to solicit an engineering firm.

Ensign Chipseal – should be starting after Labor Day

Patrolman Issues/Concerns (Staffing, Recycle Center, Equipment, Facilities) -

New Plow Truck Update – nothing new

Backhoe Update – Brendan will call Titan regarding the mistake they made and ask for a refund

Potential Equipment Needs: 3 Point Broom, Side-mount Rotary Mower, Chipper - no updates
Boynton Cemetery Additional Property & Fencing- waiting for a closing date with the attorney.
Also waiting for paperwork for the two easements for the Ellsworth Road project, hoping to complete this all at the same time.

Painting Town Hall – the main hall is done. Just have the offices left to paint. We will get this done after the election.

Interstate Bridge on Empire – has been painted. Cody worked with the county on this.

Support of Towns Association Mtg, 21 Nov will be at Taphouse 20

Contingency Plans – Brendan sent a draft to the supervisors to review. Kyle thought maybe the board should work with the planning commission to go over this. Kyle asked if the county has a plan and if we can work off that.

Town Hall/Fire Station Weapon Posting – Town board voted to not post the Town buildings.

Brendan talked to the election workers. The motion last month is revoked.

Noxious Weeds on Town Right-of-Way – Loren traveled the township and located all locations that have wild parsnip. Loren discussed spraying next year. Loren will figure out the cost for doing this next year. Brendan talked about when the township owns the right of way versus not. Also discussed needing to contact homeowners to know if they are ok with spraying.

New Business

Whitetail Crossing Cigarette, Tobacco, and Electronic Vaping License – Kyle made a motion to charge \$100 per year. Loren 2nd. Further discussion, Kyle thinks they are dragging their feet on the liquor license. All in favor no opposed.

Dogwood Rd Tree Cutting – Brendan talked to some of the homeowners. Brendan wants to talk to Mr. Utke about what needs to be cut to maintain the right of way. Brendan will talk to the other homeowners that need trees cut down. Loren and Kyle will also go out and look at what trees need to be removed.

Fire association meeting – Kyle talked about the meeting. In three years, a pumper truck will need to be replaced. One million dollars to replace it. They are putting money away for this. The state decides when they need to replace equipment. The new lease for the fire department rent is this December. Town needs to decide how much the rent should be.

Treasurer/Clerk/Supervisor Inputs – Kyle had nothing, Loren nothing, Mandy – had an email about the Catalis program that tracks tax payments. The program is going to be more this year. She will find out how much. Mandy mentioned we received a check from the county for The Range assessments and interest. Kyle talked to Martel and they will come and look at the trash compactor.

Wendy handed out a budget report. Very well received.

Tim Garrels talked about his property on Ellsworth Road and the work he has been doing and what the Township should pay for. Brendan explained the town will do everything in the road right of way.

There was a discussion on if you add asphalt or concrete driveway your assessment will go up.

Pay Bills – Loren made a motion to pay the bills Kyle second the motion. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Adjourned at 8:34 pm