

# Town of La Grange

## Annual Meeting Minutes

The La Grange Annual Meeting was held on April 16, 2024, at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, 22731 Flint Ave, Tomah.

Board Members present: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Melissa Abben, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden

Citizens Present: Paul Marten, Tom Bailey, Bruce Meiners, John Guthrie, Bill Divyak, Brock Bailey, Vicki Ruegg, Kurt Ruge, Steve Abbott

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm.

Minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting were read. John Guthrie made a motion to accept, second by Vicky Ruegg, motion carried, no opposed.

Annual financial report was reviewed. Brenden pointed out the new truck that was purchased. Brock Bailey questioned the \$500 cemetery donation. Wanted to make sure it was kept separate. John Guthrie questioned the tax 1 and tax 2 account. Mandy explained it. We made a 2<sup>nd</sup> account to avoid some fees from the bank.

Discussion on Appointed Clerk/Treasurer concept – Brenden talked about the challenges with clerks the past few years. The job is a lot more than anyone expected. Part time help has been helpful over the past year. Melissa resigned at the last meeting and Wendy Von Haden was appointed to finish out the term. The board is looking for discussion on if the position should be an appointed position versus an elected position. An appointed position can be someone that does not live in the town. Brenden explained the process. The board would have to adopt a resolution and then it would go to referendum for the November election.

Citizen's concerns and Discussions:

John Guthrie asked if there was any more thought about the town shop. Brenden explained there are 3 things ahead of that,

1 - 1.4 million grant for Ellsworth Rd project from Hwy 21 to Elgin Rd

2 - Ordered a new plow truck for about \$300,000

3 - ARIB grant for roads that are weight restricted that supports agriculture that needs improvement, we applied for this grant for Estate, Essex, Formica, 2.7 miles joint application with the town of Byron. It is a 90/10 \$3 million project.

Cody has been doing a lot of work around the shop. The Backhoe may still need to be replaced, along with the mower.

Discussed establishing a Junk Ordinance to put more control in the hands of the Township. This has been an ongoing discussion/issue in the past year in a couple different areas of the Town.

Brock Bailey asked about fire numbers that are faded, who is responsible for replacing them? The home owner is responsible, but the town has replaced some. Brock questioned if the town should pay to have all the old style fire numbers replaced.

Vicky Ruegg questioned the collecting clean fill in the minutes from last year.

Bruce Meiners complimented Cody on a great job of cleaning of the Town Shop and Recycling Center.

Vicki Ruegg asked about the Road right of way clean up. It is the towns responsibility to keep roads and right of ways clear. Current and future plans were discussed. Brenden explained the town has the right of way. We have a responsibility to have the roads cleared and safe. The Town has been using Facebook to communicate where the work will be done.

Loren is doing a great job of communicating on Facebook.

Bill Divyak questioned if we are in jeopardy of losing any more land to the City of Tomah. The board is not aware of anything currently.

Paul Marten asked if we should look at the wages for the board to determine if they are compensated fairly. Paul Marten made a motion to have Brenden conduct a wage survey to establish where the Town of La Grange compares to comparable municipalities by end of summer and discuss findings at a public meeting, Bill Divyak seconded the motion, motion carried, no one opposed.

Brenden mentioned the ATC powerline, we get extra money that we were able to raise salaries for the Patrolman, recycling employees and other part time employees.

Shared revenue – state increased the amount this year about \$60,000 extra. Some needs to go to fire and emergency management. Ambulance went to \$20 per person.

\$5000 last year from scrap metal. Cody shopped around and we are getting more.

Bruce asked if Cody Schaub's wages are competitive, mentioned we need to be sure we don't lose him. Brenden explained his compensation package.

Bill Divyak was appreciative of the election training.

Bruce made a motion to set the 2025 Annual meeting for April 15<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, Mandy seconded the motion, motion was passed, no one opposed.

Tom Bailey made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Brock Bailey seconded the motion, motion passed, no one was opposed.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm