

WANATAH TOWN COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
6:30 pm

PRESENT: President Councilman Howell, Councilman Sutton, Vice President Newburn, Deputy Clerk Treasurer Messer & Attorney Shoffner.

ABSENT: None

GUESTS: Chuck Jonas, Philip LaFoone, Ken Messer, Chuck Mack & Archie Howard.

Call To Order:

- President Howell called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was held.

Roll Call:

- President Howell-Here, Councilman Sutton - Here, Vice President Newburn-Here, A quorum is present.

Correspondence

- None

Appointments Needed

- President Howell reported that there were still appointments for the Planning Commission, Traffic Commission and the BZA.
- Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Sutton to appoint Philip LaFoone as a Councilman for the Town of Wanatah.
- Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Sutton to appoint Gregory Howard as a Councilman for the Town of Wanatah.
- Philip LaFoone mentioned that both had already been sworn in at the LaPorte County Courthouse by Allen & Heather Stevens. They then joined the other councilman.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

- Motion by Councilman Sutton; Second by Vice President Newburn to approve the minutes of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026 Regular Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.
- Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve the minutes of April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 Special Meeting. Vote was taken. All Ayes. Minutes were approved as presented.

Officer's Reports

- Planning Commission – There was an informational meeting regarding the proposed project at the school with the Solar Panels and the extension of the Parking Lot. Nothing for the Planning Commission to act upon because they changed the project.
- BZA – No Report
- Traffic Commission – No Report
- Park Board – President Newburn reported that they will meet in May.
- Animal Control – No Report.
- Building Commissioner –President Howell reported 11 Permits giving it a total amount of \$897.20.

Clerk's Office Reports

- Personnel Committee –No Report
- Facilities Coordinator – No Report
- NIRPC –No Report
- Other –No Report.

Public Works

- Chuck Mack reported the following:
  - Quote from Tonkawater to do repairs for the Water Filter in the amount of \$77,350 dollars. They only requirement for the town was to purchase the chemicals and assist them into the facility. This was a cheaper price than what Peerless was willing to do for \$124,000. Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Sutton to approve Tonkawater to move forward with repairing the Water Filter. This operation will start on the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of May.
  - They did complete the claim with the damaged fire hydrant with State Farm refunding the town in the amount of \$7, 290.15 that was directly put into the Water operating account.
  - For the Town Hall roof repair, he had two contractors look at it which was Goodwin Construction & Alco. They both said that only certain shingles needed to be replaced, but a total replacement wasn't necessary.
  - They had a lift station failure, and they replaced the 2 inch horse main. Chuck is concerned that some of the pumps are reaching their life limits. President Howell requested Chuck to get some quotes for replacements.
  - Milestone reached out and stated that they would like to start paving in June. Chuck wanted to make sure that they didn't start the week of the Town-Wide Garage sale.
  - Larry Cook repaired and completed the lift station alarm systems.
  - Chuck would like to request 4 mobile radar signs and purchase it out of the Public Safety Fund. Quote is approximately \$1,000 each. Chuck will submit an actual price at the June Council meeting for their approval.

New Business

- None

Unfinished Business

- None

Financial Report and Claims Approval

- Motion by Councilman LaFoone; Second by Councilman LaFoone to approve the claims as presented. Vote was taken. All Ayes.

Any Other Business to come before the Council

- Attorney Shoffner brought to the Town Council's attention that if we wanted to do an "At Large Voting" for the Council that we would have to do it before the end of the year. We couldn't do it next year because it is elections. We would just need to approve a ordinance stating that. President Howell stated that he would like to avoid it if all possible.

Public Comment

- None

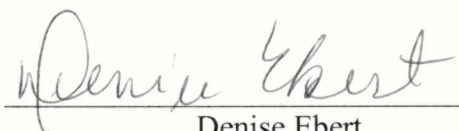
Adjournment

President Howell asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Vice President Newburn; Second by Councilman Sutton. A vote was taken. All Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 PM

ATTEST:



Denise Ebert  
Clerk-Treasurer

