

Town of LaGrange Monthly Meeting Minutes

8 Apr 2024, 7:00pm at Town Hall

Attending: Brendan Smith, Kyle Gibbens, Loren Schleusener, Mandy Wagner, Melissa Abben, Wendy Von Haden, Cody Schaub, Bruce Meiners, Brock Bailey, Vicki Ruegg, Steve Abbott

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Previous Month's Minutes
 - Kyle Gibbens made a motion to accept the following meeting minutes as printed: Public Hearing on Sub development Rezoning Meeting, 3/11/24, Special Meeting 3/11/2024, Dogwood Rd Special meeting 3/13/24, Annual Rd Tour, 3/16/24, Ellsworth Road Bid Opening 3/21/24, and Agenda Meeting 4/3/24, Seconded by Loren Schleusener, no one opposed, motion carried.
 - Brendan Smith made a motion to accept monthly board meeting minutes 3/11/24 after changes discussed, Loren seconded the motion. Motion carried, no one opposed.
- Treasurer's Report
 - Kyle Gibbens made a motion to amend the budget to include the CCF Bank CD for approximately \$10, 000. Loren Schleusener seconded the motion, motion passed, no one opposed.
 - Fire Call Bills discussed
 - Invoices 23-96 and 23-97 cannot be collected from the individuals responsible or the insurance company. Mandy recommended we pay the OFD, she filed both with the state and should be reimbursed all but \$128. Board concurred with recommendation.
 - Tara Anderson has agreed to pay \$25 a month for invoice 24-4.
- Citizen's Concerns
 - Who is responsible for the interstate bridge over Empire Rd? There is graffiti on the bridge that needs to be removed. Cody will reach out to the County Highway Department for action.
- Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues
 - Honor Roll Concept – No change
 - Hwy 21 Property- continued issues, Allison Elliot is still involved with the property and working on a solution.
 - Junk Ordinance – No Change
 - LaGrange/Boynton Cemetery Signage – Brock presented proposed signs for the cemeteries. Installation would be \$450 (optional).
 - Kyle made a motion to approve \$1560 for the Boynton Cemetery sign to be used from the Perpetual care fund, Town seconded by Loren, motion carried, no one opposed.
 - Presented the proposed the La Grange Cemetery directory and sign design, no estimated cost yet. We will need to know the plan to make additions in the future. Discussion was had concerning the sign and directory.
 - Ag-zoned Subdevelopment Rezoning to Rural Residential
 - Discussed the options that have been brought up at previous meetings.
 - *Brendan made a motion to accept that all future platted subdivisions will get zoned as rural residential. Businesses in existing sub-developments will be managed by conditional use permits. If the property owners of an existing sub-development want to be zoned as rural residential and 100% of the property owners agree, the Town of La Grange would cover the \$400 zoning fee. If less than 100% of the property owners chose to rezone to rural residential, the property owners would individually be responsible for the fee. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion carried. No one opposed.*
- Election Prep/Execution (2 Apr, 13 Aug, 5 Nov)
 - April 2 – 350 ballots cast, no issues. A great group of election workers helps the process run smoothly. We appreciate Art Tralmer for helping out.
- Old Business
 - Personnel Update
 - Clerk/Deputy Issue
 - Melissa Abben has submitted her resignation effective on or before May 13th

- Brendan made a motion to accept Melissa Abben’s resignation and to appoint Wendy Von Haden, effective at the close of this meeting, as the Interim Clerk through the current term. Kyle seconded the motion. The motion carried, no one opposed. All Board members agreed that Wendy should be added to our existing bank accounts and Melissa should remain on them.
 - Brendan made a motion to allow Melissa Abben to work an average of 10 hours a week at \$20 per hour, Kyle Gibbens seconded the motion. The motion carried, no one opposed.
 - Road Projects Update
 - Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction
 - Loren made a motion to accept the bid from Gerke's \$741098.90 minus \$5400 and Mathy \$623,705.65 with additional depth as the lowest responsible bidders for the two contracts (dirt work and paving), Brendan seconded the motion. A roll call vote was called. Brendan aye, Loren aye, Kyle abstained.
 - Ellsworth Bridge: 2027 Construction – The engineering plan is \$12,000 over budget. State agreed it is not excessive.
 - Loren made a motion to accept the engineering bridge proposal as printed, Kyle seconded the motion, motion carried, no one opposed. Upon finalization of the engineering plan, Brendan will work with the State to submit a request to cover the additional funds.
 - Embay/England LRIP: 2024 Construction - nothing to report
 - Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025 Should hear the decision in the next month.
 - Bridge Inspections – Discussion around bridge inspections and how the County conducts business and challenges with budgeting.
 - Loren made a motion to hire Jack Dittmar, P.E. from BCD Services to complete our Bridge inspections. Kyle seconded the motion with additional discussion. Motion carried, 1 opposed.
 - Patrolman Issues/Concerns (Staffing, Recycle Center, Equipment, Facilities)
 - New Plow Truck – no change
 - Right of Way Clearance/Boom Mowing - 22 hours left from Greenfield
 - Road Tour/5 year Road Plan – Kyle putting together bid package. Discussed options for roads for future projects.
 - Patrolman Annual Training Plan - Scheduled for early May.
 - Boynton Cemetery Additional Property & Fencing
 - Brendan made a motion to procure the property from Melissa Abben for no more than \$600, the total cost of the survey, transfer costs, and 100% of the cost of a 3-strand barbed wire fence. Kyle seconded the motion. Motion carried, no one opposed.
 - Town Credit Card - approved
 - The Range Legal Fee Reimbursement – will discuss further how to proceed.
- New Business
 - Annual Meeting, 16 Apr, 7:30pm – Does anyone have anything they would like to discuss? We will discuss changing the clerk position from an elected position to an appointed position. Treasurer position may also be considered.
 - \$10k Budget Adjustment for Perpetual Care CD will be made.
- Treasurer/Clerk/Supervisor Inputs
 - Mandy caught an error that the bank made on our statement, it was a \$60 mistake if anyone questions it.
 - Discussed the Refund Interception Program for Counties and Municipalities.
- Pay Bills
 - Loren Schleusener made a motion to accept the bills as presented, Kyle Gibbens seconded the motion. The motion carried, no one opposed.
- Adjourned at 9:20 pm