

# Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Agenda

**14 October 2024, 7:00pm at Town Hall**

Attendance: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Kyle Gibbens, Cody Schaub, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden, Brock Bailey, Carol Mullen, Jeff Dauterman, Rachel Scott, Craig Scott, Paul Marten, Vicki Ruegg, Fred Zinke, Gerald Ecker, Linda Ecker, Bruce Meiners

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman Smith

Pledge of Allegiance

Previous Month's Minutes – Monthly Meeting (Sept 9), Special Meeting (Sept 18), Agenda Meeting (Oct 9), Budget Hearing (Oct 9), Kyle made a motion to approve all four sets of minutes. Second by Loren. All in favor no oppose.

Treasurer's Report –Mandy presented the Treasurer's report. (see attached)

Fire Call Bills are looking really good, only 3 open invoices at this time. Brendan gave an update regarding the Anderson invoice; the town is still responsible for that bill. Brendan asked the fire association about a policy regarding forgiveness and there is not one at this time. This will be on the fire association agenda at the next meeting. We will pay the invoice to the fire association and submit this invoice to the Tax Intercept Program.

Citizen's Concerns - Brendan asked if there were any other concerns besides the Walner Conditional Use Permit and the water issue in Putter's Ridge. There were none.

Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues – Brock talked about the honor roll plaques; he will reach out to Leanne to see if those are completed. He will also talk to Zingler about the Cemetery sign. Hwy 21 Property –no updates. Loren said he talked to Allyson at the county, and they have done some cleanup, and they are licensing some of the vehicles.

Elan Rd and Ermine Ave Rezone – Elan Rd has a request for 100% rezoning, Ermine is not 100%. These will be presented at the Oct 21st County Zoning Committee meeting. Brendan asked if the board had any concerns. Kyle asked how the fee reimbursement works. The town will pay for the rezoning if it is 100%, if not then the residents have to pay the rezoning fees.

Waldner Conditional Use Permit Request Vote – there is a request for another conditional use permit for Mr. Waldner. Brendan asked if Mr. Waldner had contacted anyone on the board. He has not. Brendan started the discussion. Brendan's concerns, he has made no attempt to contact the town regarding this permit. He ignored the cease and de-cess order by the county. He was taken to court. He changed his business enough to get the court order taken off. Kyle asked if he has contacted any neighbors. The neighbors that were present said no. Brendan explained that we are under county zoning, and they are in charge of enforcement. Brendan made a motion to deny Mr. Waldner's conditional use permit request for all the reasons above. Kyle second. No further discussion All in favor no oppose.

Putters Ridge Water Issues – Brendan has talked to Svet at Central States Construction regarding hiring a specialist to study this water issue. Brendan acknowledges that this does not address the short-term resolution to the water problem. Kyle mentioned that at some point the whole subdivision is going to need something done to take care of the water problems that were created when the subdivision was constructed. It was mentioned we could look for a grant for this. Kyle mentioned that in the future any new subdivision will have to have all the engineering done prior to any construction. Brendan talked about the fact that the plans need to be followed, and the town will have to enforce them. Brendan is going to get some quotes before the next meeting for the long-range plans for Putter's Ridge. Kyle mentioned that something needs to be done for the short term before winter. There was discussion on some different ideas of what can be done to get through this winter. It was decided to get some engineering support before the next meeting to see what they suggest for the problem at the corner of Elkhorn and Elkland. Kyle would like to have it before the Nov 6<sup>th</sup> Agenda meeting.

Election Prep/Execution (5 Nov) Motion was made by Kyle to approve the election worker list (see attached), Loren second all in favor no oppose. Wendy explained that we have 6 new election workers. Approximately 1350 registered voters and 1941 residents. 121 absentee ballots have been sent out and 68 have been returned so far.

## Personnel Updates

Appointed vs. Elected Clerk – we will continue to post information about this on Facebook.

Grass Mowers Update - Brendan said the cemetery looked good. Hoping the mowers will return next year. They are doing a nice job.

Wendy discussed that the direct deposit fee is 30 cents per item. Board is ok with that. If board members want a direct deposit, they are welcome to do that.

## Road Projects Updates

Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – moving along possible black top this week.

Ellsworth Bridge: 2027 Construction, Overage Issue – Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> will be a public hearing regarding this bridge project. 100% percent federally funded bridge.

Embay/England LRIP: 2024 Construction - this project is complete. Going to start closing this out.

Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025? Bids for engineering is recommending 2025 design and 2026 build.

Ensign Chipseal – this is complete waiting for invoices

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

New Plow Truck – should be December delivery

Potential equipment needs: 3 Point Broom, Side-mount Rotary Mower, Chipper – nothing new

Election Contingency Equipment: Generator, Lights, Extension Cords, Power strips – Cody has been getting stuff ready for the election.

Boynton Cemetery Additional Property & Fencing – all that is left is the fencing. Have decided to take this off the agenda for now.

Support of Towns Association Mtg, 21 Nov - \$20 per plate at Taphouse Twenty

Contingency Plans – have not had time to work on this. Will get back to this after election planning

Noxious Weeds on Town Right-of-Ways – Loren has been reaching out to some farmers to find something organic. Brendan would like a cost analysis for mowing versus spraying.

Cody told the board that the fire inspector wants exit signs at all doors. Brendan asked him to get a quote.

Backhoe status – it is in De Forest to be repaired. The board has set a \$30,000 repair limit for the backhoe at this point. At that point we will need to purchase a different backhoe.

Fire Station Rent Renewal – there was discussion regarding the rent amount. The renewal is due in December. Will make a decision at the November meeting.

Treasurer/Clerk/Supervisor Inputs – Wendy talked about the new Fire number sign procedure with the county. Also asked for information on completing the LRIP paperwork. Discussion was had on a ribbon cutting for the Ellsworth project. It was decided to have that on November 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

Brendan and Wendy will work on this. Mandy mentioned that if anyone wants to add anything to her tax bill letter to get it to her by the middle of November. Mandy also mentioned that for \$25 a month

Bank First offers a remote capture program. This will save her time running to the bank during tax season. This will be something we will do just for the three months during tax season. Mandy and Wendy had a meeting with Luke from Bank First to change our accounts to receive a higher interest rate. Our accounts are analyzed each month and then the fees and interest will be applied. They are also giving us a full-time waiver for service charges. Mandy also explained the FDIC for municipalities.

Pay Bills – Loren made a motion to and Kyle second to approve bills as presented. No discussion all in favor no oppose

Adjourn – at 9:02 pm