

Town of LaGrange Monthly Board Meeting Minutes

10 March 2025, 7:00pm at Town Hall

Attending: Brendan Smith, Loren Schleusener, Mandy Wagner, Wendy Von Haden, Cody Schaub, Maila Kuhn, Ken Kuhn, Paul Marten, Vicki Ruegg, Bruce Meiners, Brock Bailey

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

Previous Month's Minutes Three sets of minutes (Feb 10 Monthly meeting, Feb 12, ARIP Kick Off meeting, Mar 5, Agenda meeting. Loren motion to accept all three sets of minutes, Kyle second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Treasurer's Report –see attached. Discussed some outstanding fire calls.

Citizen's Concerns - Brendan talked about the 4 way stop signs at the golf course. Gave background information about the stop signs. He explained that there were probably over 30 meetings regarding the Ellsworth Road project. The feedback prior to the signs going up was positive. He explained again the reasons for the 4 way stop signs. Brendan explained the safety concerns of that intersection. Loren mentioned that one person requested a roundabout at that intersection. Kyle mentioned the amount of traffic on Ellsworth. Kyle reiterated the safety issues on Ellsworth with the speed and the golf course pedestrian traffic. Ken Kuhn was here regarding the 4 way stop signs. He feels there could be other alternatives for when the golf course is not open. He feels maybe pedestrian signals would work. Asked if the stop signs could be covered when the golf course is closed. Mrs. Kuhn mentioned that people are not stopping. She feels the sign is not serving a purpose. She questioned if the state approved the stop signs. Brendan explained it is the towns decision and follows all state requirements. Kyle mentioned that the pedestrian signal was brought up during the planning. He also mentioned that we do have speed limit detector signs that will be going up this spring. Brock mentioned that ET and M have a lot more traffic and stated that it takes longer than 15 seconds to stop there with a truck and trailer. He asked if it was legal to put a stop sign without a need for it. Brendan explained that it is within the towns discretion to have the stop sign.

Planning Commission/Zoning/Land Use Issues –Brock said all that they were working on was the Giesecke CUP, Round 2, 17 March 25, 6pm County Zoning Mtg – the owners did not show up to the first meeting, so it was rescheduled. Brock asked about the weight bans. Those went into effect today. There has been two requests for waivers. A window delivery on English and another on one Dogwood for some equipment to fix a well. Brendan approved both of those requests. Cody mentioned there are two roads that have never been posted. Ellsworth north of Hwy 12 and Endive. Forbes Road also is not posted. It was decided to not post them.

18 Feb 2025 Primary Election Review – 205 voters, everything went smoothly.

1 Apr 2025 Spring Election – got absentee ballots out today.

Appoint Clerk (New Board) - next meeting

Cemetery/Property Mowing – Brendan explained he interviewed two young men and Wanitta is interested in coming back. Brendan would like to hire all three and Wanitta would be the lead for the two young guys. Brendan feels we would be covered if someone leaves or need to be gone for a week or two. The two young guys have expressed interest in helping Cody when/as needed. Brendan will work on getting this set up for this summer.

Putters Ridge Water Project – there was water overflowing the road and in the Gerke's yard. All in inlets were covered with silt screens, so the water was not going through pipes. Brendan has been in contact with the contractor, they will get here when the frost is out of the ground. The owners of the platted water way were upset with the water that washed his yard. Brendan explained this had nothing to do with the project the town did last fall as no water was going through the pipes.

Putters Ridge Full Drainage Analysis – Brendan is going to work on this

Ellsworth Road Project: 2024 Construction – waiting for spring to finish up. March 17th at noon Brendan is meeting Svet to look at Ellsworth and bring up some concerns with the project. Cody explained the corner of Path's field there is nowhere for the water to go, it runs down of the curb and then over the road. There is also a water issue at the corner of Emerald and Ellsworth. Mitch Dreier's may need to be reditched, the water ponds up because it is too high. Bruce Meiners asked about another small driveway on the north side of his house. Brock mentioned that the water does not flow through a culvert by 23448 Emperor Ave property.

