

**MEETING MINUTES  
TOWN OF LAFOLLETTE  
Monthly Town Board Meeting  
Monday, March 17th, 2025**

Attendance: Chair Darwyn Brown via phone, Supervisor Scott Lauder, Supervisor Mitch Coyour, Treasurer Karen Mangelsen, Clerk Sandy Hinkley

Residents: 13

Meeting Start: 7:02 pm

Verification of Posting: Posted notice on website and 2 physical locations.

Reading of Minutes:

Feb 10, 2025 Monthly Town Board Meeting. Motion to accept minutes made by Mitch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott

Clerk's Report

- Elections:
  - Primary Results – 51 voters, Split coverage of Chief Inspectors
  - Spring Election – Absentee Ballots out. PreLat 3/18, Public Test 3/24
- Hertel Fire
  - Budget - Received the 2025 budget payment requirements of \$12,982.66. Higher rates due to LaFollette's higher appraisal value percentages. Generally, we receive and pay at end of prior year (2024). We paid \$10,700 in 2024 and the remaining \$2,282.66 in 2025. Will have to adjust 2025 budget to reflect higher rates and potential 2025 payment of 2026 budget.
  - SAP – contribution was paid in Jan, but needed to recalculate each towns ratio due to new appraisal amounts.
- Liquor License
  - 2025 Communication letter – approved by board.
  - Rates evaluation compared to nearby towns. Motion to keep rates same as 2024 was made by Scott and seconded by Darwyn.
- Storage
  - Secured Documents – Need to consider storage at Town Hall, currently they are stored at Mike Tarnowski's residence. Mitch will discuss requirements and present options for approval at April meeting. Potential of a donated safe from Pat Cremin
  - Boxes of historical books in storage room to be discussed at Annual Meeting.
- Busy March/April/May due to Compliance Reporting - BOR Training & Meetings, Financial Report CT-100, Correction of ARAP reporting, Election, and Annual meeting. Discussion of notice requirements for Annual meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

- Transfer from Savings to Checking to cover tax payments to County, School and College.
- Received SAP payments from Dewey and Sand Lake
- Motion to accept Treasurer's report made by Mitch, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott

Monthly Financial Report

- Early in year, good shape
- Reminder of loan due and upcoming road expenses, \$65,000 held from 2024 for 2025 Road projects

#### Website Update:

- Up to date.
- Will add elections notices tomorrow. Notices of Open Book, BOR, Annual meeting to come
- WPC – no monetary activity

#### Road Items:

- Doug – working on Twin Lake Road.
- Road Weight Load Restrictions still active. No calls. Will get email notifications and post on website as soon as restrictions are off.
- Frozen culverts, but not an issue at this time.

#### Resident Issues: Please note sign-in sheet for attendance

- Terry Averill asked to be on agenda to introduce a discussion on implementing an Artificially Enhanced Wake ordinance.
  - Terry provided 3 documents
    - a) Sample/Draft document to DNR for ordinance consideration – first step to take
    - b) Sample/Draft Ordinance – 39 other WI towns have adopted
    - c) Condition Report to Support Ordinance – justify what occurs when artificially enhanced wakes are present.
  - Terry asked that LaFollette take the first step and submit the ordinance consideration to the DNR.
  - Mentioned he was working with Steve Johnson – Burnett County Lakes and River Assoc. Steve was unable to be present but hope to attend future meetings.
- Attendees - all are residents around Warner Lake, no other lakes were represented
  - All attendees in favor of adopting an ordinance.
  - At this time, only one resident shows use of Enhanced Wake Boating but concerned that number can increase with short-term rentals. Conversations have been had with that resident.
- Town Board discussion points:
  - Topic was discussed at earlier Board Meeting, but determined to wait until Annual Meeting and also wait to see action of other towns in Burnett County.
  - Need to understand the ramifications and potential of any law suits which could be an expense to the Town. Important to mitigate any potential Town liability. Need to verify if our insurance covers such litigation expenses.
    - Scott made a motion and Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup> to approve the expense of contacting LaFollette's Lawyer for advice and to discuss potential liability.
    - Scott Township issued an ordinance and have potential lawsuit for following open meeting laws and cost of wake enhancement boat, but no suit has been filed at this time.
  - Ordinance enforcement not monitored by DNR, County Sheriff or Game Wardens. Relay on citizens to report, but unsure of any potential enforcement until a County or State regulation.
  - Concern over ability to include/regulate lakes that are not entirely within borders of Town of LaFollette. Other towns with larger lake boundary have jurisdiction.
  - Wish to have conversation with all residents, those on other area lakes, as well as the enhanced Wake Boat owner. Need to have wider conversation reach such as Lake Assoc, etc.
- Conclusions:
  - Get more property owners to attend town meetings, i.e. enhanced wake boat owners, other lakes representation, Lake Associations.
  - Seek advice and direction from Town Lawyer
  - Revise drafts to a viable LaFollette version of ordinance and DNR letter for consideration. Share revised version with Terry Averill, present at next town meeting.
    - Consider 2 versions of ordinance a) area included in original b) Warner Lake only

Bills and Correspondences:

- New printer needed for Clerk based on cost comparison of replacement ink, Scott made motion to approve, Mitch 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Bellin Health – Consortium for DOT drug testing. Contract is due, based on annual fee and charges for each test taken and our frequency of test required – really no value. I was told it is a requirement to be part of a consortium and they will be aware of our frequency.
- Notice of new Transfer Station in Siren
- Short Term rental notifications were shared
- Mileage rate was increased to .70 per IRS
- Made Menards Tax Exempt code available to shop
- Checks pre-signed by Karen and Scott

Scott makes a motion to adjourn meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mitch.

Adjourned: 8:15 pm

Sandy Hinkley,  
Town Clerk