



# TOWN OF LODI

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## TOWN BOARD

James Brooks, Chairman

Chad Wolter, Supervisor 1

Marc Hamilton, Supervisor 2

Tom Marx, Supervisor 3

Karla Faust, Supervisor 4

## Town Board Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2021 | 6pm

Board Members Present: James Brooks, Tom Marx, Chad Wolter, Karla Faust, Marc Hamilton

Clerk Present: Kristi McMorris

Treasurer Present: Jina Decot

Public Works Director Present: Brian Ecklor

Ayers Associate Present: Ben Peotter

Attorney Present: William Morgan

6:01PM James Brooks Call to order

Roll Call: All Present

### **Citizen Input:**

Allison Seaton:

Topics: County approval of conditional use permit for Lucky's; Conservancy Park, badger or ground hogs in holes.

### **3. Treasurer Appointment:**

Marx and Hamilton recommended Jina Decot (acting town treasurer) at \$25 per hour, 2 vacation days per year, up to 20 hours a week. Hamilton said she interviewed well and did her job well. She is highly recommended.

**Motion to hire Jina Decot as permanent Town Treasurer: Hamilton/Wolter**

**Vote: 5-0 yes**

### **4. Circulated letter:**

Brooks: It was mentioned that it could have been Tess Carr but that was NOT the case.

It has been the practice of the board that we do not acknowledge letters that are unsigned. But we have received multiple phone calls, so it is wise for us to address it.

We have a town clerk/permanent treasurer/and attorney that is present.

Both clerk and treasurer have secured mentors to assist in training. There are other numerous avenues to assist with training.

Discussion on boundary agreement was 4 years ago. Zero discussion on boundary agreement since.

Marx: Negotiations were not secret. They were being prepared for public. We lost \$10K because of an anonymous letter that killed the idea before we could discuss it.

Brooks: No public knowledge of combining services with town of Lodi. Minutes show we have discussed a constable – no formal motion has been made – no formal plan has been presented. At this time no further discussion has been made to put on the agenda.

Yes, this is correct – a motion was made and passed that we will not extend an offer to Zeman for a pump. We have used resources to pay for a new Fire Truck for 3 munis.

Brooks: Meeting minutes did not post in a timely manner. New clerk should rectify this problem. We engage citizens to run for open board seats.

Hamilton: Letter was Dated 8/17/2021

Marx: Many clerks are elected. We have chosen to appoint and hire. Kristi and Jina have gone out of their way to seek mentoring to come into the job quickly.

Brooks: County Treasurer has invited Kristi and Jina to come up to train them.

Faust: It is extremely disheartening that they would blast a board that volunteers their time and talents to this community. We have an open door policy and are willingly to talk about any topics in our community. I listen to every word that is said and take it to heart. I would also tell you that the hiring of the 3 individuals we have are going to only make our community stronger and I ask for patience. They are the backbone of our community, and we need to offer them an opportunity to grow into their position. Come talk to us personally. Let us solve problems instead of dividing our community.

Wolter: Attend the meetings. Get involved.

Brooks: I have been at the Town Hall 3 or 4 days for 8 hours shifts. My email is james.brooks@townoflodi.com. I answer my emails. I don't pawn them off to Kristi. Call my cell phone.

**Public input:**

Allison Seaton: I was accused of writing the letter which I did not do.

Tess Carr: 2 questions and welcome to the new members (staff).

1. Why did we have so much staff turn over all at once? Brooks: Right now, we can't discuss that. It is not wise for us to talk about this. William: Item beyond the scope of our agenda. Marx: Prior clerks contract was up July 31<sup>st</sup>.
2. Is William Morgan being mentored by attorney Becklor?  
So you do come from the same firm? Yes
3. What is the structure training, required state training?
  - a. Kristi: Various offerings through WMCA, WTA, WisVote, etc.
5. Cefalu Variance: Plan Commission recommended putting this forth to the Town Board for approval.

**Motion to approve Cefalu Variance Application: Hamilton/Brooks**

**More discussion: Faust, struggling with hardship. Hamilton and Brooks spoke to discussion on plan commission.**

**Jim Seaton: Does this open it up for Air BnB. Hamilton, this is a couple wanting to retire out on the Lake.**

**Vote: 5-0 Aye**

6. Faulkenstein Tax Issue:

Mr. Faulkenstein present. Spoke to the history of his property.

Brooks: Talked to Accurate, County, and former Chairman Henry. Assessor made an error. Town owes Faulkenstein and County. *Get numbers from James.* On correct path to make this right.

**Motion to pay \$602.22 and the county \$2104.97 to pay the parcel off with understand that the Town is to be reimbursed by 2/2022: Faust/Marx**

**Further discussion:**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

7. Okee School House

a. Mold: Brian speaking to this. Recommends not renting until we take further action. Every item needs to go. Will get quotes on what it will cost to get it cleaned out. Karla move forward and find couple quotes. Marx \$900 left in budget. Hamilton, do we want to authorize funds for him to move on it?

Jim Seaton: What plans have been made for replacing the basement and does this come into play with the mold?

Brooks: Item not on agenda.

Hamilton: Bleach will kill it.

**Motion, do not rent schoolhouse until mold is taken care of: Marx/Faust**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

8. Speed Limit Change Request

a. County Hwy K.

County hwy safety committee

**Motion to table: Marx/Hamilton**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

9. Town Hall Window Cleaning

Kristi presents.

**Motion to approve: Hamilton/Wolter**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

10. Town Hall Hours of Operations

Marx: Recommends for a period of time that the Town Hall be closed on Fridays and possibly one other day of the week to fit in training.

Wolter: Most people take off Fridays.

Hamilton: Nothing more frustrating to see people working but doors are closed.

Faust: Mixed on it. Limited hours for time being already. Unless clearly communicated it could be to our disadvantage. Maybe Thursday or a half day. I support what you are saying. This is a process and everyone will have to have patience.

Hamilton: Agrees this is a process and will have to get up to speed when we can.

Marx: This is not typical of a normal job. Training is unique. Other towns operate in only 1 or 2 days a week.

**Motion to temporarily close the office on Thursdays starting this week until 1 week after the next board meeting for training. We will post on website: Marx/Hamilton**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

11. LAFD Chief Presentation

**Motion to table this agenda item: Marx/Hamilton**

**Vote: 5-0 aye**

12. LAEMS Chief PowerPoint Presentation and Report

Russ Schafer

Hamilton: I asked for an audit a year ago. When will that be done?

Marx: Informal audit that cost less than a formal audit.

Schafer: 2012 was last formal audit.

Hamilton: Would like to see a formal audit. Thanked him for all he does.

Faust: Most of increase will go to health insurance and retaining good employees?

Marx: We are still working on our Parcel Count.

13. ATV/UTV/Golf Carts

Brooks: Columbia County is likely to allow it. We are premature to make a decision. ADHOC committee.

Hamilton/Marx: wait to see what county does.

Faust: No harm in getting citizen input. Nothing stops community members from gathering information and presenting to us at later time.

**Motion to create and ADHOC committee of up to 5 members which may include a board member to research the ATV/Golf Cart on roads and streets in the Town of Lodi: Brooks/Wolter**

**Vote: 4-1 Hamilton**

14. Social Media Presence

Faust: Work with Kristi to develop a social media presence to be more transparent to our community. More pictures. She would undertake a special project to see this through. Investigate a new website.

15. Town Newsletter

Once a year but I would love for it to be bi-annual. Perhaps it goes with tax bills.

Focus on the positive being accomplished every day.

William Morgan: Social media policy. Public record. Be able to produce it if an open request is made. Janesville has a policy.

16. Harmony Grove & Okee Sanitary Districts

**Motion to table until next month: Wolter/Marx**

**Votes: 5-0 aye**

17. Scope of Town Board & Commission

a. Town Board Supervisor

b. Town Board Chairman

Marx: Town Chair within limits is responsible for emergency administrative decisions.

Morgan: Agrees.

Faust: Perfectly fine if Chairman operates on their own but requests communication on decisions being made.

Brooks: Clarification on walking quorums.

Morgan: Use BCC so that it doesn't violate open meeting laws. Just informing. Discussion can take place singularly.

c. Public Works Director

Brian: What authorization will you give me?

Hamilton: You create the budget and then do what you want.

Marx: New projects should come before the board. Maintenance is according to budget? How does board feel? Do we just let him go with the budget?

Hamilton: Let him go with the budget.

Marx: Don't get upset with Brian if community members get upset.

Faust: We are all more comfortable going into next budget now having been through it.

d. Parks Commission

Wolter: Basketball court at a park. Rumors to vote to build court was not true. Money allocated for projects at parks. We made it clear that it was okay to put it there but there was no money for it. Confusion from board members that we are overstepping our authority. Would like to know what their authority is. What can we spend/not spend, approve/not approve?

Discussion board awareness of funds being used.

Morgan: Recommend that we set up a fund for donated funds.

Brooks: Should we have a donation policy?

Morgan: Many municipalities do.

Hamilton to Brooks: Look into that.

Marx: Back to Wolter question. You have a certain judgement to make in terms of what to purchase for the park. Some are more complex. Is this in report or do they hold off? This is the Chairs responsibility.

Marx: What can the head of departments decide on for purchases?

Morgan: Falls under general authority of the chair that the intent is carried out as they understand it. County may have one we can parrot.

Brian: I did not set up the meeting to have them come up. It was set up with former clerk and Ben. It was not by my actions that this was ordered. I stated we would need board approval. To my defense that meeting was not set up by me. I was told when it was and did my part to meet and told them it would need board approval.

Quick recess

18. Minutes, Financials, & Reports:

a. Town Board Meeting Minutes

Brooks: Minutes should be shown to Attorney Morgan.

Morgan: Encourage board as a collective group remember motions and votes. My notes might reflect some of this information. Time is not critical. Just record motions and votes. Details are helpful but not critical.

**Motion to table 7.13/7.22 until next meeting: Brooks/Hamilton**

**Vote: 5/0 aye**

1. 7.13.21 tabled

2. 7.22.21 tabled

3. 8.10.21 Change: Wolter not here due to Zoom going out.

**Motion to approve with the change of Wolter: Hamilton/Marx**

**Vote: 5/0 aye**

**Motion to approve minutes 4. 8.20.21: Hamilton/Faust**

**Votes: 5/0 aye**

b. Revenues vs. Expenditures

Marx: Kristi, Jina, & Brian are doing a great job. Would like to take a look at budget line item 113a 4811001 and 4890001. Also, line item 118F is over. Fire protection payment due. 122e.

Jina: Donations were entered in as an expense. We need to put it in as income and taken out as expense when it is spent.

c. Payment of Bills

**Motion to approve Payment of Bills: Marx/Brooks**

Discussion: Issue with Columbia County charging us. Brooks questioned mowing bill. Waiting to verify what was mowed resulting in charges.

**Parliamentary: Marx**

**Vote: 5/0 aye**

d. Building Reports

19. Department Reports

a. Clerk

b. Chairman

c. Transfer site

d. Public Works

e. Plan Commission

f. Park Commission

g. LAFD Commission

h. LAEMS Commission

20. Upcoming Meeting Dates

21. Future Agenda Item(s)

22. Adjourn

**Motion to adjourn at 10:33pm: Hamilton/Faust | Vote: 5-0 Aye**