Ellsworth Bridge: 2027 Construction, Overage Issue – nothing new
Formica/Estate/Essex ARIP Project—2025 Design, 2026/27 Build

Review/Approve Engineering Proposal – Brendan has a final contract with Town of Byron and Mead & Hunt. He discussed his concerns with the contract in regard to change orders etc. This is a time and expense contract. The board had a discussion regarding this. Kyle made a motion to move forward with the Mead and Hunt services for \$187,825. Loren second. Kyle mentioned that every quarter the bills will be turned into the state, you don't have to wait until the end of the project. All in favor no opposed.

Mead and Hunt are ready to get the surveyors out right away and get started with this project.

2025 Road Plan – Kyle is working on this.

Patrolman Issues/Concerns (Staffing, Recycle Center, Equipment, Facilities) Cody had nothing.

New Plow Truck Update – waiting for the salesman to call him back.

Buildings – Cody and Jimmy are going to get the door seal stuff and Brendan and Cody will install it.

Potential equipment needs: 3 Point Broom, Side-mount Rotary Mower, Chipper – nothing new here
Noxious Weeds on Town Rights-of-Way cost per mile for the county to apply is \$58/mile for labor and materials. Cody mentioned that Emerson is the worst road in the township for noxious weeds. It was decided to put on next month's agenda to make a decision. It was decided to pick 10 miles which would be 20 miles each side. We will advertise this prior to the April meeting so anyone that has concerns can express it prior to the meeting.

Mattress/Ag Plastic/Big Dumpster Policy – Adding a 5 f to the policy adding Mike Ravet for electronics recycling. Kyle made a motion to approve with the minor tweaks. Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose

Cemetery Mowing Policy – There is a 2017 cemetery ordinance with cemetery guidance. Brendan feels there is nothing further that needs to be done with this policy. Brock asked is this is posted on the website. Brendan said it will be now.

New Business

13 Feb Fire Association Board Meeting Backbrief – really not a lot to report. There was a discussion about new fire truck at the cost of 1 million dollars. And the lead time for a fire truck is three years. The association will probably have to take out a loan for this.

Set Date for Annual Meeting: the annual meeting will 15 April at 7:00 pm

2025 Chip Seal Bid Review/Approval - only one bid received for the chip seal project. \$45,502.40 for Flock and Division from Fahrner and \$29,746.60 for a one mile at 20' wide should we choose to do other roads. Kyle made a motion to accept the bid for Flock and Division chip sealing for \$45,502.40 Loren second no further discussion all in favor no opposed.

Kyle made a motion to accept the driveway permit from Paul Zastoupil, Loren second. No further discussion all in favor no oppose.

Tax Overpayment Ordinance Review/Approval - Brendan made a motion to accept the ordinance with a minor change of changing the amount to \$10 Kyle second. No further discussion all in favor no opposed.

Brendan started a discussion regarding an audit for the township. A traditional audit where a CPA comes in and writes a report. CLA offers that for \$8500.00. MBE has three levels of service, there comparable audit that would be around \$10,000. They offer a review for \$8,000-\$10,000 or they have lower level that between \$4,000 - \$7,000. It was decided to check with Marge or WTA to see if there is a self-audit of some sort that the board can perform in house.

Treasurer/Clerk/Supervisor Inputs – Wendy asked about Open book and Board of Review dates, those were set for April 24th and May 1st. Wendy also asked for a list of the Planning Commission members, Brock will get this.

Mandy – asked about the driveways on Dogwood Ave. Making sure they are legit.

She mentioned she would be for a full audit.

Pay Bills – Loren made a motion to pay bills as presented. Kyle second no further discussion all in favor no opposed

Adjourn at 9:25 pm

Wendy Von Haden, Clerk