

TOWN OF WEST POINT
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 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, March 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 7:00 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 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 February 13, 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 February 13, 2025 regular Town Board Meeting with typographical corrections, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – motion carried unanimously.

The Clerk presented the following report for the Treasurer Sharon Richmond: General Fund as of February 28, 2025 - \$605,421.76; Coronavirus Recovery Acct (ARPA Funds with interest) - \$140,579.38; Park Fund - \$2,727.00; Savanna Oaks Park Fund - \$1,170.97; Historical Society is \$9,099.95; and Assessor's Plat Fund - \$0.00. The Town Treasurer and Town Clerk reconciled the bank accounts for the month of February.

Correspondence –The Town received the LAFD Chief Report dated February 19, 2025 and the draft minutes from the January 15, 2025 and February 19, 2025

Lodi Area Fire District Fire Commission meetings. The Spring Local Municipalities meeting will be held April 3, 2025 at 11:00am at the Columbia County Highway shop in Wyocena. The Town received the LAEMS Chief's Report for March 2025. Columbia County Board of Adjustment had a public hearing notice for Xan Johnson and Sheila Cross for a variance on March 12, 2025. The Town Chair spoke with the Town of Lodi Administrator / Clerk / Treasurer about a resolution the Town of Lodi passed concerning the threat of the Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund being cut from the State budget. A Conditional Use Application for a Tourist Rooming House for Todd Stephenson at W12832 State Highway 188, Lodi was received. The Town Chair had been contacted by multiple contractors checking about weight limits on Town Roads. The Town received a letter about a safety concern of the curve on Slack Road because a vehicle went off the road this winter. Brian Gasser was contacted by Bart Baker about the deteriorating condition of Hillcrest Drive. John Ungrodt stated there needs to be awareness made for the need of people to use reflective or lighted gear when people walking or running on the roads at night. Clifford Wilkenson called and was concerned about people going door to door saying they were handing out political information, but he did not see any papers, he contacted the County Sheriff. The Town Chair received a letter of resignation as a representative of the Town of West Point for the Lodi Fire Commission from Kevin Kessler.

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

Columbia County Report – Doug Richmond stated the County Board did not have a meeting. Doug Richmond said the County will be looking to hire a new emergency management director if the County Board approves the split of the Emergency Management and Sheriff's Department next week.

Steve Neander, Town of Lodi Chairperson, gave a presentation and update regarding the proposed new Lodi Fire Department stations, a main station in Lodi and a "substation" or "remote" station in Harmony Grove. The Town of Lodi has authorized the use of 1 acre of Wildenberg Park in Harmony Grove to use as a building site for a "remote" fire station. There are currently about 10 firefighters that live in Harmony Grove, and this will make response times faster. The Town of Lodi would finance it to build it and then later it would become part of the fire

district. The City of Lodi is working on negotiating the purchase of land for the location of a municipal building to include the new main fire station.

At the last Town Board meeting the Board passed a motion to 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. On February 18, 2025, an email was sent by the Mayor of Ann Grove Lloyd to the Town Chair stating why some of the requested changes were not made. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to approve the signing of the LAFD IGA that was signed by the Town of Lodi and approved by the City of Lodi, 2nd by Brian Gasser – motion carried unanimously.

According to the current Fire IGA the district shall have an audit every 2 years. The Fire Commission approved to have the audit conducted by Kerber Rose, but since the audit was not included in the 2025 budget, they are requesting that each Board and the Common Council approve the funding of the audit. Each of the municipalities would be billed according to the current budget split. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler that the Town Board authorize funding up to \$2,573.51 the appropriate share of the audit, 2nd by Brian Gasser - motion carried unanimously.

Randy Robertson asked the Town Board to look at lowering the speed limit on State Road 188 to 35mph because of safety concerns. He said the speed limit is currently at 40mph with caution signs around many corners. The road is a rustic road, with bike trails, and walking trails crossing it. Randy also asked the Board to form a committee to fill out the application to the WisDOT for lowering the speed limit and to have a discussion on the beginning and ending point of request. Doug Richmond said people are driving over the current 40mph and anything to slow them down would help. Ellen Pulver stated there are certain steps the Town needs to follow to initiate the request of lowering the speed limit. The Town Chair must submit a written request to the WisDOT stating the current speed, the requested speed, the beginning & ending points, and the reasoning of why it should be lowered. The WisDOT will then determine if an engineering study is appropriate or is needed, and then they will inform the Town of the results of the study and if changes are supported. Doug Richmond suggested talking with Don Nichols from Columbia County Highway. A motion was made by Ashley Nedeau-Owen that the Town Board address lowering the speed limit by having the Town Chair contact Don Nichols about traffic study information, present a preliminary resolution, and invite the WisDOT representative to the April meeting, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously. A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to amend the motion

to add “draft” before resolution, 2nd by John Ungrodt – motion carried unanimously. The Town Board voted on the original motion as amended “the Town Board address lowering the speed limit by having the Town Chair contact Don Nichols about traffic study information, present a preliminary draft resolution, and invite the WisDOT representative to the April meeting” – motion carried unanimously.

Slack Road is an LRIP project and the close out date for it is June 30, 2025 to receive the funding, so the Town needs to make sure the final payment is made to Payne & Dolan before then. The Town Chair will talk with the Engineer to give Payne & Dolan a deadline to complete their work.

The Town Engineer also has contacted a subcontractor of Payne & Dolan to work on the “fill” project of the Slack Road ditch.

The Town Engineer is looking at the ditching, swails, and culverts in the Selwood development to help with the drainage coming off West Point Drive and he will be putting bid documents together for Selwood Drive.

The Town Chair spoke with Nathan Sawyer about fixing the farm driveway and cleaning out the silt to help the “stormwater ditch” drain on the property at N1107 Ingles Drive. Nathan Sawyer attended the Town Board meeting and explained how he would slow down the water that comes from the field and goes into the ditch.

The Town has received complaints from residents on the condition of several roads after the winter. The Town Chair will talk to Town Engineer and set up a “road tour” to look at the condition of the roads, he will try to schedule it for the end of March or middle of April after 3:00pm during the week.

Reports:

Lodi Fire Commission – Kevin Kessler reported they met on February 18, 2025, and Steve Neander gave a presentation and update on the timeline and steps for the new main fire station and satellite station. They also discussed the written documentation for protocols for the EMS and fire when they are on joint calls. The Fire Commission also decided to request funding from the municipalities for the required financial audit that is needed since it was not included in the budget.

Sauk Fire District – no report

Sauk Prairie Ambulance – no report

Lodi EMS Commission – John Ungrodt reported Robin Meyer has been doing the financials for the LAEMS and has been volunteering her time. A financial audit will also need to be done for the LAEMS.

Plan Commission – no report

Transfer Site Report – no report

Park & Open Space Committee – Scott Earnest reported they were supposed to meet on March 12th, 2025, but it was not posted, so they did not meet. The Town of Lodi wrote a resolution of support for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program. The Town Board will discuss a resolution of support at the April meeting.

Kevin Kessler gave his resignation from the Lodi Fire Commission today. A motion was made by Ashley Nedeau Owen to appoint Brian Gasser to the Lodi Fire Commission as the Town representative through May 2025, 2nd by Kevin Kessler – yes 4, no 0, abstain 1 – motion carried. The Town still has a vacancy on the West Point Area Historical Commission.

The next regular town board meeting will be on Thursday, April 10, 2025, at 7:00pm, on the agenda is: Commission / Committee Appointments, Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund resolution, lowering speed limit for Highway 188, Town roads, and any other business that can be legally added to the agenda.

A motion was made by Kevin Kessler to adjourn the March 13, 2025, Town Board meeting at 9:52pm, 2nd by Scott Earnest – motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted By
Taffy Buchanan, Town Clerk