Town of Lorain

Annual Town Board meeting

DATE:	April 15th, 2025
TIME	8:00 PM at the Town Hall
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER BY	Town Chairman Roger Owens

IN ATTENDANCE

Chairman: Roger Owens. Supervisors: Steven Larson & Duane Truehart. Clerk: Kathy Hudson. Treasurer: Sam Tietz. Fire Chief: Matt Ennis. Road Maintenance: Heath Tietz.

4 Residents present: Dan Beecroft. Dennis Anderson. Rick Zager. Laurie Sommerfeld.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was stated that the meeting was properly noticed. Matt Ennis made a motion to approve the 2024 annual meeting minutes. Steve Larson seconded. The motion was carried.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORT

Matt Ennis made a motion to approve the 2024 financial report. Steve Larson seconded. The motion was carried.

ROAD PROJECTS UPDATES

Town Chairman Roger Owens presented report.

He reported that the bridge project was scheduled to begin the 1st week of May. He would be having a pre-construction meeting with the company performing the work the week of April 21st. Project cost break down: 80% by the state, 10% by the county and 10% by the town. Work on 25th street is scheduled to be done June 1st. It was reported that 355th Ave was graveled in 2024. 357th Ave, 325th Ave and 20th street are projected for gravel in future years. It was proposed that the board members set a date for this year's road review.

COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE COMMISSION REPORT

Town Supervisor Steve Larson presented his report.

He reported that the Commission met on the 4th Tuesday of March (March 25th, 2025). It was reported that discussion was held about possibly amending town ordinance of 10 acres minimum for land subdivisions to a 9 acre minimum. Commission determined to present this amendment to the town board for review. After some discussion it was concluded that the issue would be added to the next town board meeting for further review.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Fire Chief Matt Ennis presented his report.

He reported that Fire Department responded to 8 calls in 2024. 2 Medical calls, 2 Fire calls, 2 Vehicle accident calls and 2 Helicopter calls. We currently have 21 volunteers. It was reported that the 2024 Buckarama was very successful. The Fundraiser made a $43,000 profit. It was stated that the money from the fundraiser is being used to pay on the loan for the new fire department building. Resident Rick Zager asked if the fundraiser money was used to pay for anything else. Matt Ennis responded that it is used to purchase other miscellaneous equipment for the fire department such as the speciality washing machine being purchased for the fire department. Matt Ennis reported that the fire department is continuing trainings with Frederic Fire Department and working on trainings with Siren Fire Department. Discussion of aging fire trucks with conclusion of setting up plan for a staggered truck replacement. Matt Ennis offered thanks for Town's 2024 fire department appreciation dinner. Rick Zager made a motion to approve funding for 2025 Firemen's Appreciation Dinner. Motion was seconded by Dennis Truehart. Motion carried.

AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION REPORT

Chairman Roger Owens presented his report.

He reported that there was a per capita increase of $4 per person in 2024 after the merger for Northwestern EMS completed. It was reported that service had been running smoothly since merger. He stated that the ambulance service was looking to buy a new(er) ambulance one every 2 years. The ambulance service has been having successful fundraising events with a gun raffle fundraiser scheduled for the month of June 2025.

CEMETERY COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Roger Owens presented his report.

He reported that there were 7 burials and 4 plots sold in 2024. It was reported that the same mowing service was used in 2024 as prior year and would continue for 2025 at a cost of $400 per mowing. Dan Beecroft asked if mowers could wait 2-3 weeks after Memorial Day to remove flowers. Roger Owens stated that the annual cemetery clean-up day was scheduled for Saturday April 26th, 2025. Laurie Sommerfeld mentioned many limbs down in cemetery after recent storms. Roger Owens mentioned a headstone tipped over. Discussion included identifying and removing unused urn stands and shepard's crosses. Discussion about if town insurance covered vandalism of plots. Roger Owens informed that Insurance agent advised that plot owner's home insurance should cover a vandalized headstone.

NEXT MEETING

The 2026 annual meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday of April (April 21st, 2026 at 8PM)

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

Matt Ennis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Dan Beecroft. Motion carried.

Kathy Hudson-Town Clerk