

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 9, 2025

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, January 9, 2025, 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 6:53 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 was Taffy Buchanan - Town Clerk and Sharon Richmond - Town Treasurer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

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

Citizen Input – Doug Richmond said on Columbia County's agendas it states that items on the agenda may be moved around at the discretion of the Chair.

Copies of the December 12, 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 December 12, 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 December 31, 2024 - \$3,169,327.58; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds) - \$140,207.08; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1,170.97; Historical Society is \$8,8779.95; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$0.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of December.

Correspondence – John Grams, Columbia County Land Information Director, changed the address for the property owner with the address of “Old 60 Rd” and changed it to “Jensen Drive” and wants to make sure there is a road sign there that says Jensen Drive to stop any confusion. The Town received the LAFD Chief Report dated December 18, 2024 and the “draft” minutes from the November 20, 2024 LAFD Fire Commission meeting. Columbia County Board of Adjustments held a public hearing for the Schoemaker variance on January 8, 2024. Columbia County approved the CUP, rezoning, and waiver of road frontage for Crystal Lake Park. The Wisconsin River Bank has officially joined Farmers & Merchants Union Bank.

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 Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond reported 5 County Board Supervisors will be having a “town hall meeting” at the Lodi Public Library on Saturday January 18th, 2025 at 10:00am. The WI Realtors Association is suing some counties and municipalities because of the regulations they have imposed on the Tourist Rooming House. On Wednesday the County Board will be voting on whether to separate out the Emergency Management Department and Sheriff’s Department. Also, Bob Koch, Emergency Management Director, resigned in December. They are looking for an Emergency Management Director, Medical Examiner, and Ag Agent for Sauk, Columbia, and Juneau Counties.

The Town Chair received a message from Brian Doherty, Columbia County Highway, stating they would be starting the brushing the Chair requested this week. Corey from Gabe’s Tree Service will also be doing some brushing on Juniper Drive & Trails End.

Scott Earnest heard from Frank Kuzma about concerns of the easement that is in place for his property and about large trees that are adjacent to the road and might affect the work for Juniper Drive. The Clerk was given a copy of the easement and has made the Engineer aware of the easement. The Clerk will also let the Engineer know about the large trees so he can see if they will cause any issues with the road work.

Jeanne Hovey, W13168 Cecile Circle, spoke with the Clerk and wanted to make sure someone was going to come and pick up the sediment log that is in the easement on her property.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Kevin Kessler reported they were told the communications between the LAFD and LAEMS have improved. An audit needs to be done but they are concerned about the costs, thinking about “internal audit” this year and a “CPA audit” in 2026.

Sauk Fire District – no meeting

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – The Clerk reported that John Miller stated the Sauk Ambulance is looking to upgrade to “paramedic,” if they do the cost of service will probably be raised. John also said the next meeting will be January 23rd, 2024 and suggested that the Town Chair attend the meeting also.

Lodi EMS Commission – Kevin Kessler reported on December 26th, 2024 they had a meeting that they went into closed session about personnel issues, but no action was taken. They also discussed communication practices between the LAEMS and LAFD. The Commission adopted a motion that the Fire Chief develop a set of expectations of fire department members for when they are on scene with the LAEMS.

Plan Commission – no report

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – no report

The Town of Lodi Chair, City of Lodi Mayor, and Town of West Point Chair met as a “triangle meeting” and discussed the LAFD Inter-Governmental Agreement; after the meeting Ashley felt like they are all in a place to move forward with the submitted IGA as a “draft.” Mayor Ann Groves Llyod has reached out to Matt Davies and asked to get input from the Fire Commission on the IGA. They will have another “triangle meeting” next week. Kevin Kessler suggested that each version of the IGA be dated so everyone can keep track of the updates. Some of the issues of the IGA the Town Board discussed were: “creating the Fire Department,” dispute resolution process, quorum and number of members, and

formatting issues. The Town Board would like to keep this IGA on track to have it approved and signed by all municipalities.

Columbia County sent a “Farmland Preservation Survey” for the Town to fill out and submit. The Board discussed the questions and directed the Clerk on how to answer each question.

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

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 7:00pm, on the agenda is: Commission / Committee Appointments, LAFD IGA, Town roads, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by John Ungrodt to adjourn the January 9, 2025, Town Board meeting at 9:07pm, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk