MEETING MINUTES **TOWN OF LAFAYETTE** **NOVEMBER 2, 2026**
5765 197TH ST.
CHIPPEWA FALLS WI 54726

Call To Order / Roll Call: Chairman Staber called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm and conducted roll call. Present were Chairman Staber, Supervisor Larson, Supervisor Mathwig, and Supervisor McIlquham. Absent: Supervisor Brennan

Approval Of Town Board Minutes: The board reviewed the town board minutes October 19th, 2026, Regular Board Meeting & Current Agenda. Larson moved to approve the minutes and the regular board meeting agenda and Mathwig seconded.

Financial Report: No formal financial report was presented.

Public Comment: NONE

Old Business: NONE

New Business:
CSM-Bahe: The Board reviewed a certified survey map (CSM) for a property off Highway 190. It was confirmed that access to the new parcel would be from the roadside. An existing home at the far end of the property is accessed from 65th Avenue, and the parcel may use an easement along the back side to serve the two homes. Chair Staber said he had spoken with Doug at the county about the CSM. The applicant was told to expect a follow-up notice once approved. Motion to approve the Bahe CSM was made by Supervisor McIlquham and seconded by Supervisor Mathwig

VFW Temporary License: Chair Staber presented the VFW's request for a temporary picnic license for its Veterans Day event on November 11th. Clerk Carter noted that this was VFW's 50th annual event. The Board has traditionally waived the $10 fee for this event. Motion to approve the VFW temporary license and waive the fee was made by Supervisor Larson and seconded by Supervisor McIlquham.

Chippewa Chamber Temporary License – Economy Furniture: Chair Staber explained that the Chippewa Chamber requested a temporary license for an open house at Economy Furniture, whose ownership is transitioning to the owner's son. Supervisor Mathwig explained that the Chamber holds a monthly "business after hours" event at a different member business each time. Such events are usually held at a place that already serves alcohol. When the host business has no license, a temporary license is legally required. Board members expressed support for hosting Chamber events in Lafayette. Motion to grant a temporary license to the Chippewa Chamber for the event at Economy Furniture was made by Supervisor Mathwig and seconded by Supervisor Larson.

Bloomer Telephone Bid For Services To Town Hall & Station 3: Chair Staber reported ongoing internet issues at Station 3. Spectrum completed a speed test that initially failed but showed acceptable speeds after restarting the modem. The issue may be related to the router. The Board discussed having Computer Wizards inspect the equipment, and Chair Staber offered to cover the cost of a new router if needed. The Board reviewed Bloomer Telephone's proposal and current Spectrum invoices. Supervisor Larson questioned the Town's five-year contract with Spectrum. Clerk Carter reported an estimated early termination cost of approximately $5,000 ($128 per remaining month). She clarified that the contract, which began in 2024, covers the Town's four phones, not internet service. She also reported ongoing phone issues, including calls not ringing on certain phones. Supervisor Mathwig noted that service expectations are outlined in the contract and asked staff to document service issues. It was also noted that Spectrum had recently replaced a line at the building that the Fire Department had requested be repaired for several years. The Board agreed to wait for further information before considering the Bloomer Telephone proposal in December. Motion to table the Bloomer Telephone bid until the December meeting was made by Supervisor Mathwig and seconded by Supervisor McIlquham.

Employee Wages: Chair Staber proposed a 5 percent raise for the three road crew employees and the recycling employee, instead of the usual 3 percent, citing inflation and the cost of goods. Pay for boat attendants, sexton, animal control and election inspectors would remain unchanged. Chair and supervisor salaries were also left unchanged because they were increased last year. The director position held by Bruce was discussed for a $500 increase, from $17,500 to $18,000. Supervisor Mathwig noted that 5 percent exceeds the current CPI but said real wages nationwide have not kept pace with inflation. He explained that he considers both a cost-of-living adjustment and merit when evaluating pay, and that both were warranted here, particularly given the added workload and the good reports on the Town's lawn care. Supervisor Larson and Supervisor McIlquham agreed. Motion to increase the pay rates of the three road crew members and the recycling employee by 5 percent for 2027 was made by Supervisor Mathwig and seconded by Supervisor Larson. Chair Staber then recommended a $1 raise for Julie Cochran, a new hire who has worked variable and substantial hours

during the election season and tax season is approaching. After tax season, she is expected to work about 12-15 hours per week, three days a week. The increase would bring her wage to $21 per hour and fits within the budget. Motion to increase Julie Cochran's hourly wage from $20 to $21 was made by Supervisor Larson and seconded by Supervisor Mathwig.

Wages For Appointed Clerk And Treasurer: Chair Staber reported that he had asked both the Treasurer (Kathie Kurshinsky) and the Clerk (Jami Carter) for salary requests effective April 2027, when both positions become appointed. The Treasurer requested $34,500 per year. The Clerk requested $44,000. After discussion, it was agreed to phase the increase for the Clerk, with $42,000 in 2027 and $44,000 in 2028. The Chair's recommendation was $34,500 for the Treasurer and $42,000 for the Clerk for 2027. Supervisor Mathwig asked whether pay must be set for a two-year cycle now that the positions are appointed. Chair Staber answered that it need not be, and that state statute allows a contract of up to three years for an appointed position. The Treasurer has agreed to serve a two-year term and will likely retire after that. Supervisor Mathwig asked about the percentage increases. Chair Staber acknowledged they exceed 5 percent but said the salaries are reasonable for the elected positions and that Clerk Carter is increasingly acting as office manager, taking over duties he formerly handled. Supervisor Mathwig said this supports a succession plan for the Town, preserves institutional knowledge, and provides continuity. Board members discussed setting expected hours for the appointed positions. The Treasurer proposed 28 to 32 hours per week from December 15th to February 15th and 12 to 15 hours per week afterward. Clerk Carter reported that she works three days a week, about 89 of the 112 hours per month the office is open (roughly 80 percent). Supervisor Larson and another board member favored a contract or written structure for hours. The Board agreed that this should also cover the hourly employee. The Town attorney can supply a template, and the Board can work out the details. Motion to approve the Clerk and Treasurer salaries as presented, with the understanding that a contract for hours worked will be in place by January 1st, was made by Supervisor Larson and seconded by Supervisor Mathwig. Chair Staber said the approved figures would be entered into the budget.

Town Communications From Board & Road Supervisors, Town Clerk & Town Chair:
Supervisors Larson, Mathwig, and McIlquham had no reports. Jerry Zais reported that while touring the Sandy Harvey Recreation Center he found a deer stand near a walking trail on Town land. After consulting the game warden, the game warden recommended removing it as a safety concern and asked whether the Town has an ordinance prohibiting hunting on public property. The warden plans to walk the full 40 acres for additional stands. Chair Staber directed that Town staff remove the stand and store it in the shop. Jerry also reported that the Chippewa Valley disc golf group is considering the Town's 18-hole course as one of three possible sites for a winter event over the holidays. The group asked that the parking area be plowed and that a 5-foot path be cleared from each tee box to its basket. Chair Staber said the group's needs to email request and be placed on the November 16th agenda, since time is short. Chair Staber announced that a special town meeting to set the 2027 levy will be held on November 16th at 7:00 p.m., followed by the Town Board meeting, where the budget will be approved. The budget hearing is also on that date. Supervisor Mathwig noted that the prior draft showed incorrect number, and Chair Staber said the budget has since been revised again (draft 4), and a final draft will follow after the Treasurer's work on Wednesday. Budget items discussed included:

- Replacement of a culvert at 210th Street and 20th Avenue, with county estimates of roughly $24,000 to $33,000 and 50 percent county funding.
- $25,000 for covering and siding repairs at the town hall, with bids to be sought.
- A new 24-foot dock with an 8-foot ramp at the recreation area, with quotes to be obtained and possible contributions from the Lions Club and PRTLU.

Motion To Adjourn was made at 7:39 PM

Respectfully submitted by: Jami Carter / Clerk
These minutes are intended to reflect the discussed topics and propositions during the Lafayette Town Board Meeting, ensuring transparency and providing a clear understanding of the deliberations and decisions made.