

ANNUAL MEETING
Town of LaFollette
Tuesday, April 28th, 2026 7:00 pm

Attendance: 16 residents signed in at entrance.

Town Chair, Darwyn Brown and Town Clerk, Sandy Hinkley

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Town Chair, Darwyn Brown

Verification of Posting: Agenda/Notice posted on website, at Town Hall and Coomer on 4/13/26.
Newspaper announcement made 4/22/2026

Voting method discussed and determine to be show of hands.

Agenda presentation: Motion to approve agenda made by Linda Terrian, seconded by Scott Lauder.
Approved by show of 16 hands, none opposed.

Approval of May 7, 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes. Minutes were handed out. Motion to accept minutes as written made by Linda Terrian, seconded by Karen Mengelsen. Approved by show of 16 hands, none opposed.

2025 Annual Fiscal Report: Detail fiscal report of revenue and expenditures for 2025 was presented by Clerk, Sandy Hinkley. Motion to accept 2025 Annual Fiscal Report made by Linda Terrian, seconded by Karen Mengelsen. Approved by show of 16 hands, none opposed.

2026 YTD Fiscal Report: Year-to-date revenue and expenditures presented by Clerk, Sandy Hinkley. Motion to accept 2026 YTD fiscal report made by Renae Judd, seconded by Linda Hemple. Approved by show of 16 hands, none opposed.

2026 YTD Budget Review presented by Scott Lauder. Budget report based on approved budget amounts discussed and voted upon by the town in October meetings. Presented monthly at town meetings to ensure budget compliance throughout year. Same data as actual fiscal report, sorted differently to identify certain areas such as White Pine Cemetery or flagged projects. Shows amounts expected for roads, loan payment, etc. Allowed to revise into different categories as year progresses, but totals remain as approved budget.

Resident/Electors Discussion Topics

- Linda Terrian – cars are going too fast on Malone Road
- Anne Taylor – snow removal was exceptional this year!
- Robert Hurly – frustration with Siren School District, the Referendum and reporting process. Discussion about past actions and future plans are occurring now as newly elected school board members are brought in. It was discussed that the school will potentially try again in Nov. School District issues effect town residents, especially with taxation. Frustration with lack of answers from School Dist. Recommend attending School Board Meetings to be informed.

White Pine Cemetery

- Only cemetery to fall under possession of the Town of LaFollette. Maintenance, perpetual care, administration are all part of Town ownership. It was determined in 2025 that no title was ever established for White Pine Cemetery. The Board has been spending time, effort and dollars to correct the White Pine Cemetery Title. It should all be completed before end of May 2026.
- Began with 528 plots, 448 are usable. 102 are sold, 346 are available. Allow 3 burials per plot
 - Activity for 2025: Sold 4 plots; 1 burial held.
 - Activity for YTD 2026: 0 plots sold, 0 burials held.
 - Cost is \$400 per plot for a landowner - \$1000 if non land owner.
- On April 28th, 2026 (today) the Town passed Ordinance 2026-001 to guarantee perpetual care and provide regulations and guidance for cemeteries owned by the Town. Ordinance 2026-001 is available on website.

Chair Report:

- Ambulance report, grateful have a service in Burnett County, pay about \$38,000 annually.
 - 2025 average response 14 min for code 3 (lights). First quarter 2026 in LaFollette was 19 min due to staff shortage and new hires. 60 Life Link flights in first quarter.
 - Contract expires 1/31/2027, Darwyn part of committee to write new contract, assessing now.
 - Offers EMT, paramedic, and Life Link flights
 - Analyzing a potential partnership with Washburn County, but service offered in Burnett far exceed.
- Indian Creek Road – began work last 2025. Received TRIP grant at a 50/50 match, up to \$186,375 in 2026. Placed ad for blacktop & shouldering, with a July 15th deadline which allows time for reimbursement process.
- Ordered a new Dump Truck, allocated \$94,000 in budget and plan to apply reimbursement towards purchase. Hope to have before snow falls. \$327K expected cost.
 - Hard to determined value of old truck for resale. Currently patching all issues as they occur to make it through until new truck.
- LaFollette was awarded a TRIS grant in 2026-2027 to assist with Herrick Rd., one of highest trafficked road in LaFollette
 - Town has a long and fruitful history of receiving grants and partnerships with road expenses due to diligence and efforts of Town Board.
 - Grant submission included letter head and help from Cooper Engineering, letters from residents and excellent grant writing skills.
 - Town will receive 69.72% funding, up to a limit of \$523,862. Project cost estimate is \$751,380,
 - Project on Herrick Rd include widening of road, 3 ft shoulders
- Will begin repair work for town hall following hail damage and longevity. Siding supplies and doors are purchased at Menards after price comparison.
- Interior of Town Hall also needs updating, painting and cleaning. Will develop a committee and begin process as deemed fit.
- Karen Mangelsen has announced retirement in April 2027, after 40 years of service to the town.
 - Motion was made by Gary Boylen, seconded by Mitch Coyour for the town to fund an honor gathering prior to next year's Annual Meeting. Approved by show of 16 hands, none opposed.
 - Renae Judd is consulting with Karen in final year.

- Darwyn made a proposal to raise the pay rates of the Town Chair (currently \$6,000 annually) and Town Supervisors (currently \$4,000 annually).
 - Discussion of increased responsibilities, accountability, and continuous attention. Its been 4 years since previous raise.
 - Motion made by Gary Boylan and seconded by Jerry Mudryj to pay Town Chair \$8,000 annually and Town Supervisors \$6,000 annually. Approved by show of 15 hands, none opposed.
 - Raise effective April 2027
- Process for quitclaim on small property has been delayed due to inactivity from Lawyer. Should be handled soon.
- At Town Association Meeting – Duke Tucker, Assembly discussed wake boat regulations at State level. Continuing efforts at state level vs town responsibilities.
- Road Inspection date set for May 7th, 6:30 am. Results in a plan for roads and rating levels for each.
 - Road weight restrictions not applicable to Garbage trucks. Will leave some roads open to help determine condition.

Jeff Christianson has been essential for aiding the town with mechanical issues. Thank You.

Linda Hemple commented on 7 tires found in ditch.

Town Board appreciates attendance at meeting and comments all year. Thank You.

2027 Annual Meeting date set for Tuesday, April 20th, 2027, 7:00 pm at Town Hall.
 Honor party for Treasurer Karen Mangelsen's retirement will begin at 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn made by Renae Judd, seconded by Linda Hemple, approved by show of 17 hands, none opposed.

Meeting adjourned 8:19 pm

Darwyn Brown, Town Board Chair
 Sandy Hinkley, Town Clerk

Attendance by sign-in upon entering (17)

Linda Terrian	Scott Lauder	Karen Mangelsen
Mark Terrian	Renae Judd	Lynn McDonough
Mitchell Coyour	John Schulz	Tim McDonough
Anne Taylor	Linda Hempel	Gary Boylan
Kelly Taylor	Robert Hurley	Jeramie Christianson
Jerald Mudry	Keith Buskirk (arrived late)	