

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 2024

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, December 12, 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 7:02 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 (7:05pm), and Brian Gasser - 4th Supervisor. Also present was Taffy Buchanan - Town Clerk and Sharon Richmond - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Citizen Input – None

Copies of the November 14, 2024 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 minutes for the November 14, 2024 regular Town Board Meeting as presented, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following report for the Treasurer Sharon Richmond: General Fund as of November 30, 2024 - \$402,075.13; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds) - \$140,207.08; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1,170.97; Historical Society is \$8,454.87; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$0.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of November.

Correspondence – John Grams, Columbia County Land Information Director, emailed the Clerk asking about an address that still used “Old 60 Rd” instead of

“Jensen Drive and wants to make sure there is a road sign there that says Jensen Drive to stop any confusion. Columbia County will be sending out a survey about Farmland Preservation for the Town to fill out before March. Alliant Energy sent a letter dated November 18, 2024 stating that new shoreline structures built after May 1, 2021 need to have approval from them. The Town received the Sauk Prairie Ambulance Commission “draft” meeting minutes from their September 25, 2024 meeting. Kelli Kirch sent an email stating that she has accepted the position of Director and Chief of the Sauk Prairie Ambulance.

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 John Ungrodt to approve paying the bills as presented, 2nd Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

The Treasurer checked rates for a loan, with a payment amount of \$30,000.00 for principal and interest for 10 years, the Bank of Prairie du Sac said the loan amount would be approximately \$230,000.00 at 5%; if rates go down to 4.5% the amount could be \$235,000.00.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond reported the Columbia County is looking for a medical examiner. The Columbia County Executive Committee approved a resolution to separate out the Emergency Management Department and Sheriff’s Department and it will go to the County Board next week. Alliant Energy has pushed back the closing date of the power plant located in Columbia County to 2029.

Kevin Kessler explained the variance request received from Gary & Gail Schoemaker located at N2239 State Highway 188, Lodi. The Plan Commission met on December 5th, 2024 and the Plan Commission found that strict conformity with the setbacks would be unnecessarily burdensome for the applicants to construct a 2-story home because of age of the residents and they also found due to the size of the lot and location of the road, there are unique property limitations. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to recommend to the Columbia County Board of Adjustment approval of the variance request subject the following conditions: 1.The historical right-of-way for State Highway 188 is confirmed as currently drawn in the September 2, 2024, survey by Williamson Surveying & Associates; 2.The applicant submits revised plans for the proposed home, ensuring that the structure’s footprint maintains a minimum setback of 49 feet from the

confirmed right-of-way line from #1 above; and 3. That the existing driveway be vacated and a new driveway be installed in conformance with the Town's driveway ordinance, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Rob & Kris Hegge, N2397 Pleasant View Circle, are concerned about the fill that was brought onto the Bentley property that is next to them and the amount water that now runs onto their property and the damage it is causing. Kris Hegge showed the Board pictures of the properties and the issues they were concerned about. The Town Chair stated they should contact Kurt Calkins with Columbia County Planning & Zoning to see if Bentley is in compliance with the fill permit and other permits issued by the County.

The Slack Road Project was substantially completed but the Town withheld a percentage in case any issues so Payne & Dolan will fix erosion issues that are happening. At the last meeting residents came to speak about concerns of safety with the shoulder of Slack Road. The Town Engineer and some of the Board members did a site visit. The Town Chair stated the concerns of the steepness of the shoulder is a perception issue, the shoulder has always been steep but now the brush has been cleared from the edge and everyone can see the steepness. The Town Chair will ask the Town Engineer about signs or safety alternatives for that area.

The Town Chair signed the MOU with Columbia County for the project on East Harmon Road to be done and signed the contract with Northwestern Stone for the Juniper Drive project to be done using ARPA funds. All the ARPA funds have now been allocated.

A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve the Mobile Home for Farm Labor licenses to Gasser Ventures Inc. and Jeff Morter for 2025 as presented, 2nd by Kevin Kessler - motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the Mobile Home license for Crystal Lake Park, Pine Vista MHC, and Schoepp's Cottonwood Resort for 2025 as presented, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Town of Lodi and City of Lodi sent the Town of West Point a LAFD Inter-Governmental Agreement they have both approved and The Town of West Point did not have input in and did not see a copy of the IGA until after they were told both the Town of Lodi and City of Lodi approved it. They have asked the Town

Board to approve the submitted agreement by January 31, 2025 or they will continue with the dissolution process to be completed by the end of 2025. The Town Board discussed different options to think about for West Point and what is feasible and what is not: 1. Sign presented IGA; 2. Discuss changes to presented IGA; 3. Contract with Lodi; 4. Full Coverage with Sauk Fire District; 5. Satellite Station in West Point; or 6. Start Town Fire Department. The Town Chair is going find out what full coverage with the Sauk Fire District would look like. He is also going to find out what the cost would be to the Town to contract the services with the LAFD and how long the contract would be for. He will also find out what full coverage with the Sauk Fire District would look like. If the Town is not part of the Lodi Area Fire Department with the Town of Lodi and City of Lodi, the shared assets worth would need to be calculated so the Town of West Point can receive our portion. The Town Attorney is reviewing the IGA and will give the Town recommendations and questions that should be asked.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – no report

Sauk Fire District – no report

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – no report

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported on November 18th, 2024 they had a meeting that they went into closed session about personnel issues, but no action was taken. They also had a meeting on November 21, 2024 but he was not able to make that meeting. Russ Shaefer told him the LAEMS is now operating as paramedic service through flex staffing.

Plan Commission – Kevin Kessler reported the Plan Commission had a meeting on December 5, 2024. The Plan Commission discussed and gave a recommendation for the variance for Gary and Gail Schoemaker. The Plan Commission also discussed what should be included in the agreement with Crystal Lake Park.

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – no report

“Tourism Commission” was postponed.

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

The Town is required to hold a caucus between January 2 and January 21, 2025 to nominate candidates for the offices of Town Chair, Town Supervisor 1, Town Supervisor 2, Clerk, and Treasurer. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to hold the Town Caucus on Thursday January 9, 2025, at 6:30pm, with the regular Town Board Meeting to convene immediately following, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, January 9, 2025, immediately after the Town Caucus which begins at 6:30pm, on the agenda is: Commission / Committee Appointments, LAFD IGA, Town roads, Tourism Commission, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Brian Gasser to adjourn the December 12, 2024, Town Board meeting at 10:05pm, 2nd by Ashley Nedeau-Owen – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk