

## **Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Minutes**

### **14 April 2025, 7:00pm at Town Hall**

Attending: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Kyle Gibbens, Cody Schaub, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden, Joe Martino, Ed Grygleski, Steve Jensen, Tomas Jensen, Mark Amundson, Austin Miller, Taylor Miller, Larry Rhea, Theresa Rhea, Vicki L Ruegg, Bob Micheel, Bruce Meiners, Tyson Langrehr, Bill Divyak, Joanne Jackowiak, Tim Liddane, Tom Butzler, Laura Smith, Neil Honish, Brock Bailey, Cody Johnson,

Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 pm

Brendan recognized Kyle Gibbens as a board member for 11 years. Brendan presented him with a flag that was flown at the town hall and a plaque. Thank you, Kyle, for all your years of dedication to the Town of La Grange!!

Previous Month's Minutes – two sets of minutes (March monthly meeting and April Agenda meeting). Loren made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kyle second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Treasurer's Report – see attached.

Bob Micheel and Edward Grygleski were here to get the board support for an Ag Enterprise Area for the Town of La Grange. They explained the program and handed out flyer about it, see attached. This is part of a Farmland Preservation Tax Credit program. They are looking to get some other town ships into this program. This is a state program. This program gives an income tax credit to property owners. When a property owner signs up this is a 10-year program. This is an individual decision to join the program not a town decision. The town just must support it. The paperwork needs to be in by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Loren made a motion to support the Ag Enterprise Area for the Town of La Grange. Kyle second. No further discussion. All in favor no oppose.

Noxious Weeds on Town Rights-of-Way - Tyson Langrehr from Monroe County Highway Dept was here to explain the spraying program that the county offers to townships. Loren explained the problems with the wild parsnip and other noxious weeds in our township. He explained the benefits of doing the spraying. Tyson explained the spraying with the growth inhibitor (flyers attached). They started using this 3 years ago on the state highway. The downside of this is that it will kill alpha and soybeans. The cost per mile is up to \$58.00, this varies depending on how much can be done at one time. The chemical will dry in about 30 minutes to 1 hour after application. The DNR recommends 48 hours before dogs go in the area that was sprayed. They do not spray anything that is mowed. It was recommended to put signs out and deliver letters to residents in the area of the spraying. Bob does not recommend this in an area of a lot of population. It was recommended to maybe only do some bad areas that do not have a lot of houses. Brendan explained why the town is considering this. It is for the noxious weeds and to help keep the mowing time down for the town patrolman. Bob mentioned the land conservation department can come and educate the town ship on different ways to take care of the noxious weeds. It was decided to table this for now.

Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues

Giesecke Conditional Use Permit, Round 2, 17 March 25, 6pm County Zoning Mtg – This was approved at the County Zoning meeting on March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Steve Jensen would like to get a Conditional Use Permit for an auto repair shop at his property on Elk Road. When we receive the information from the county this will go to the planning commission.

Rezoning of Martino Property – he would like to rezone three or four lots into three lots. Have them all zoned as general agriculture. He is just trying to get it all zoned the same, right now the different

zoning goes right through his house. He does want to make this into three lots in case down the road his kids or someone would want to build on this property. Kyle made a motion to approve the zoning change for Martino. Loren second. No further discussion, all in favor no oppose.

1 Apr 2025 Spring Election – 860 voters, 134 absentee. Very good turnout.

Cemetery/Property Mowing – we have hired three people that are going to all share the lawn mowing duties. Wanita is going to supervise the two young men that were hired.

Putters Ridge Water Project – The finish work was done today, they will hydro seed tomorrow, there was some damage to one person's water system Brendan will take care of this.

Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – there were several issues with water outflow problems. We have a quote from Gerke's to take care of these issues. The total is \$11,280 for these change orders. We do have plenty of money on the contract with Ho Chunk. Kyle made a motion to approve the three change orders from Gerke's. Loren second. No further discussion. All in favor no oppose.

Brock asked if the golf cart/crosswalk path could be painted further back into the golf course driveway. Brendan will follow up with Svet.

Mandy asked if England Road ditches are going to be filled in this year. Brendan said yes, that is on the list for Cody to do this summer.

Neil Honish asked if there could be a lighted sign of some sort at the golf course stop signs. There was a lengthy discussion about pros and cons. Cody is going to get the electronic speed signs up soon.

Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025 Design, 2026/27 Build – the engineering on this project is starting. This looks like a 2025 design and a 2026 build. The Ho Chunk has now indicated that they may be able to help with this project. The state grant is a 90/10 project. We are hoping to get a cooperative agreement with Ho Chunk later this year. This is 3.1-million-dollar project.

2025 Road Plan – Kyle e-mailed a copy of this to the board.

This year we are doing Division and Flock chip seal. Ensign Road will need some work also.

Cody has a list of items that need to be taken care of. He and Brendan will work through that list.

New Plow Truck Update – was returned to De Bauche for some warranty repairs. This truck has not even been used yet. Still waiting for the box to be installed.

Upcoming meetings:

Annual Meeting: 15 April, 7pm

Open Book: 24 Apr, 5-7pm

Board of Review: 1 May, 5:30-7:30pm

Financial Audit/Self-Inspection Options – Brendan will work on this

Ziegler Driveway Permit – Loren made a motion to approve the driveway permit. Kyle second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Ermine/Enterprise Stop Sign – Cody has had some requests for stop signs coming out of this subdivision. Kyle made a motion to put stop signs at Enterprise & Ermine and Enterprise & Entity. Loren second no further discussion all in favor no oppose

Deuce/Destiny Stop Sign – Kyle made a motion to put the stop sign back up on Deuce and Destiny. Loren second no further discussion all in favor no oppose

Brendan gave a back brief from Fire Association meeting. They are having some minor truck issues, which has blown their repair budget. They did get a DNR grant for some gear/equipment.

Loren asked about permits when the road bans are on? Another township gave a permit for their roads, but then the truck driver drove on posted roads in the Town of La Grange. If anyone witnesses this in the future, it was recommended to call the Chairman and then he will call the State Patrol.

Treasurer – Mandy mentioned that postage stamps are going up again. She would like to purchase stamps for tax time before the price increases.

Pay Bills – Brendan discussed the checks and balances for the township. He would like to get something in place to know what the board can do to check the books for the township.

Kyle made a motion to accept the bills as presented Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Adjourn at 8:58 pm

Wendy Von Haden, Clerk