

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 8, 2024

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, August 8, 2024, at the West Point Town Hall and via Zoom. The meeting was published in the Enterprise, the Star News, posted in the three designated places in the Town and on the Town's website.

The Town Board meeting was called to order by Ashley Nedeau-Owen - Town Chair, at 7:00 p.m. The Town Board members present at the Town Hall were: Ashley Nedeau-Owen - Town Chair, Kevin Kessler - 1st Supervisor, Scott Earnest - 2nd Supervisor, John Ungrodt - 3rd Supervisor, and Brian Gasser - 4th Supervisor. Also present were Taffy Buchanan - Town Clerk and Sharon Richmond - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Input – None

Copies of the July 11, 2024, Special Town Board Meeting and regular Town Board Meeting minutes were emailed to each Town Board member prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the July 11, 2024, Town Board Meeting minutes for both the special and regular Town Board meeting, 2nd by Scott Earnest - motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer, Sharon Richmond presented the following report: General Fund as of July 31, 2024 - \$433,379.71; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds) - \$208,290.42 matured from the 6-month CD on 7/18/24 and is included in the General Fund amount; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1170.97; Historical Society is \$7,118.31; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$64,600.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of July.

Correspondence – Columbia County Board of Adjustments approved the variance for Chuck Stampfli on July 10, 2024. Columbia County held a public hearing

for the CUP Tourist Rooming House for Susan Abplanalp on August 7, 2024 and was approved. The Town Chair received a survey from MG&E about natural gas placement. The Town Chair received emails from Mayor Groves Lloyd about the way 911 calls dispatching have been handled between the Fire & EMS. An email was received from Kristen Hegge about water run-off going onto their property from the Marcus Bentley property; they building inspector has visited the property and talked to Marcus Bentley about addressing it. The Town received minutes from the Lodi Fire District Commission meetings held on July 10, 2024 & May 15, 2024 and the Chief Report dated July 17, 2024. The Lodi Area EMS Commission sent minutes from their June 27, 2024 meeting to the Town. Columbia County Planning & Zoning contacted the Town Clerk about trees located in the “promenade” that the adjoining property owners would like cut down. Columbia County held a public hearing for Susan Abplanalp for her request for a CUP for a Tourist Rooming House on August 6, 2024. On July 10, 2024 the Columbia County Board of Adjustments approved the variance for Chales & Jeanette Stampfli.

The bills were reviewed by each town board member prior to the town board meeting. A copy of the bills, deposits, and budget for 2024 were given to each town board member for their information. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve paying the bills as presented, 2nd John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond reported the Columbia County Board of Supervisors in June amended Chapter 12 relating to small & large solar operations. The County received the insurance settlement from the fire at the Solid Waste Facility and are going to start the rebuild next spring. In August all the departments are going to be working on their budgets for next year.

A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to move agenda #22 “Path Forward Without LAFD IGA” to the next agenda item, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

The Town was notified by both the City of Lodi and the Town of Lodi that they were providing notice of their intent to terminate the Lodi Area Fire Department Intergovernmental Agreement no later than December 31, 2025. The Town Chair. The Town of Lodi and the City of Lodi had meetings without the Town of West Point discussing this because they were under the impression West Point did not want to be part of the IGA and just wanted to contract services; the Town Chair told them that we are part of the current IGA and expect to be a part of all meetings. The Town Chair identified a few possible paths forward the Town could

take: 1. The Town could stay in the IGA as it currently exists and work on revising the document, 2. The Town could stay in the IGA but change it so that with a new building being proposed we would just lease the building from them not have ownership of it, 3. The Town could leave the IGA and contract services, and 4. The Town could leave the IGA and expand our services with the Sauk Fire District. The Board discussed the options, but no decisions were made. For the September meeting the Town Chair would like the Board to give him directions on a path forward the Town would like to take, so he can write a letter to both the City and Town of Lodi stating our intent.

An operator license application was presented for Schoepp's Cottonwood Resort, Inc. to the Town Board for consideration: Sallie Rabe. The applicant has attended Alcohol Awareness Classes and has given their Certificate of Completion to the Clerk. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to approve the Operator License for Sallie Rabe, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Town received a request from Bart & Annisa Baker for a Conditional Use Permit for a Tourist Rooming House for property at N2109 State Highway 188. A motion was made by John Ungrodt to recommend to Columbia County to approve the conditional use permit subject to the sixteen conditions suggested for consideration in the County Summary Report and the added condition the applicant supplies proof of insurance covering the property for this use as recommended by the Plan Commission, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

A CSM Review for a lot-line adjustment for Hartmann Farms LLC was received for Parcel #11040-131. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the CSM for the land division subject to the deed covenants and restrictions be recorded with the CSM as recommended by the Plan Commission, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Engineer, Town Chair, Brian Gasser, Ron Schoepp, and Brian Doherty from Columbia County Highway Department met on East Harmon Road to discuss what could be done to improve safety in the area between Ron Schoepp's driveway and Greg Helmbrecht's driveway.

