

TOWN OF LOG LANE VILLAGE
MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
August 9, 2023
6:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees for the Town of Log Lane Village met on Wednesday, August 9th, 2023, at 202 Birch Street, Log Lane Village Town Hall. Present were Mayor Naomi Zuniga Board of Trustees present were Trustees: Angela Vick, Norma Molina, John Vagher, Robin Mastin, and Josie Lopez-Rodriguez. Staff members present: Assistant Town Clerk Deb Lee, Officer Pedro Malave and Public Works Mike Fisher. Town Attorney Amy Penfold via Zoom. Trustee Cheryl Thoresdale was absent.

Called to Order

Mayor Naomi Zuniga called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of Log Lane Village to order at 6:38 p.m. Roll call was taken and a quorum was met.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present stood for the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Citizens Comment:

Penny Reef of Poplar came in to request the town turn on her water even though her landlord owes a substantial amount of money to the town for unpaid water bills. She had shared her hard situation from being without a home to finally finding somewhere to call her own while also dealing with her landlord and his mental health issues. Mayor Zuniga had recalled a time when the office let her know the balances owed and the issue Miss Penny had informed the office about regarding her landlord's unsafe home conditions. She also explained to Miss Reef that importance in finding a better safer and habitable home that is not under her current landlord. Clerk Heisel reiterated their findings from other tenants who have left over the same deplorable conditions. She also gave the citizens more resources as she left the podium.

Kagen Dismang of Juniper Circle discussed her issues within her neighborhood Juniper Circle. She shared with the board of her fears within the community due to lack of police coverage. She stated that everyone in the county knows when Officer Malave is not working, and she believes criminals are using that knowledge to their advantage. She is fearful for her children who were playing outside when a teenager was walking around her street with a fake knife. She said she didn't feel safe since she last addressed the board about people stalking her daughter and people walking in her neighborhood at night since it's not well lit. She thanked the board for putting up lights on her streets but there are other issues regarding public safety that she would like to see changed. She thanked Officer Malave for his efforts and the board for hearing her concerns. She said the town needs more resources for the police department and the streets are an issue as well. Mayor Zuniga stated that she understands her concerns and the town will investigate the issues with the streets and that the town in continuing into looking for police officers.

Charles Freeman of Pine St addressed the board regarding updating the hiring process to include a lie detector test and thorough background checks, and benefits for all employees. He spoke about a time when he was serving the board and the obstacles he faced while the town did not have funding. He said he was embarrassed recently by the news coverage on previous criminal charges with officers and revolving doors of police officers he's seen. He expressed interest in serving on a hiring board, helping interview future candidates, and finding reputable candidates to cease the revolving door of officers the town has seen in recent years. Trustee Vick had kindly responded to Mr. Freeman about the town trying to overcome the issues from not long ago and the reputation the town has since events from over twenty years ago. She agreed that the hiring process needs to be more thorough and that the board is committed to seeking qualified candidates to serve the citizens.

Morgan County Sheriff Dave Martin approached the board to discuss the lack of law enforcement in town and the significant issues and risks the town is facing by not providing law enforcement for public safety. He stated he sent a letter addressed to the board regarding lack of law enforcement, response to calls, and the responsibility of the town to provide coverage. He shared that there were several serious situations that could have been deadly had Fort Morgan Police Department or the Sheriff's Office not responded. He had shared his department's concerns about lack of coverage and the moral obligation they have to their citizens in town and the county. He shared his concerns over safety with recent calls and there not being police coverage on the busiest days. He suggested the mayor handle the calls and Mayor Zuniga asked what she could do in a situation such as DV. He suggested she go to the academy and consult with the town attorney. He suggested more part time officers for coverage and thorough background checks.

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Fort Morgan Police Chief Loren Sharp followed Sheriff Martin with similar remarks. He shared with the board the national crisis the law enforcement career is facing regarding changing legislation, the need for more officers, and the problems most departments face with low police candidates and no police officers available. He was gracious in sharing his knowledge of the crisis nationwide and relayed help to the town in providing background checks, lie detector tests, and or any other resources he may be able to help with. He also spoke about crimes happening in town with no officers on duty and the moral dilemma leaving citizens unprotected. He did state that they are still responding to calls, but we cannot just leave their city uncovered. He stated he thinks it would be beneficial for the town to contract with other departments and that he is more than willing to help the town with resources with pre-employment screening.

Director of the Ambulance Service Travis Freeman greeted the board and shared his professional opinion about the ambulance covering calls in Log Lane with no police coverage. He stated that if there were not police officers around to secure the scene, he would be putting his crew at risk. He shared his safety concerns and his crew not having the ability to protect themselves if the need arises. He stated he was unwilling to send his crew to scenes that were not secure and that it could mean life and death for those people stuck waiting.

Citizen Susan Kocer of Ash street stepped up to the podium to state that she was blissfully unaware of the issues in Log Lane as the neighborhood she lives in is quiet and she feels safe. She expressed gratitude for the lack of trouble she had not known about and that her home is safe.

Mayor Zuniga thanks the speakers for taking the time to share their concerns and the help relayed to the town.

Roll Call

Minutes

Trustee Vick made a motion to approve July 12th, 2023, regular meeting minutes. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll Call Vote: 6-YES and 0-NO, motion carried and **APPROVED**.

Payables Approval

Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez made a motion to approve July 1st, 2023 – July 31th, 2023, Accounts Payable. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll Call Vote: 6- YES and 0- NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.

Monthly Bill Approval

Trustee Mastin made a motion to approve July monthly bills. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll Call Vote: 6- YES and 0- NO, motion carried and **APPROVED**.

Mayor Report:

Mayor Zuniga reviewed the success of the annual town BBQ that happened August 1st 2023 at our newly renovated community center. Mayor Zuniga had thanked all the helpful citizens picking up the chairs and tables since the BBQ got rained out towards the end of the evening. She also commented on all the residents she got to see and meet for a community meal. She said the kids had a blast playing picnic games such as tug-a-war, three-legged races, the bounce house, and other fun had. She highlighted the next upcoming event set for August 26 & 27th the car show and family festival. She went over the events: mini tractor pulls, go kart timing, food and craft vendors, as well as live bands, trivia, and Bingo to be played for prizes. She continued to thank the citizens and law enforcement who came to share their concerns.

Conservation Trust Report: Josie Lopez-Rodriguez reported on the balance in the Conservation Trust. (See attached report).

Treasurer Report: Clerk Lee reported on the various banking accounts of the Town of Log Lane Village. (See attached report).

Public Safety: Naomi gave the report. (See attached report)

Public Works: Public works director Mike Fisher commented on the completion of the Elm Street and Juniper circle water line replacement projects. He is currently looking for a road grader to smooth out Juniper Circle section. He had one lined up but that one is out of service; he will circle back when he finds one.

Attorney Report: Amy Penfold

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August 9, 2023
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Town Attorney Amy Penfold discussed HB 23-11-82.

1. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Dab's Labs Medical MIPS License 404-00501. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
2. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Dab's Labs Retail MIPS License 404R-00186. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Vick. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
3. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Dab's Labs business license renewal. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
4. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Additional debit card for authorized purchases. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
5. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** IGA between Morgan County Clerk and Recorder regarding coordinated election. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6-YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
6. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** IGA between Morgan County Department of Human Services, law enforcement, and the town of Log Lane Village. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0- NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
7. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Second quarter financial statements. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Mastin. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6-YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
8. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** IGA between Morgan County Communication center regarding Centralsquare contract. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Mastin. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6-YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
9. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** BearComm PD radio repair for \$222.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
10. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Purchases over one hundred dollars from April to July 2023. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 5- YES, 1-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
11. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Xcel energy invoice to remove light pole for \$594.17. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Mastin. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6-YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
12. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** DPHE invoice for drinking water fee for \$250.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**
13. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** New Econo street signs for \$10,490.86. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED.**

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14. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Morgan County solid waste town cleanup invoice for \$336.37. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
15. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Martin Marietta invoice for Elm drive \$66,232.50. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
16. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Dana Kepner water pipe invoice \$5,316.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
17. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** CivicPlus invoice for online code hosting \$550.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
18. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Election training for clerk in Greeley 8/11/2023. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
19. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Purchase of pull carts for \$600.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Mastin. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
20. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Buchanan Construction invoice for flagging Elm Street \$2,700.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6- YES, 1-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
21. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** 2022 Audited Financial statements. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
22. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** PBI Consulting Audit prep invoice for 2022 Financial audit for \$1,710.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
23. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** RBE Excavating Inc invoice for Ash, Juniper, Elm Street work for water lines total of \$182,641.20. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Mastin. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
24. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Donation to Morgan County 2023 Fair sale of \$1,000.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Molina. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
25. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Transfer to the General Fund for _____. A motion to table was made by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Seconded by Trustee Mastin. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **TABLED**.
26. **Motion to amend the agenda:** To add payment of \$100.00 to Vern Mastin in appreciation to his service to the town. A motion to amend the agenda was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 5- YES, 0-NO, 1-ABSTAIN. Motion carried and **ADDED**.

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27. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Payment of \$100.00 to Vern Mastin in appreciation to his service to the town. A motion to approve was by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 5- YES, 0- NO, 1 – ABSTAIN. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.
28. **Motion to amend the agenda:** To add payment of \$8,000.00 to Logan & Associates invoice for 2022 Financial audit. A motion to approve was by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0- NO. Motion carried and **ADDED**.
29. **Motion to Approve/Disapprove:** Logan & Associates invoice for 2022 Financial Audit of \$8,000.00. A motion to approve was made by Trustee Vick. Seconded by Trustee Lopez-Rodriguez. Roll call 6- YES, 0-NO. Motion carried and **APPROVED**.

Old Business


1. Discuss: Car Show & Family Festival.
2. Discuss: Transfer to General Fund.
3. Discuss: Building condemnation notices and fee/ordinance.
4. Discuss: Swearing in of Municipal Judge Steve Jones.
5. Discuss: Budget planning meetings.
6. Discuss: Hiring for police department.

New Business

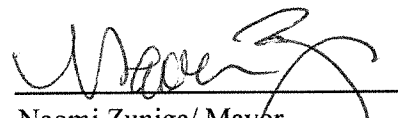
1. Discuss: Trash service rules.
2. Discuss: Police academy for citizen
3. Signs regarding MMJ
4. Discuss: Raising litter of rabbits for meat per resident questions. (10-12 weeks of age to be butchered.)
5. Discuss: Special Meeting August 15th at 6:00 PM

Motion to Adjourn the Meeting made by Trustee Molina. Seconded by Trustee Vick. Roll call 7-YES, 0-NO.
Motion carried and **APPROVED**.

Adjourned 8:18 PM



Town Clerk/Treasurer
Approved by



Naomi Zuniga/ Mayor