

## **TOWN OF WEST POINT BOARD MINUTES**

DATE: 10/12/2000

TIME: 7:30 PM

PLACE: Town of Lodi Office, 125 Lodi Street, City of Lodi

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the meeting of the Town Board of Lodi (joint meeting with the City of Lodi, Town of West Point, Lodi Area Fire Commission and Lodi Area Emergency Service Commission) was called to order by Chairperson, Charlaine Brereton at 7:30 PM. Representing the Town Board was Chairperson, Charlaine Brereton, Supervisor Bill Escher, Supervisor Peggy Ford, Supervisor Herb Paske, Supervisor Deb Schwartz, Clerk/Treasurer John Roth. Representing the City of Lodi were Mayor Paul Fisk, Glenna Barrett, Martin Maier, Judy Brownrigg, James Mitchell, Kim Slezak, Joyce Unke. Representing the Town of West Point was Chairperson Fred Thistle, Al Treinen, Torry Latham, John Benish, Edith Eberle. Absent: Robert Davis. Additional members of the Fire Department and Emergency Service Commissions were also in attendance. The Lodi Enterprise was notified and the notice was posted in the three designated places.

1. Call to order.
2. Discussion of the 2001 Lodi Area Emergency Medical Service Budget. Al Treinen made the presentation for the Lodi Area Emergency Service. See copy of budget. Their budget went up significantly. The biggest difference in their budget is in their wages. The Commission is going to hire a full time EMT at \$9.00 per hour to help cover the day shift. They have a five year plan to hire one for each of the next five years to cover the day shift. They have new EMT's and therefore they need new equipment, new radios, etc. The EMS has a cash carryover, which will help reduce the levy to each municipality. They have hired a billing specialist to assist in collections. She has been able to get more money from Medicare. The EMS Commission is estimating that they will collect at least \$50,000.00 per year in collections. Office supplies are up due to keeping the crew informed and due to additional fundraising (mailings, postage). Continuing education costs are up due to the need to train new members. The cost of the MATC classes is very expensive. Crew members make \$1.00 per hour. The crew compensation is increased as they receive \$10.00 per person per actual run. There are 17 EMT's and 10 drivers. The EMS has had a problem covering the day shift. The Director Diane Ebert has had to cover days due to the need. There was a lengthy discussion of how ambulance runs are

done, requirements by the State, "second calls", etc. The salary for the Director is up. There was a discussion of whether Federal Unemployment Tax needs to be paid. Town Board members and City Council members sated that they do not believe that the Ambulance Service has to pay FUTA. There was a discussion of the State Retirement Fund. The Ambulance Service is offering this to the crew members. The crew members have to stay on for ten years to receive the benefits. The Ambulance Service have added to their equipment needs "First Responder Bags", so the Ambulance crews can go directly to a call in the outlying areas, these bags include oxygen, defibrillators, etc. The funding for these bags came from fund raising. The Commissioners have ordered a new ambulance. They will be incurring no debt for this, as they have been budgeting each year for the last five years for this.

The assessments for the municipalities are lower than initially projected due to a cash carryover. If you take the population of the three government municipalities, it costs less than \$25.00 per person for Ambulance Service.

Jim Mitchell asked if the full time person hired could do some of the billing and other duties (cleaning, etc). A job description has been written for this position. The Ambulance service will be hiring other full time people. Dorothy is 68 years old, and she puts in many hours. Others are over 50 years old. Diane averages 60 hours on call each week. This is too high of a number of hours worked per week. Every shift has been covered. There was a lengthy discussion of billing and collections.

The 2001 Lodi Area Emergency Medical Service Commissioners will look at some of the suggested changes.

Mark Wickham stated that the Fire Department is not using the old Ambulance building for storage, and therefore the contract with Joe Janus should be renegotiated. That could help the EMS revenue service.

**MOTION BENISH/LATHAM** approve the 2001 Lodi Area Emergency Medical Service Budget as presented, with the understanding that certain budget items be reviewed and the assessments to the municipalities adjusted for this upcoming budget year. Motion passed.

**MOTION BENISH/LATHAM** to approve the 2001 Lodi Area Emergency Medical Service Budget as presented and corrected. Motion passed.

3. Discussion of the 2001 Lodi Area Fire Department Budget. Mark Wickham presented the budget. See copy of budget. The increase is 2.96%. The Assessments are as follows: \$40,400.00 for the Town of Lodi and City of Lodi, and \$20,200.00 for the Town of West Point. Wickham went through the budget line-by-line. They have made 58 runs up to October. The Board has a \$9,000.00 carryover that has been placed in a CD, and will be used for equipment replacement. Brereton stated that the audit should be the same as the EMS had recently. The fundraising money stays with the department. They have never been audited. They have purchased a 6 X 6 Ranger vehicle. Paske agreed that there should be an audit sometime. They do have an internal audit committee. The Fire Commission also is offering the retirement plan to the crew, same as the EMS. The salaries did not change. The fire fighters inspect 198 facilities. The State's 2% fund revenue helps to cover this expense. Mark Wickham does the billing. The run rate will be increasing to \$300.00.

Last year a property committee was created to look at purchasing property adjacent to the bank (Cook property). An offer to purchase has been made. The Cooks counter-offered, but it looks like the deal can be worked out. This involves a swap of land: the Cook property for the bank parking lot. The bank owns the lot next to the Fire Station, the Cook property is adjacent to the bank building. The house will have to be removed at some point. The government entities have a ten-year period to pay for the land. That will help them free up other debt service, but other fire trucks will have to be replaced. The Towns will have to hold a special meeting of the electorate to borrow funds for the purchase of the property. It will take until mid-December before all the paperwork can be finished. The Fire Department wants to remain in its present location. They need the land adjacent to their building for expansion. The bank has stated interest in this land swap. It will benefit them in the future. Thistle had some concerns about this issue. He wants to make sure that this will all work out. Schwartz stated that the Cook property will increase in value.

**MOTION BENISH/LATHAM** to approve the 2001 Lodi Area Fire Department Budget as presented, the Town's portion of assessment is \$20,200.00. Motion passed.

4. Discussion of the need to clarify names of the Lodi EMS and Lodi Area Fire Department. It needs to be clarified that this is the area EMS and Fire Department, not just the City of Lodi. The City, Town of Lodi and the Town of West Point own the building and lands together. It is now the "Lodi Community", not "Lodi Area".

**MOTION BENISH/LATHAM** that the Lodi Fire Department and Lodi Emergency Service be known as the Lodi Area Fire District and the Lodi Area Ambulance District as appropriate. Motion passed.

**MOTION BENISH/LATHAM** to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Motion passed.



Edith K. Eberle

Clerk, Town of West Point

10-18-2000

These minutes have not been approved by the Town Board, these are subject to change and correction.