

**TOWN OF LODI  
TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 27, 2018**

1. **Call to order & roll call:** Meeting called to order by Acting Chairman Bechen. Board members present: James Bechen, James Brooks, Robert Benson, Jon Plumer. Absent (excused): Tom Marx. Also present: Ashley Nedeau-Owen, West Point Town Chairman.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** lead by Acting Chairman Bechen.
3. **Citizen Input:** none
4. **West Point Town Board Chairman Ashley Nedeau-Owen, Chairman re: broadband speeds and the "Digital Divide":** Reference *"Internet Connection Failure: Digital Divide still poses problems for Columbia County"*, Lodi Enterprise 02/08/18

Nedeau-Owen – we've been looking at ways to bring internet service to rural areas that have poor or no internet access. We've had parents drive their students to the parking lot of the West Point Town Hall so that they can use our free wifi to do their homework. Others go to the library in Lodi and Sauk to use their wifi. We had a resident who needed broadband/wifi access for his medical care, so he had to move with his children in Chicago because he had no service here. We try to ask local providers where they have fiber optic cables in area, and they'll look at their maps but won't share that or any other information, and they're not required to. We hear about broadband grants, we've attended seminars and webinars. Broadband has been deregulated in Wisconsin. The broadband companies go where there is money, as it costs about \$45,000/mile to put down the cable. So rural areas are left out. What we've learned is that if we can figure out what part(s) of our towns have poor or no service and find out how much residents are willing to pay to get broadband service and take that information to providers and ask for them to work with us. We've found that there's a critical threshold for getting broadband service of having 500 that want the service. But if we combine with other municipalities adjacent to our town we should get that many or more. We have people willing to go door to door in our area to talk to residents, do a test of broadband strengths at homes, and find out how much residents would be willing to pay, and take that information to providers. We could also possibly create a rural broadband cooperative and be eligible for grants.

So I'd like to ask if our volunteers can go door to door in your rural areas where internet services are poor? Bechen – the Town of Lodi is more spread out than the Town of West Point. How efficient is it to get fiber optic cables to all our residents in our vast rural areas? Nedeau-Owen – the cooperative model shows it would be no cost to the taxpayers, nothing added to the tax roll. It'd be paid for by the members of the cooperative. And it doesn't have to be fiber optic to each door. You can have fiber optic to a hub, and then a mesh network that wifi's to homes. Bechen – is the mesh network secured? Nedeau-Owen – yes.

*Benson/Brooks motion to allow Town of West Point representatives to go door to door in several areas to canvas our residents; MC 4-0.*

Plumer – we need to let residents know that people may be coming door to door. Brooks – we can put it on our website and in the Lodi Enterprise. Bechen – when will this start and be completed? Nedeau-Owen – our Broadband Committee meets tomorrow and with your approval tonight we have approval from 3 municipalities. Brooks – internet access is important for emergency services also and may be eligible for moneys from them.

Bechen – what are some of the 33 million in missed economic benefits from lack of broadband/internet/wifi service? Nedeau-Owen – Treinen Farms (Corn Maze) has no internet and thus can't accept credit card payments.

**5. Collection of taxes by Wisconsin River Bank:** *Benson/Plumer motion that we no longer have Wisconsin River Bank collect property taxes for the town; MC 4-0.*

**6. 2018 Roads (including, but not limited to):** Bechen – approx. \$99,748.71 was approved 11/28/17 to do Red Cedar Road.

**(a) Real Short Road:** We have an estimate of \$25,855.84 to do Real Short Road at the same time Red Cedar Road is done. *Benson/Plumer motion to have Real Short Road done in 2018; MC 4-0.*

**7. Chairman Reports:** none, Chairman Marx not present

**8. Clerk-Treasurer Reports:**

**(a) Town Board meeting minutes of 01/30/18:** *Brooks/Plumer motion to approve as prepared/presented; MC 4-0.*

**(b) 2018 Revenues vs. Expenditures as of 02/23/18:** The utilities are extremely high for the Okee School. We should consider winterizing the building and closing it for the winter. Put on March agenda.

**(c) Payment of Bills:** Over \$500 the past month for Animal Control Officer to trap cats and kittens and take them to CCHS. Put on March agenda.

*Bechen/Brooks motion to approve ACH 02-2018 + Debits 2018-07 thru 2018-11 + Mortgage + Check 1057 + Checks 22050 thru 22088 totaling \$2,360,223.47; MC 4-0.*

**(d) 2018 Building Permits thru 02/23/18:**

ISSUE DATE	# 18-	OWNER(S) AND/OR CONTRACTOR	SITE ADDRESS	PROJECT COST	PROJECT DESCRIPTION
01/04/18	01	DENNIS & MARY HARRIS	W11533 Island View	\$25,000	finish basement
01/04/18	02	JACK JOHNSON	N2715 Cross	\$500	service upgrade
01/15/18	03	GREGORY SCHMITZ	W11550 Demyneck	\$5,000	shed
01/15/18	04	JOE FOBES/VICKIE NICHOLS	W11514 Demyneck	\$125,000	SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENCE
01/15/18	05	JOE FOBES/VICKIE NICHOLS	W11514 Demyneck	\$0	raze current home
01/16/18	06	DENNIS & KAREN NEFF	N2847 Demyneck	\$30,000	kitchen/bath remodel
01/22/18	07	STEVEN DICK	N2106 Back Forty	\$15,000	garage electrical
01/24/18	08	KATIE LARRABEE-LANE	N1434 Fair	\$20,000	raze garage/new garage
01/29/18	09	TYLER HAARKLAU/KIMBERLY LEHR	W10906 Lakeview	\$1,500	garage electrical
01/30/18	10	GREGORY SCHMITZ	W11550 Lakeview	\$2,500	basement elec/plumb
02/13/18	11	GERALD & DONNA WRZESZCZ	N2507 Rapp	\$800	electrical repairs
02/13/18	12	KYLE & AMANDA PASKEY	W9797 CTH K	\$35,000	garage/electric

(e) **2018 Animal Control Officer Log - February:** 02/01/18 (Harmony Grove): trapped 1 male cat + 1 kitten, took up to CCHS; 02/03/18 (Harmony Grove): trapped 1 final kitten, took to CCHS

(f) **Communications:** none

**9. Commissions/Committees/Districts/Departments:**

(a) **Plan Commission (Marx/Bechen):** Met on 02/08/18 re: Larry Smith CSM

(b) **Park Commission (Bechen):** will meet March 21<sup>st</sup>. Hoping to get new equipment ordered and installed by Memorial Day.

(c) **Any other commission/committee/district/department reports: Harmony Grove Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (Bechen):** held a meeting recently, they do have new commission members and will be getting a new Columbia County representative. **Fire Commission (Brooks):** March 7<sup>th</sup> the Building Committee will be meeting at 6:00 p.m. at the Lodi EMS building.

**10. Upcoming meeting date(s):** 03/07/18: LAFD/LAEMS Bldg. Ad Hoc Committee - 6:00 p.m. - EMS building; 02/13/18: Plan Commission - 6:00 p.m. - Lodi Town Hall; 03/14/18: Fire Commission - 6:00 p.m. - Fire Station; 03/21/18: EMS Commission - 7:00 p.m. - EMS building; 03/27/18: Town Board - 6:00 p.m. - Lodi Town Hall

**11. Future agenda item(s):** Okee School during winter months.

**12. Adjourn:** *Benson/Brooks motion to adjourn @ 7:03 p.m.; MC 4-0.*

*April D. Goeske*  
Clerk-Treasurer