The Town Engineer has been trying to find the construction plans for the Ingles Drive area to see if the "stormwater pond" was built according to the plans; he is checking with the Wisconsin DNR. The Town Engineer did inspect the ag

driveway on Ingles Drive and stated it is not installed according to the Town ordinance and the owner need to be contacted and correct it. The Town Chair will talk with the land owner.

In a memo the Town Engineer reported the Slack Road Project has not been started yet because of delays with the sub-contractors.

The Town has done a lot of brushing done due to storm damage and most of our budget for brushing has been used. The Town might be able to recover some of the cost through the WI Disaster Funds. There was also damage on Van Ness Road caused by the heavy rains from the storms on June 21, 2024. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to authorize Columbia County Highway to do the repair work on Van Ness Road as recommended by the Town Engineer, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Sara Ballweg, called about the tree limb that fell off during the storms and is laying in the Town right of way on Gastrow Road. The Town Chair will talk to Columbia County Highway to clean up the limb on Gastrow Road and give them instructions on doing some brushing on Trails End Road. The Town also received an email about a concern about a down tree by the boat launch and the condition of the boat launch on Lake Drive.

“ARPA Funds” was postponed.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Kevin Kessler reported they had a meeting on July 17, 2024. There were complaints and concerns about the dispatching of the Fire department on EMS calls and then the EMS asked them to be called off. They also talked about unreceived correspondence of personnel complaints that were sent out and no one responded to. The Chief was asked to investigate and report back. City of Lodi Mayor Ann Groves Lloyd gave an update of the potential site for a new FIRE / EMS building. The next meeting will be August 21, 2024 and Brian Gasser will attend in place of Kevin Kessler.

Sauk Fire District – Brian Gasser reported there was not a Commission meeting, but he spoke with the Chief about the “call billing on State Roads” the Town discussed last month. The Chief stated that they would try billing the Town monthly, and then the Town will have to bill the responsible party and / or the insurance company to get reimbursement and then if we do not receive the

payment, the Town would have to submit it to the State for reimbursement. The next meeting will be September 18, 2024.

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – no report

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported they met on July 25, 2024, but he was unable to attend. The next meeting will be August 22, 2024.

Plan Commission – Kevin Kessler reported the Plan Commission had a meeting on August 1, 2024. The Plan Commission discussed and gave a recommendation to approve the CUP for a TRH for Baker Living Trust at N2109 State Highway 188. The Plan Commission also discussed and recommended approving the CSM for Hartmann Farms LLC, Parcel #11040-131. They also gave recommendations and feedback of the proposed amendments to the Columbia County TRH ordinance.

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – no report

Columbia County sent out proposed amendments to the Columbia County Tourist Rooming House Ordinance to the municipalities for feedback and recommendations. Columbia County would like the municipalities to fill out a form with their feedback and submit it by September 30, 2024. The Plan Commission discussed the proposed amendments at their August 1, 2024 meeting and gave recommendations to the Town Board. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler that the Town Board fill out the form from Columbia County as recommended by the Plan Commission, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Chair explained how a “Tourism Commission” could help the Town of West Point. If the Town had a “tourism commission” the Town could charge a “room tax” and to raise funds to promote West Point. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler for the Town Chair to explore forming a joint Tourism Commission with the Town of Lodi and any interested Towns that abut Lake Wisconsin, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Town looked at the Town of Lodi’s “Tourist Rooming House Ordinance” that was just adopted in June of 2024. At this point the Town does not have to

have an ordinance for Tourist Rooming Houses, and will wait to discuss it more until the Town decides about a "Tourism Commission."

"Commission / Committee Appointments" was postponed. The Town still has a vacancy on the West Point Area Historical Commission.

The Town Clerk asked the Board to authorize the payment of some of the Town's bills electronically to avoid late fees, especially the credit card bill. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to authorize the Town Clerk to pay the credit card bill electronically on a case-by-case basis, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Chair, Clerk, and Treasurer all have "Town" email addresses, but the Supervisors do not. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to ask the Clerk to investigate the possibility of getting "Town" email addresses for the Supervisors, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The Town Chair will talk with the Sauk Fire District Treasurer, Robin Meier, about the "Sauk Fire District Call Reimbursement" and why and how it is being implemented.

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 7:00pm, on the agenda is: Commission / Committee Appointments, ARPA Funds, Town roads, Tourism Commission, Path forward with the LAFD, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to adjourn the August 8, 2024, Town Board meeting at 10:46pm, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk