

Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

9 June 2025, 7:00pm at Town Hall

Attending: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden, Cody Schaub, Bruce Meiners, Mark Amundson, John Guthrie, Brock Bailey, Pat Welch, Pete Thorsen, Cody Johnson

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

Previous Month's Minutes – two sets of minutes, Monthly Meeting May 12th and Agenda Meeting June 4th Loren made a motion to approve, Brock second, no further discussion all in favor no oppose Treasurer's Report –see attached.

Budget Review (March/June/September/December) - this will be discussed next month.

Citizen's Concerns - John Guthrie was here to discuss a situation at the cemetery during a service. A lady fell while walking up the hill. He mentioned that there was a discussion a while ago about putting a road on the south side of the cemetery. He was just wondering if the town could consider constructing that road. Brendan mentioned that there may be some road aid that could be used for this. Bruce Meiners was here to talk about some seeding and some black dirt that needs to be done on his property from the Ellsworth project. He was asking if the town would supply some dirt and seed if Gerke's were not going to come back. Brendan will talk to Gerke's regarding this. Brendan also talked about some drainage issues by Welch's.

Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues

Jensen Property Conditional Use Permit – this was at the county zoning meeting last month. This was postponed until July 21, 2025. This postponement was to give the Jensen's more time to get some information from the DNR regarding the drain and about a fence. The town needs to address two things before the July meeting. Those being the fence and the wording of if the business is sold. There was discussion regarding the County planning commission having connections with the neighbors to the Jensen property. Brock will make a call to Alison regarding this. He will also do this in writing. Brock will attend the July 21st meeting.

The Martino zoning was approved.

Loren mentioned that Mark Amundson was interested in being on the Planning Commission. The board will look for a new chairman.

Personnel Update: Brendan commended the staff on doing a great job getting the roads ready for the Dreier funeral procession.

Road Projects Update

Putters Ridge Water Project – Brendan feels this is complete. He does know that Greger's may not feel the same way. They have been given some options that they have not taken. The board decided this project is complete.

Putters Ridge Full Drainage Analysis – there was a discussion regarding a full analysis. Brendan talked about the three culverts that he feels the town should review at this time. Pete Thorsen said that if the town takes care of two of the culverts, he would be willing to take care of the third one. Brendan will write letters to landowners to get permission to access the properties and get some suggestions from an engineer on what should be done.

Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – there are a few more issues that need to be completed regarding this project. Gerke's have retracted their two-year warranty. Svet agreed to a two year, but Gerke's said no to a two-year warranty. Brendan is going to push back with Gerke's as he feels there are going to be some issues in the spring when the frost comes out. Pat Welch also asked about getting some black dirt to fill in some places. Pete Thorson will donate some dirt to help with this. Speed limit signs have been installed. Cody needs to get the portable speed sign ready to go.

2025 Road Projects Updates (Division, Flock, Ensign, Parking Lots) - Division, Flock and Ensign may be done in the next few weeks. We received a bid for the town hall crack sealing and painting the parking lines. We are going to think about what to do with the town shop to see what should be done there. There was discussion regarding the State Highway Aid of \$126,584 and what projects we have committed to so far this year. Brendan will get a second quote from Scott Construction for the town hall cracks sealing and painting.

Brendan made a motion to solicit another bid from Scott Construction and he will be authorized to approve the lower of the bid for the town hall crack sealing and pavement marking. Loren second, no further discussion, all in favor, no opposed.

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

Brendan and Cody are going to have a workday on June 19th to work on the shop weather stripping and to build the cemetery sign structure. And also get the mobile speed sign working. Brock will plan on helping, so Brendan will post this as a meeting.

Cody is making progress on mowing. Received his patch load on Friday. There was discussion about Forest Ave regarding the potholes. It was decided to get a couple of loads of recycled blacktop to help get this road through to next summer.

Cody mentioned that the post signs are now to be 6x4 instead of 4x4. If he is replacing signs, he can use 4x4 but anything new needs to be 6x4 or metal. It was decided that we will use the 4x4 up and then start using the metal posts.

England/Embay project will start in July. Cody mentioned that he will probably have some overtime during this project.

He asked what to do with a culvert on Destiny. The culvert is not set correctly. There was a discussion about if it needs to be fixed or just leave it. It was decided to fix it when time allows, but it is a low priority project.

Cody talked about finishing the culvert on Goldbug Rd that needed to be replaced.

Final Grader Disposition we received a bid of \$5350.00 from the auction.

Backhoe – is having issues again. Cody called Miller Bradford and received a minimum bid to do the clutch packs and seal kit of \$10028. Cody mentioned all the issues that the backhoe is having. He feels the issues from the shop in La Crosse are causing most of the problems. The board made a decision last year that they had a hard stop of \$30,000 to put into repairs for the backhoe. Brendan mentioned that we need to start thinking about replacing the backhoe. Brendan made a motion that we will fund the repair of the backhoe for up to \$14,000. If it is any more than \$14,000 they will reconvene and make a decision. Brock second. no further discussion. all in favor no oppose.

Brendan asked Cody to come up with a wish list for a new backhoe.

Noxious Weeds on Town Rights-of-Way - there was a short discussion about this. Loren is going to look at a few more options.

Financial Audit/Self-Inspection Options – Brendan is still working on this.

Jason Towner Driveway Permit – Loren made a motion to accept the permit with a 15' culvert. Brock second no further discussion all in favor no oppose

Cranberry Cove Driveway Permit – Brock made a motion to accept as presented with three culverts. Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Randy Dunford Driveway Permit – this permit was not needed as it does not attach to the town road. Loren made a motion to deny this Brock second.

Hiawatha Alcohol and Cigarette License – Brock made a motion to approve the alcohol and cigarette licenses as presented for 2025-2026 Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose

Ho Chunk Cigarette License – Brock made a motion Loren second to approve the cigarette licenses as presented for 2025-2026 no further discussion all in favor no oppose

Cemetery Lot Sale Approval – we have three different requests for lots. Loren made a motion to approve as presented. Brendan second no further discussion, all in favor no oppose.

Pressure Washer Procurement – Brendan had a discussion regarding the purchase of a pressure washer. They talked to a guy at the Universal open house about a pressure washer. We received a quote for \$5300. Brendan would like to take the money from the grader and use that towards a pressure washer. Brendan made a motion to use the proceeds and other dollars from equipment fund up to \$8500 to purchase a presser washer. Loren second. Loren mentioned that an electric motor would be a better option. All in favor no oppose. Cody and Brendan will get this going.

Loren brought up the logs that are on Dexter. He also mentioned some road signs for Dogwood and Division and Elixr. Cody just got them; he will get them installed. Loren mentioned some campers and cars that are parked in the right of way. Cody mentioned calling the WTA to see who is responsible if there is an accident because of these cars/campers. Brendan will write a letter to these residents regarding these vehicles in the right of way.

Brock had nothing to add.

Mandy mentioned that postage stamps are going up on July 13th. She asked that the town purchase 1,200 stamps before the price increases in July.

Mandy got some information on Positive Pay from Bank First. The biggest downside is that someone has to login every day to approve the checks.

Mandy talked about the Marge accounting program. She does not feel comfortable with the customer service we are receiving. She has gotten information from the program named Work Horse. The cost of Work Horse is \$16,700 and then around \$3,000 each year thereafter.

It was decided to give it one more month and then try to make a decision.

Wendy mentioned she is going to a Clerk Bootcamp on June 19th in Holmen.

There was a discussion about a letter that was received from John and Carol Borycki at 9925 Ellsworth Road regarding a water issue that they feel started after the road construction. It was decided to do nothing this time.

Brendan mentioned George Grasser on Emerson has asked to put a mirror on the corner so he can see traffic coming up the road when in his driveway. Cody contacted the county, and this is not allowed where he wanted it. There was discussion about adding a speed limit sign. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

Pay Bills – Loren made a motion to approve the bills as written. Brock second. No further discussion, all in favor no oppose.

Adjourn at 9:21 pm

Wendy Von Haden, Clerk