

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 13, 2025

Pursuant to Wisconsin State Statute 19.84, the Town Board of the Town of West Point held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 13, 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 7:01 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 Brian Gasser to approve the agenda as presented, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Input – None

Copies of the January 9, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting minutes were emailed to each Town Board member prior to the meeting for their review. A motion was made by Scott Earnest to approve the minutes for the January 9, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting as presented, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following report for the Treasurer Sharon Richmond: General Fund as of January 31, 2025 - \$2,737,976.95; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds) - \$140,207.08; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1,170.97; Historical Society is \$8,779.95; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$0.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of January.

Correspondence – The Town received the LAFD Chief Report dated January 15, 2025. The Lodi Valley Chapter of the Ice Age Trail Alliance invited the Board to

their annual meeting on March 8, 2025 at the Lodi Town Hall. American Legion Post 216 sent a “thank you” for the contribution the Town made for the replacement of flags on veteran’s graves. The Clerk contacted the JB Systems about the Town website and having residents be able to sign up for emails from the Town; JB Systems will be emailing the Town pricing for this feature. The Clerk received an update about the Promenade and the Assessor’s Plat; the “final plat,” at least everything besides the inside corner of Pleasant View Park, should be ready in about a month for signatures. John Ungrodt and Ashley Nedeau-Owen checked on the house being built on Blackhawk Drive and no variance is needed. Brian Gasser heard from some residents on Trails End Road that they are happy with the brushing that was done by Columbia County Highway. Scott Earnest sent an email asking about the regulatory process for signage along State Highways; they would need to contact the State and County to get permission.

The bills were reviewed by each Town Board member prior to the Town Board meeting. A copy of the bills, deposits, and budget for 2025 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.

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond stated the County Board did not have a meeting in February. Doug Richmond said the County will be getting an “opioid settlement” of about 4.5 million dollars from the drug manufacturers and pharmacies to be used for the treatment, education, and prevention of drug abuse.

The Town Chair and Town Engineer met out at Selwood Drive to discuss options with road work and if an easement would really be necessary.

The Town Engineer sent a letter dated February 12, 2025, certifying that the completed Slack Road project meets all the minimum criteria for LRIP.

The Engineer sent an email about the issues with the “stormwater ditch” on the property at N1107 Ingles Drive. He stated that the failure to trench is run off from the agricultural driveway across the street. The driveway needs a low spot in it so the water does not flow across the road. The Town Chair will talk with the farmer / owner of the farm field to have them fix the driveway and clean out the silt that has clogged up the trench.

John Ungrodt stated the fallen tree on Gastro Road was cleaned up.

Xan Johnson and Sheila Cross are requesting a variance for parcel #11040-700.B so that Sheila Cross can purchase it and build a garage on it for her house that is across the road from this parcel. The Plan Commission met on February 6, 2025 and recommended to the Town Board to consider recommending approval of the variance with 4 considerations. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler that the Town Board recommend to Columbia County Board of Adjustments to support the variance application for Parcel 11040-700.B on Pleasant View Park Road, owned by Xan Johnson for a 17-foot front setback reduction from Pleasant View Park Road's centerline, suggesting the following four considerations: 1. The Columbia County Shoreland Wetland Zoning Ordinance applies to the project. Public Rights in Navigable Waters must be considered for projects and these include but are not limited to water quality, aquatic habitat, and natural scenic beauty. The variance would not conflict with these public rights and the overall public interest in navigable waters. There are no adverse impacts to traffic and safety in the neighborhood; 2. Granting the variance would allow for the construction of a garage that is consistent with other accessory structures in the area; 3. The proposed use aligns with the Town's Comprehensive Plan based on our future land use map; and, 4. The property has unique limitations, including topographical challenges and pre-existing encroachments, 2nd John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Kevin Kessler reported they met on January 15, 2025 and discussed suggested revisions for the LAFD IGA. They were told the Sanitary District, owner of the site they were considering for the annex station in Harmony Grove, declined and they are now looking at other sites. They made a motion that the Fire Chief and EMS Chief jointly develop a set of expectations of fire department members and EMS members for when they are on scene with each other.

Sauk Fire District – Brian Gasser reported on the January 15, 2025 meeting. The number of calls for 2024 was 258 which was up 35 calls from 2023. They appointed James Pugh as Fire Chief. They were given a Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and went over the financials for 2024.

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – no report

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported their last meeting was December 26th, 2024 and they need to get another meeting scheduled.

Plan Commission – Darrell Lehman reported on the February 6, 2025 meeting. The Plan Commission recommended the Board recommend the variance for Xan Johnson and Sheila Cross with some considerations. The Plan Commission also discussed information to be included in an agreement between the Town and Crystal Lake Park. Some of the things suggested were: setting stages or phases on what and when things should be done; design requirement for the roads in CLP (NFPA 1194); requirements for Fire and EMS; what type of screening should be used (vegetative buffers); lighting; navigational water determination for pond; and to do septic system first.

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – Scott Earnest reported they met on January 17, 2025 and discussed: memorial trees, redesigning the sign area at the Town Hall, and more work that needs to be done on the Selwood Park playground area.

The yearly contracts for mowing Selwood Park with Scott Ness, Ryan Park and the Transfer Site with Curtis Ryan were up for renewal. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the renewal of the Selwood mowing contract at the same price as last year with Scott Ness, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve the renewal of the Ryan Park and the Transfer Site mowing contract at the same price as last year with Curtis Ryan, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

The yearly Town Hall Cropland Lease with Hartmann Farms was up for renewal. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve the renewal of the Town Hall Cropland lease at the same rate as last year, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

Columbia County Humane Society sent a service agreement to the Town for “assistance in providing humane care for impounded and stray dogs and cats.” The Town Board chose not to have the CCHS pick-up service, and amended the contract to “no resident may drop off more than 4 per year.” A motion was made by Scott Earnest to approve the Columbia County Humane Society service agreement for 2025 as amended, 2nd by Ashley Neddeau-Owen – motion carried unanimously.

The Transfer Site Pasture / Cropland Lease with Wargo Acres was up for renewal. A motion was made by Brian Gasser to approve the renewal of the

Transfer Site Pasture / Cropland Lease at the same rate as last year, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

The 2025 Haz-mat Agreement was sent to the Town for payment and signature. A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve paying the fee for the Haz-mat Service without signing the agreement, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by John Ungrodt to approve the 2025 Columbia County Mobile Home Inventory Form for Farm Labor as presented, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – yes 4, no 1 - motion carried.

The Clerk received and distributed the updated Lodi Fire IGA this afternoon that was approved and signed by the Town of Lodi on February 11, 2025. The Board looked it over and discussed what was updated. Not all the suggestions from the Fire Commission were not incorporated in the IGA as the Town Chair thought they would be after they were discussed at the “triangle meeting” with Ann Groves Lloyd and Steve Neander. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler that the Town Board approve the IGA received today subject to the condition that the comments from the memo dated January 15, 2025 from the Lodi Fire Commission be incorporated into the IGA, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously. The Town Chair and Clerk are authorized to sign the LAFD IGA once the comments are incorporated.

“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, March 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 February 13, 2025, Town Board meeting at 9:50pm, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk