

# Citizens for Education in Town Governance

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

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December 10, 2023

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# Fire Department

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## INTRODUCTION

Draft minutes of the town electors meeting on November 21, 2023, include approval of the following motion ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Draft Minutes](#)).

*Motion to Authorize Town Board to Dispose of Surplus Goods/Property: Discussion. Motion by Jim Sommerfeldt to authorize the Town Board to dispose of surplus goods/property with an advisory note of recommended fire equipment to be disposed of; seconded by Mike Zimmerman. Motion carried.*

Click to see evaluations for a variety of fire and ambulance department vehicles ([Apparatus Evaluation Reports](#)).

## BACKGROUND

According to town officials, consideration for renovating the town's primary fire station was under consideration as long ago as 2006-2007. The first known documented report on the project was mentioned at the Annual Town Meeting on April 15, 2014. Then in 2019, officials scrapped plans and approvals to renovate and expand the station and began focusing instead on building a new station at an unknown location.

The Lac du Flambeau Fire and Ambulance Department currently works out of two fire stations. The primary station, Station 1, is located at the intersection of Wild Rice Avenue and County Highway D in downtown Lac du Flambeau, and Station 2 is at the intersection of Firehouse Road and County Highway F.

In April 2021, the Lac du Flambeau Fire/Ambulance Department's website ceased to function. Before then the website included the following description of the department:

*The Lac du Flambeau Fire and Ambulance Department is a Volunteer department which is staffed by a total of 30 to 35 Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. Our Firefighters are required to attend entry level 1 and level 2 firefighter training. EMT members on the ambulance are required to be certified as EMT-Basics for the State of Wisconsin and must also be registered in the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. We also have some members that are both fire and ambulance!*

*The Lac du Flambeau Fire and Ambulance Department is located in downtown Lac du Flambeau Wisconsin. Our Fire and Ambulance Department provides fire suppression, rescue services, ice water rescue and basic-level emergency medical services. Through mutual aid agreements, the*

*Department also provides these same services to the immediate surrounding communities and also receives additional emergency resources when needed for larger scale incidents.*

*The Department responds to a combined number of 700 to 800 Fire and Ambulance calls per year. A majority of those calls are ambulance calls and about a quarter of those calls are fire or other requests for assistance.*

## CHRONOLOGY 2014-2023

The following chronology reiterates statements from a variety of primary sources pertinent to the functions of the fire department. The “official” minutes and recordings of town meetings as well as other documents held by the town are available through the town clerk on request.

**April 15, 2014.** The following statement is from the [minutes of the annual town meeting](#) held on April 15, 2014, italics added.

*Mr. Mayer asked if there were any plans in expanding the Fire Department building. Mr. Gaulke stated he has talked to Mr. Wegner about that and when a decision is made on the plans the money set aside in our account would be used as we do not want to incur any debt. Mrs. Schwanebeck stated just because municipalities are allowed to exceed the levy limit that does not mean they should. Mr. Gaulke stated the money in our account has been set aside over the past few years for that purpose.*

**September 20, 2017.** At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 20, 2017, the Lac du Flambeau Town Board received a proposal from the town chair to remodel and expand Fire Station #1 ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)). The presentation included reviewing a [rendering](#) provided by [Architecture North](#). The town board will revisit the issue when financial information is available. [Minutes](#) of the September 20, 2017 meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke reported he recently attended a meeting with Glenn Morrison from Architecture North LTDS and members of the fire department. He went over with the board what was being proposed for the expansion. Our current building is too small for the new vehicles that are produced. This was just an informative meeting and there is more to come with figures on what an expansion would cost. Mr. Gaulke will keep the board informed on any new information received. No action taken by the board.*

**October 17, 2017.** At its budget workshop on October 17, 2017 ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)), Mr. Gaulke explained the budget being considered for 2018 does not include funds for expanding or remodeling the fire station.

**November 16, 2017.** At the hearing for the budget proposed for 2018, the town chair explained that the budget proposed for 2018 does not include funds for expanding or remodeling the fire station. Costs associated with these projects may come from the town’s contingency fund sometime in the future, though no action has been taken in that regard ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)).

**April 17, 2018.** During a review of the 2017 town budget at the Annual Electors’ Town Meeting on April 17, 2018, the town chair noted the possibility of using the town’s Reserve Fund in the future to pay for expanding/renovating Fire Hall Station #1 ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)).

**November 27, 2018.** On November 27, 2018, the Town Board held a Special Town Board Meeting to review an [architect's drawing](#) and information about the project ([Agenda](#), [Audio Recording](#), [Minutes](#)). The project is projected to cost from 1.6 to 1.75 million dollars. Town officials said that a Special Town Meeting will be held in the future to solicit approval to proceed, including completing tasks like securing a loan, hiring an architect, and issuing bids. The November 30, 2018, edition of the Lakeland Times includes an article on the project. Minutes of the November 27 meeting include the following statement (italics added),

*Presentation of new Fire Hall Station 1 addition: No action will be taken by the board. Today Mr. Glenn Morrison is here to present the proposed expansion plans for the addition and upgrading to the Fire House Station 1 on Wild Rice Ave. Fire Chief Wagner stated that he and Mr. Morrison have been working on these plans for several years. The fire/ambulance equipment is getting larger and we have outgrown our current facility and need to update the station to fit our equipment. The fire station is currently 5068 sq. ft. and the addition would be 8565 sq. ft. The preliminary plans show 6 more bays and longer bays for the equipment, as well as a partial upper level, new bathrooms, hazard shower which is now required, kitchen, meeting/training rooms, office. Cost is estimated about \$1,500,000 to \$1,750,000 . Material costs going up very rapidly so he would lean towards the 1,750,000 side. There are many other things that would need looking into such as power lines, utility locations, and entrance onto Hwy D. A surveyor would need to be hired, permits obtained. We will need to have a Special Town Meeting to authorize the building project early next year. We then will go out for bids for the construction. Financing will have to be obtained.*

**January 8, 2019.** On January 8, 2019, the Town Board set a date, February 11, 2019, and time, 6:00 pm, for a special meeting at the town hall to address the fire hall construction ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). An article in the January 11, 2019, edition of the Lakeland Times provides details. Minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*The board needs to call for a Special Town Meeting to discuss and have approval or denial by the electorate for the construction/funding of the fire hall building. Mr. Hanson informed the board that a county committee is being formed to look at providing increased paramedic services in the county. Mr. Hanson did not know if this would affect our construction plans. Mr. Gaulke stated the current ambulances would still be stationed where they are now and the new addition was primarily for the fire equipment because they are so much larger and longer. Mr. Hanson will keep the board informed about the committee discussions. A Special Town Meeting will be scheduled for Monday, February 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Motion by Mr. Hanson seconded by Mr. Mayer to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held February 11, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of approval for funding of the new construction to the fire hall. Motion carried.*

**February 4, 2019.** Citizens for Education in Town Governance submitted a [letter](#) (February 4, 2019) to the town board on the lack of information being presented to the public about the renovation. The letter includes several suggestions on informing the public.

**February 6, 2019.** At a regular meeting on February 6, 2019, the town board set April 22, 2019, 6 pm, for a special town meeting so electors can consider committing \$1,750,000 for renovating the town's primary fire station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement (italics added).

*Due to proper posting requirements the date of the Special Town Meeting will need to be rescheduled. The architect is currently out of town and also a letter was received form Citizens for Education in Town Governance with some concerns. Mr. Hanson feels it should be held when more residents are in town. Mr. Gaulke stated all residents are not necessarily electors. Mr. Mayer stated we need the construction. The purpose of the meeting is to educate the people.*

*There are a lot of fire and ambulance personal here today and they stated their concern is that the current space is just too small. Charlene Dewald brought up a discussion regarding a notice she seen in the paper on SPS 330 which refers to new training requirements. Mr. Gaulke stated we are getting off track of the agenda item of setting a new date for the Special Town Meeting. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mr. Hanson to set the new date for the Special Town Meeting April 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried. Mr. Hanson made a motion to notify all residents/electors with a letter by mail with the details of the Special Town Meeting. There was no second, motion failed.*

During the meeting, Supervisor Hanson offered a motion for the town to issue a letter about the project to all residents. The town clerk said a letter would be costly, and the motion failed due to the lack of a second. Also, a visitor referenced an article in the Lakeland Times (January 29, 2019) about an updated State rule, SPS 330 ([Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services](#)), that could threaten volunteer fire departments throughout northern Wisconsin. See the Lakeland Times (February 12, 2019) for an article on the meeting.

**April 16, 2019.** At the town's annual meeting on April 16, 2019, voters approved a motion for the town board to consider establishing a five-member advisory fire and ambulance committee ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement (italics added).

*Discussion went into the new fire hall addition construction which will also be handled at a Special Town Meeting on April 22, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. Jim Sommerfeldt spoke stating he does not feel the town is ready at this time for the addition to go forward. Mr. Sommerfeldt would like to make a motion which is an advisory to the board to have a town board appointed 5 member committee to oversee the Fire and Ambulance Department. Mr. Gaulke asked if this committee was just for the construction aspect or for the general operations of the Fire and Ambulance Department. Mr. Sommerfeldt responded in general and the addition would fall into this committee. Motion seconded by De De Hanson. Mr. Mayer asked if this committee would include Fire and EMT personnel. Mr. Sommerfeldt that the Fire and EMT personnel could be advisory personnel to the committee. Mr. Mayer had concerns regarding the moral of the current members and the formation of this committee. Others attending the meeting feel that the committee should be combined between citizens and Fire/Ambulance personnel. Others feel that the Fire/Ambulance Department knows what is needed and a committee doesn't need to be formed to confirm this. Mr. Gaulke asked for a vote count on the motion on the floor, which is an advisory to the board. 9 in favor and 8 against to having the town board look into forming a 5 member committee. Motion carried.*

**April 22, 2019.** On April 22, 2019, electors approved spending \$1,750,000 for renovating and expanding the town's primary fire station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement (italics added),

*Mr. Gaulke stated the purpose of this meeting is to get approval for funding of the new construction/addition to the fire hall. Glen Morrison architect for the project is here to answer any questions you may have for him. Mr. Morrison stated he had been working with the fire department for several years and after several drafts what is presented today is the latest draft. The current building is approximately 5000 square feet. The apparatus room about 2000 square feet. The addition is about 8000 square feet. The building will have 14 foot doors to fit our larger equipment and this should sustain us for many years. There are many new requirements to meet codes such as a hazard shower which is shown and takes up a large space. There will be a second floor on the new addition which can be used for training and storage or possibly sleeping quarters. The building will be slanted to allow for visibility for the trucks coming out. Mr. Morrison's estimate for the addition would be \$1,750,000. Other questions asked regarding emergency*

*lighting when pulling out of the building to the street which would require DOT involvement, tribal involvement in grants that could be obtained, to rebuild at a different location which would have to be out of town as there is no land available in town to rebuild, getting money out of the Ambulance Fund which is used to purchase new equipment, what the assessment would be on the tax payers on a \$100,000 home. Mr. Gaulke responded depending on the rates we could obtain the assessment on a \$100,000 home would be approximately \$7.50 on a 15 year loan based on our equalized evaluation. The Town of Minocqua actually found out River Valley Bank had a better rate than the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands Fund. Applying for grants and getting grants can take some time which would delay the construction and increasing the costs. Getting an approved grant could take us into the year 2021. Motion by Shirley Baucaro to approve the Town Board to go forward with the construction plans and secure the funding of \$1,750,000 for the project. Motion seconded by Robert Hanson. Mr. Gaulke asked the electors for a count of those who are in favor of the motion. 25 were in favor. Electors not in favor of the motion. 1. The motion carried at a vote of 25 to 1.*

**June 5, 2019.** On June 5, 2019, the Lac du Flambeau Town Board approved a [contract](#) with [Architecture North](#) at 8% of the total construction cost for expansion/renovation of the firehouse ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). See the June 11, 2019 edition of the Lakeland Times for an article on the meeting. Minutes of the meeting include the following statements, italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke stated the board has received the architect contract from Glenn Morrison for the firehouse construction/addition. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Mr. Gaulke to approve the contract as presented. Motion carried.*

*Mr. Sommerfeldt had a question regarding the size of the doors on the new addition. Mr. Morrison was present at this meeting and the door size will be 14 feet.*

According to the Wisconsin Towns Association handbook (*Wisconsin Town Officers' Handbook*, pages 20-1 & 20-2), towns are not required to initiative competitive bidding for public contracts, such as those for the services of "an engineer, architect, assessor or attorney." The handbook recommends, however, that a "competitive process" using "quotes or proposals" be used and "the town accept the proposal most advantageous to the town, even if that proposal is not the lowest in cost."

**June 19, 2019.** On June 19, 2019, the town board approved borrowing \$1,750,000 from Incredible Bank over a ten-year period at 3% interest to expand and renovate the town's primary firehouse ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke stated the treasurer reached out to several institutions for investment rates. River valley Bank now called Incredible had the nest rate. On the loan amount approved by the electors of \$1,750,000 they were offering an interest rate of 3% for ten years with an annual payment of \$200,060. A 15 year loan was 3.25% with an annual payment of \$145,393. Payments can be made annually or monthly. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to approve the loan contract for the 10 year term. Motion carried.*

**July 10, 2019.** At a public hearing on July 10, 2019, the town board approved vacating an alleyway near the downtown firehall to facilitate renovation/construction of the station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include the following statement (italics added),

*A public hearing held by the Town Board of the Town of Lac du Flambeau to discuss a proposed action to discontinue of the following described unbuilt, platted alley initiated by Town Board*

action under Section 66.1003(4), Wis. Stats., specifically: That certain platted alley approximately 14' wide located between Lots 4,5,6 and 7, Block 3, of the Gauthier Tract subdivision and Lots 8-4 and 8-2 in Block 3, of said subdivision Town of Lac du Flambeau. The portion of the alley to be discontinued ends at the NW line of Lot 34, extended to Parcel B-4. A map of the platted alley is on file with the Town Clerk. Mr. Gaulke explained this involves the alley behind the existing fire barn up to the back of lots along Peace Pipe Lane. Mr. Gaulke asked if anyone present wished to be heard. Hearing none Mr. Gaulke continued. Attorney Greg Harrold stated that Wilderness Surveying did the survey. The deed could not be found but he is going to see that this is all recorded correctly.

**September 11, 2019.** On September 11, 2019, the Town Board postponed opening bids for the expansion/renovation of the fire station until January 16, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The minutes of the meeting include the following statement, italics added.

*Mr. Gaulke stated that Glenn Morrison contacted him regarding the bids for the firehouse. Mr. Morrison stated there was a couple weeks delay in getting the correct specifications from the heating engineer. There was not a complete set of specifications to let out to the contractors and he felt that there was not ample time to get the information out for bid and allowing the contractor's time to get the bids together. Mr. Morrison is now suggesting that the bid requests go out with an opening date for bids as January 16, 2020. This would make it possible to start construction in early spring. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to approve the bid opening date to January 16, 2020. Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to move the bid opening date to January 16, 2020. Motion carried.*

**January 15, 2020.** On January 15, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), the Town Board opened bids for the project and set a meeting to discuss them on January 29, 2020. Minutes of the January 15 meeting include the following statement.

**Opening of bids for fire station #1:** The clerk reported that 4 sealed bids have been delivered to her by the 1:00 deadline.

FOR THE RECORD THE WORDING FOR ALTERNATE #1 READS:  
Omit all new wall and floor finishes in the ambulance garage, room 111

FOR THE RECORD THE WORDING FOR ALTERNATE #2 READS:  
Omit the removal of the metal siding and the installation of thin-cut cmu on the south and east elevations of the original garage. Install matching metal siding where the overhead door is removed. Include painting these two elevations.

Bid #1 from Angelo Luppino, Inc.  
Base Bid: 1,889,000.00  
Alternate #1: -25,005.00  
Alternate #2: -16,100.00

Bid #2 from Huotari Construction, Inc.  
Base Bid: 1,826,520.00  
Alternate #1: -24,000.00  
Alternate #2: -14,255.00

Bid #3 from Scherer Construction, Inc.  
Base Bid: 2,390,285.00  
Alternate #1: -25,800.00  
Alternate #2: -33,800.00

Bid #4 from Nasi Construction LLC:  
Base Bid: 1,853,269.00  
Alternate #1: -14,225.00  
Alternate #2: - 6,865.00

The bids are now going to be reviewed by the architect and a Special Town Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. for his report and possible approval of a bid.

Four primary bids with two alternates for each bid were opened. The bidders and primary bids include [Angelo Luppino \\$1,889,000](#), [Huotari Construction \\$1,826,520](#), [Scherrer Construction \\$2,390,285](#), and [Nasi Construction \\$1,853,269](#). Click the dollar amounts for copies of the actual bid documents. The official documents are available through the town clerk.

**January 29, 2020.** At a Special Meeting on January 29, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), the Town Board, given all of the bids exceeded the amount authorized by the electorate, decided to invite the bidders to

resubmit their proposals per cost-cutting measures specified by the architect, and the Board decided to discuss the issue further at a meeting on February 12, 2020.

Also at the Special Meeting on January 29, the Town Clerk read a letter from Bill and Sue [McCutchin](#) that in part asks the Town Board to “table all bids and take no action” and to establish “a four-person committee to look at this again.” Board members did not comment about the letter.

The minutes of the January 29, 2020 meeting include the following statement.

**Fire Station #1 Bids:** Mr. Morrison is here today to report the findings of the bids which seemed to all be in order. He made a list of items that could be removed from the project without really killing the project. The bids did come in over the electors approved amount of 1,750,000. There were a lot of items in the building that were not code compliant which needed to be corrected. The generator was a big cost of \$40,000.00. He is sending a letter to all the contractors that submitted bids asking them to resubmit their proposals with the items he presented that could be removed or changed. He is asking them to have their revised bids to the Town by Wednesday, February 12, 2020 by 1:00 at which time we will have another meeting to review the revision totals. Motion by Gloria Cobb seconded by Mr. Mayer to go ahead and contact the contractors with the revision and report back to the Town Board. Motion carried.

**February 12, 2020.** The Town Board addressed the issue further at a regular meeting on February 12, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)) when the Town Clerk read another letter from [Bill McCutchin](#) and the Board opened revised bids submitted by [Houtari \(\\$1,677,000\)](#), [Luppino \(\\$1,760,100\)](#), and [Nasi \(\\$1,653,500\)](#). Following discussion on whether to proceed with repairing the current facility or constructing a new facility instead, the Board decided to take a closer look at the most recent bids and then confirm whether to call another Special Town Meeting to ask the voters for additional funds.

The minutes for the February 12, 2020 meeting include these statements.

Public Comments on agenda items only: The clerk read the letter from [Bill McCutchin](#) regarding his views on the fire house construction.  
**Opening of revised bids for fire station #1:** The clerk reported that 3 sealed bids have been delivered to her by the 1:00 deadline.

Huotari Construction	\$1,677,000
Angelo Luppino	\$1,760,100
Nasi Construction	\$1,653,500

Mr. Gaulke would like Mr. Morrison to review the revised bids. There are two bids under the requested amount of \$1,750,000 which was approved by the electors.

Robert Schuman one of the members of the fire department spoke stating that he sees the addition as an investment and wants the best for the vehicles being secure and be able to have easy access ability. There were several items such as lighting that have been revised to a lesser degree which bothers him. He stated that he would like to see a building built for the future.

Mr. Mayer stated he really does not want to give up anything from the original bids.

Mr. Sommerfeldt stated that he believes the town electors would have approved more for the firehouse and would be in favor of a totally new firehouse building at perhaps a different location and thinks that this should be looked into. He thinks it would help moral for the fire and ambulance personnel and be a building for the future.

Gloria Cobb also approves construction of a new building. She does not want to spend money patching up an old building. We should look into a building for the future. If we need to go back to the electors we should do that.

Mr. Gaulke stated he will have Mr. Morrison look over the revised bids and report back to us and possibly at the next meeting scheduled for February 26, 2020 call for a Special Town Meeting to ask the electors about raising the limit of the firehouse construction. Motion by Gloria Cobb seconded by Mr. Mayer to have Mr. Morrison review the bids and report to us and on the next Town Board meeting put on the agenda to possibly call a Special Town Meeting to look for additional funding for the firehouse. Motion carried.

**February 26, 2020.** The Town Board met again on February 26, 2020. Following discussion on whether to increase funding for renovation/construction of the current facility, construct a new firehall, or construct a new firehall/town hall combination, the Board formally rejected all bids and then set a Special Town Meeting for May 20, 2020 to seek direction from the voters ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the meeting include these statements.

Public Comments on agenda items only: None

**Discussion Fire Station #1 addition bids:** Letter was received from Glenn Morrison stating that he has spoken to the Nasi Construction estimator who assured him they have everything included. The Cummings generator is also included in their bid. If we decide to proceed with the addition he recommends the Town Board accept the Nasi Proposal of \$1,653,500.00 let him know and he will draft the AIA Construction Contract for the town's attorney to review. If the board decides not to proceed and begin with a new site, let him know and reject all bids. Gloria Cobb also spoke to Tribal President Mr. Wildcat and the tribe is not able to sell land but they are able to lease land. Mr. Mayer asked the Fire Chief and others present what their thoughts on the project going forward was. Mr. Gaulke stated what options were available. Continue with the original remodeling plan or go with a completely new building at current site or a different site. The conversation also mentioned a new fire house building including a new town hall addition. Mr. Gaulke stated at this time we will need to call for a Special Town Meeting to get the electors opinion on which avenue to proceed with and asked for additional funding. The board would like to see if they could get some preliminary pricing and look into land options before the Special Town Meeting is called to order. Motion by Gloria Cobb seconded by Mr. Mayer to reject all previous bids. Motion carried. **Motion/approval: Town board to call for Special Town Meeting/Fire Station #1 construction.**

Motion by Mr. Mayer seconded by Gloria Cobb to call a Special Town Meeting for new fire station #1 construction to meet all needs. The Special Town Meeting will be scheduled for May 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. Motion carried.

**March 18, 2020.** At a meeting on March 18, 2020, the Town Chair reported on the status of funding the project and indicated that additional information will be shared at a meeting in the future ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the March 18, 2020 meeting include these statements.

position on a temporary basis until he finds someone to take the position.  
**Firehouse update:** Mr. Gaulke talked to the bank and said they have been following our project thru the media and when the time comes for asking for a larger loan if approved by the electorate we should have no problem with a loan with a good interest rate. Mr. Morrison the architect is out of town and is doing research on a construction of a new building with all the required codes. He will be back in town in about a week. Gloria Cobb sent Jesse at land management an email asking for available land 5-10 acres, but we have not heard back from her.

Mr. Gaulke is very confident in Mr. Morrison's architectural abilities.  
**Town Hall Operating Procedures during Covid19:** Mr. Gaulke stated he would leave it up to the clerk to determine if the Town Hall operations are being done in a safe manner. It would be her decision to close the Town Hall to the public other than the required activities for election processing.

**May 6, 2020.** At a regular meeting on May, 6, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), town officials cancelled the Special Town Meeting set for May 20, and decided to consider setting a new date

for a Special Town Meeting at the regular town meeting on June 17, 2020. Minutes of the May 6, 2020 meeting include the following statement (italics added):

*Mr. Gaulke stated that we are not going to be ready with the information needed for the Special Town Meeting regarding the firehouse construction that was set for May 20, 2020. Motion by Gloria Cobb seconded by Mr. Mayer to cancel the Special Town Meeting set for May 20, 2020 and at our June 17, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting reschedule a new date. Motion carried.*

**June 17, 2020.** At the regular town board meeting on June 17, 2020, town officials decided to hold a Special Town Meeting of the Electors on July 27, 2020 at 5 pm at the Town Hall for discussion and possible action on information related to the renovation/construction of the firehouse/town hall ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Minutes of the June 17, 2020 meeting include the following statement.

Re-Set Date/Time for Special Town Meeting; RE: Firehouse Construction: The Special Town Meeting regarding the Firehouse Construction that was set for May 20, 2020 was cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions. Mr. Morrison was at the meeting today and said he will be ready to present the options to the electors for the Firehouse Construction. Options: Remodeling the current firehouse, build a new firehouse or a new firehouse with a new town hall attached. With the Covid-19 still around we still need to be careful of the social distancing. We could look for a larger space than what the town hall offers. Mr. McCutchin felt that the architect work should have been bid out. Motion by Supervisor Cobb seconded by Supervisor Mayer to call for a Special Town Meeting for firehouse construction and set the date for the Special Town Meeting for Tuesday, July 27, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Motion carried.

**July 1, 2020.** At the regular town board meeting on July 1, 2020 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), town officials decided to place discussion of the expansion/renovation of the fire station on the agenda for the Annual Meeting scheduled for August 10, 2020 at the Town Hall. Minutes of the July 1, 2020 meeting include the following statement, italics added:

*Reset date for Special Town Meeting and Annual Town Meeting: Mr. Gaulke explained due to the tribal resolution regarding the number of people for a gathering the two scheduled meeting would need to be cancelled and rescheduled to another date after August 1, 2020. Mr. Gaulke thought that the two meetings could be combined and the firehouse construction could be put on the Annual Meeting agenda. We would be looking for Monday August 3, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Motion by Supervisor Mayer seconded by Mr. Gaulke to reset the Annual Town Meeting for August 3, 2020 at 5:00 and include the firehouse construction on that agenda. Mr. McCutchin stated if masks are required it should be so noted on the agenda. Fire Chief Tom Wegner now stated that the date of August 3, 2020 is not a good date for the Fire/Ambulance staff as they have a special meeting that night. Supervisor Mayer amended his motion to reset the Annual Town Meeting for Monday August 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and include the firehouse construction on that agenda. Motion carried.*

**August 5, 2020.** On August 5, 2020, town officials postponed indefinitely holding the Annual Meeting ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). This action follows cancellation of Special Town Meetings

scheduled previously for such discussion on May 20 and July 27. Minutes of the August 5, 2020 meeting include this statement.

Reschedule date of Annual Town Meeting: The tribe has extended their resolution of gatherings of more than 10 people indefinitely. We are looking at other options to hold this meeting. In November we will have to hold our budget hearing. We will also be awaiting ideas from Wisconsin Towns Association. Motion by Supervisor Mayer seconded by Supervisor Cobb to cancel the meeting scheduled for Monday August 10, 2020 and to reschedule for a later date to be determined. Motion carried.

**March 3, 2021.** On March 3, 2021, town officials approved submitting a [Land Use Application](#) to the Tribe for potentially using about six acres of Tribal land at the intersection of Highway 47 and Thorofare for a new fire station/town hall. According to Town Chair, Matt Gaulke, the idea was raised initially by a couple of members of the fire department. If the application is approved by the Tribe, the Town could use the property providing it is used strictly for a new fire station/town

hall. The town would own the building, but the Tribe would retain rights to the property ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The minutes of the meeting include the statement to the right.

**DISCUSSION/ACTION: LDF L.U.A. FOR CONSTRUCTION**

Chairman Gaulke relates that the Lac du Flambeau Fire Department had requested the Town to pursue land for potential fire station/town hall building. Supervisor Gaulke's discussion with Tribal Land Management Department Supervisor Jesse Peterson directed him to complete the Tribal Land Use Agreement and submit for department review and review by Tribal Council. Supervisor Gaulke's discussion with Tribal Council member George Thompson centered on the possibility of a property trust deed for the Town to use the land as designated; however, when no longer used for that purpose, the land would revert back to the Tribe. The Tribal LUA was presented to the Board for approval of submission to begin the Tribal approval process; with no commitment obligated. Supervisor Cobb agreed that this process would need to be performed no matter what location would be desired. Supervisor Mayer had questions for clarification including obligation of the Town and the question if the Tribe was paying taxes on the land along with the process for the Town to have it removed from the tax rolls if utilized by the Town. It is unknown if the property is owned by the Tribe or controlled by the Tribe. Assessor Paul Carlson would need to clarify these concerns.

**April 20, 2021.** At the Annual Meeting on April

Chairman Gaulke reiterates that there is no commitment for the Town at this point, just beginning the Tribal process on feasibility for property use. Supervisor Mayer made a motion to submit the Tribal Land Use Agreement as prepared to the Tribe for review; second by Supervisor Cobb. Motion carried.

20, 2021, electors approved a motion authorizing the Town Board to borrow \$5,100,000.00 to spend on building a new fire station. The vote included 18 electors in favor of the motion and 14 electors in opposition to the motion ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#) begin at minute 1:12, [Minutes](#)).

**May 20, 2021.** At a Special Town Meeting on May 20, 2021, Glen Morrison, Architecture North, presented [drawings](#) and answered questions about the new fire station proposed for construction on Tribal land near the intersection of Route 47 and Thorofare Road ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#)).

**August 17, 2021.** On Tuesday, August 17, 2021, the Tribal Council and the Town Board met jointly to discuss the board's request to lease Tribal land for construction of a new fire station ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#)).

Town officials had approved submitting a [Land Use Application](#) to the Tribe last March 3 for potentially using about six acres of Tribal land at the intersection of Highway 47 and Thorofare

for a new fire station/town hall. According to Town Chair Matt Gaulke at that time, the idea was raised initially by a couple of members of the fire department and, if the application is approved by the Tribe, the Town could use the property providing it is used strictly for a new fire station/town hall. The town would own the building, but the Tribe would retain rights to the property ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

“Tribal council president John Johnson toward the end of the meeting (August 17, 2021) asked town chairman Matt Gaulke if he’d be willing to look at two other land possibilities, one piece of property near the Peter Christiansen Dental Center and the other on Cemetery Road, something Gaulke said he’d be willing to do.” (*Lakeland Times*; August 20, 2021, “LdF town board, tribal council meet”)

The Tribal Council took no action and Gaulke said the town board will discuss the topic in September.

Days after the meeting, several residents submitted a [letter](#) to the President of the Tribal Council explaining they attended the joint meeting to support Town Supervisor Hanson’s position on the location of facility.

**October 6, 2021.** October 6, 2021, the town board established a *Firehouse Land Committee* for the purpose of identifying potential sites for the new fire station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The board first discussed having the committee at its meeting on September 15, 2021, in response to a request from Lac du Flambeau resident, Bill McCutchin. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The committee includes three representatives of the fire/ambulance department (Mike Zimmerman, John Metzger, Tom Wegner) and two Lac du Flambeau residents (Bill McCutchin, Jim Sommerfeldt).

**November 3, 2021.** On November 3, 2021 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)), the Firehouse Land Committee reported on its meeting and site visitation of October 18 ([Land Committee meeting documents](#)). At the end of the presentation, the town board approved a “motion by Supervisor Hanson seconded by Supervisor Cobb to have the Chairman write a letter to the owner of the Raven lake property to see if he would be interested in selling some land and at what price.” Click for a copy of a [letter dated November 8, 2021](#). As of December 7, 2021, the town clerk indicated she was unaware of a reply from the property owner.

**March 2, 2022.** At a town board meeting on March 2, 2022, the town chair responded to a [letter](#) from Citizens for Education in Town Governance asking for an update on his letter of November 8, 2021, to the owner of the Raven Lake property. The town chair responded that Covid had interfered with the communication, but that he would follow-up on the communication. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**March 16, 2022.** The town board received a [letter \(dated March 16, 2022\)](#) from Jim Sommerfeldt recommending the town use ARPA funds to hire a consultant specializing on fire departments and planning.

**April 19, 2022.** Town electors discussed a variety of issues and approved multiple motions related to the construction of a fire station at the annual town meeting on April 19, 2022 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Draft Minutes](#)).

In response to the draft minutes of the meeting, Supervisor Hanson submitted an “[open letter](#)” to the town chair, Matt Gaulke, in which he expressed concern about issues such as, 1) the draft minutes exclusion of the board’s commitment to look at alternative sources of revenues, 2) an important procedural problem confirmed in the minutes that occurred at the meeting rendering ineffective the motion to purchase property, and 3) the need to discuss pertinent legal obligations and issues. Mr. Hanson concluded the letter with a request for the town board to have a special meeting, including a closed session with the town’s attorney. At the town board meeting on May 4, 2022 (noted above), Supervisor Hanson asked the town chair to place discussion of the draft minutes on the agenda of the board’s May 18, 2022 meeting.

**April 26, 2022.** At a Special Town Board Meeting on April 26, 2022, town officials listened to a presentation by [Five Bugles](#), a national architecture, engineering, energy efficiency and construction management firm specializing in the construction of fire stations ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

Supervisor Hanson had suggested the presentation during the town’s annual meeting on April 19, 2022 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). Also, town resident, Jim Sommerfeldt, had recommended the board consider relying on consultant services and grant funding in a [letter](#) he submitted to the board a month before the annual meeting. The minutes of the April 26 meeting include the following statement:

**Presentation of Firehouse Construction Consultants: Five Bugles:**

Five Bugles a consultant firm specializing in firehouse construction was present for todays meeting. They explained how their company puts together plans and phases for new firehouse construction. They showed the board examples of other firehouses they have constructed in various cities/towns in Wisconsin and outlying states. The board will take this information into consideration when a decision needs to be made.

**May 4, 2022.** On May 4, 2022, town officials listened to a presentation by Glenn Morrison on “[Rendering F](#)” for a new fire station. Mr. Morrison, a partner of a local architectural company, [Architecture North](#), indicated he has more than forty-five years of experience as a structural architect and engineer, including work on fire stations. He responded to questions asked by the board and audience ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**May 11, 2022.** Previously on May 11, 2022, in a two to one vote the board approved [Architecture North](#) pending a double-check by the town’s attorney. Supervisor Hanson noted early in the meeting that the [Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services](#) shows [Architecture North](#)’s license expired on January 31, 2018, and the firm is not eligible to practice. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**May 18, 2022.** On May 18, 2022, the board discussed the draft minutes of the annual meeting held on [April 19](#). As a result, Mr. Gaulke said he would solicit Attorney Harrold’s advice

regarding a concern expressed by Supervisor Hanson on the legitimacy of the motion to purchase property. The board also discussed an email as well as comments by Gary Munson on the inaccuracy of the minutes. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), Minutes)

**June 7, 2022.** At a special town board meeting on June 7, 2022, town officials approved moving ahead on purchasing a 42-acre parcel for \$550,000 for a new fire station. Chair Gaulke mentioned there are no documents available that are related to the purchase. Officials also approved moving ahead on contracting with Glenn Morrison and Architecture North to administer the construction. Chair Gaulke mentioned a contract is forthcoming. Matt Gaulke and Gloria Cobb voted for both motions while Bob Hanson voted against both motions. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), Minutes)

During the meeting Chair Gaulke read two letters provided by Attorney Gregory J. Harrold ([Harrold, Scrobell & Danner](#)). Click below for the letters.

[Letter: April 19, 2022 Annual Meeting](#)

[Letter: Architecture North, Ltd./Glenn Morrison Architectural License Status](#)

**June 20, 2022.** At a meeting on June 20, 2022, Chair Gaulke and Supervisor Cobb authorized purchasing forty-four acres for \$550,000 for a new fire station. Supervisor Hanson was not present. A closing date was set for July 14, 2022. Later in the meeting, Gaulke and Cobb approved an amendment to their original motion adding a contingency that there are no issues with Native American burial grounds or historical artifacts. Someone representing the town will check with the Tribe's Historical Preservation Office. ([Agenda](#), [Draft Minutes](#))

**July 21, 2022.** The minutes of a town board meeting on July 21, 2022 include the following statement (italics added):

*Today's discussion and action today is needed to adopt and record a resolution authorizing the Town Board to sign all documents necessary to document a loan from Incredible Bank in the amount of Six Million Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$6,050,000.00) for*

*A: Purchase of land from Francois (\$550,000.00)*

*B: Construction of fire house and ambulance facility (\$5,500,000.00). The resolution will specify purpose or purposes and amount of the loan, payments, maturity and rate of interest and include authorizing execution of a credit agreement and note to Incredible Bank issued as a general obligation of the Town for which the annual tax levies will be collected. Further, the Chairman and Clerk are authorized and directed to sign any and all documents necessary to authorize completion of the loan from Incredible Bank. The Town Attorney Greg Harrold was present today and went over the loan agreement.*

*After discussion on the purchase price of the land and financing options that were looked into: Motion by Supervisor Cobb seconded by Chairman Gaulke to adopt the Resolution Exhibit A and document a loan from Incredible bank. All in favor: Supervisor Cobb AYE:*

*Chairman Gaulke AYE: Supervisor Hanson NAY: Motion carried to adopt Resolution Exhibit A and document a loan from Incredible Bank. ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#), [Audio](#))*

**August 16, 2022.** In response to a request to inspect documents related to loans the town has assumed for purchasing property for a new fire station and for constructing a new fire station, the town clerk on August 16, 2022, provided a folder of documents for inspection. [Click for copies of loan documents](#). The original documents are available at the town hall.

**September 2, 2022.** On September 2, 2022, town officials approved soliciting "...bids for site clearing and development for our future Fire/Ambulance facility." ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**September 28, 2022.** At a special town board meeting on September 28, 2022, Matt Gaulke and Gloria Cobb opened five bids for prepping the site for construction. Supervisor Hanson could not attend the meeting. Bid documents were submitted by Minocqua Grading for \$599,350.72, Pitlick & Wick for \$440,067, Rynders Companies for \$338,540, Howard Brothers for \$321,332, and PGA, Inc. for \$316,773.19. After the opening, town officials approved forwarding the documents to the project's architect, Glenn Morrison, for review and recommendation ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#)). The meeting is summarized in the Lakeland Times edition of [October 4, 2022 edition](#).

**October 19, 2022.** After reviewing [bid results](#) at a Special Town Board meeting on October 19, 2022, town officials awarded a contract to Howard Brothers for preparing the site for construction of a new fire station. ([Agenda](#), [Minutes](#), [Audio](#) – the recording for this topic begins at about minute 37.04)

**January 13, 2023.** At a special town board meeting on January 13, 2023, town officials approved issuing bid documents for the construction of the new fire station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The following documents were made available to the board prior to the meeting: [BID 1 SITE](#), [BID 2 DRAWINGS](#), [BID 2 SPEC](#). This meeting followed previous meetings when the board approved motions for prepping the construction site.

**February 24, 2023.** At a special town board meeting on February 24, 2023, town officials opened bid documents submitted for constructing the new fire station. After approving the agenda, Supervisor Hanson cautioned about moving too quickly given the town's current finances ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

The two primary bids are from [NASI](#) at \$5,053,770 and [SD Ellenbecker](#) at \$5,480,000.

Near the end of the brief meeting, the board approved forwarding the bid documents to the architect for review and recommendation.

**March 15, 2023.** Following discussion with the architect at a town board meeting on March 15, 2023, on reducing costs of the project, town officials opted to give the fire department committee time to propose cost-saving adjustments to the project. The board set a special meeting for March 23 to continue discussing the issue ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**March 23, 2023.** Following discussion of the architect's recommendation, including cost-saving adjustments, at a special town board meeting on March 23, 2023, town officials approved the bid submitted by NASI to construct the new fire station ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), Minutes Pending). The action was preceded by discussion that occurred at previous board meetings on February 24 and March 15.

**May 11, 2023.** After conferring in a closed session at the town board meeting on May 11, 2023, the board directed Chair Gaulke to meet with Fire Chief Wegner to discuss issues that were identified in the closed session ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The minutes of the meeting include the following statement (Italics added):

*Motion by Supervisor Hanson to direct the Chair to hold discussion with Chief Wegner regarding some issues we discussed during closed session. Motion seconded by Supervisor Cobb. Motion carried.*

At the town board's regular meeting on June 7, 2023, the town chair acknowledged that the fire chief is no longer serving the town. Town officials then discussed four topics related to the fire/ambulance department: ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

- EMT and fire chief appointments
- EMT pay proposal per 5-year plan
- fire department equipment
- Fire Dues Audit

**EMT and fire chief appointments.** Town officials appointed Mike Zimmerman and Chris Mayer as "interim" chiefs for the ambulance department and fire department, respectively, for 90 days, during which time the town will implement a process for hiring a new fire chief.

**EMT pay proposal per 5-year plan.** Consideration of the item was tabled upon a recommendation from Mike Zimmerman.

**Fire department equipment.** Town officials spoke briefly about contracting for servicing ambulance department equipment. Discussion on fire department equipment was limited due to Chris Mayer being on call at the time.

**Fire Dues Audit.** The town chair acknowledged the board had just received the [2% Fire Dues Audit Report](#). Even so, he said the report states that the fire department is in "substantial compliance" with various rules and regulations. When questioned on what town officials will do about the suggestions for improvement also stated in the report, he indicated those will be addressed as needed after the board has had a chance to review them.

The history of the 2% Fire Dues distribution goes back to 1870, when the Wisconsin Statutes required that all insurers contribute a percentage of their fire insurance premium to the local municipality to support the purchase of fire equipment. This concept continued with periodic modifications of the program. Today, the 2% Dues Program is supported by 2% of all premiums for fire insurance written on Wisconsin commercial and residential properties. Each year, insurers are required to report and pay the dues to the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance (OCI.) In the mid-1970s fire department inspection programs became part of the 2% Dues

qualifications. (ss. 60.55 (2), Wis. Stats.). [[Wisconsin Fire Service Guidebook, Revised July 2019](#)]

Here are several documents the auditor has provided regarding the [2% Fire Dues Audit Report](#) as well as topic on hiring a fire chief.

[Wisconsin Fire Service Guidebook \(2019\)](#)  
[Behavioral Health Management](#)  
[Fire Department Standard Operating Guidelines \(SOGs\)](#)  
[Chapter SPS 330...](#)  
[SPS 330...](#)  
[ISO Pre-survey](#)  
[IAFC New Fire Chief](#)

**May 17, 2023.** On May 17, 2023, the town's architect, Glen Morrison, gave a brief statement and responded to a few questions on the status of the construction project, primarily sitework ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**May 24, 2023.** A groundbreaking for the new fire station took place on May 24, 2023. The [Lakeland Times edition of May 30, 2023, includes an article on the event.](#)

**July 12, 2023.** At the town board meeting on July 12, 2023, Norm Wetzel, on behalf of *Citizens for Education in Town Governance* (CETG), reviewed a letter submitted to the town board originally on June 21, 2023 ([letter to the town board](#)), asking the board to initiate a forensic audit of the fire/ambulance department's finances. The board took no action on the request, though Supervisor Hanson said he is inclined to support such an audit ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The letter was in part prompted by the town chair's declaration on June 7, 2023, that the fire chief no longer serves the town ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

Also at the July 12 meeting, the town chair acknowledged a [letter](#) submitted by Interim Fire Chief, Chris Mayer, and Interim Ambulance Chief, Mike Zimmerman, stating, in part, "We have recently been put in charge of our respective departments and have had a chance to review the status of equipment. Numerous items were not in working order and in need of repair".

And also at the July 12 meeting, Mike Zimmerman reported that the town's request to use the Tribe's water main for the new fire station is in review.

**July 26, 2023.** Updates on several topics regarding the fire and ambulance departments were discussed at the town board meeting on July 26, 2023 ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)). The [August 1, 2023, edition of the Lakeland Times](#) includes an article on the meeting. The minutes of the meeting include the following,

**Fire Station Construction (Click for [photos noted in minutes](#))**

Discussion: Update on Firehouse Construction by Architecture North, Glenn Morrison. Mr. Morrison provided photographs of the last two weeks of construction. Update as to plumber finishing, set trench drains, slabs to be poured and septic installed. Training/office area ready for in floor heat, girders to be delivered mid-August. NASI pushing the install as weather is a factor.

### **Firehouse Watermain:**

Discussion: Firehouse Watermain. Mike Zimmerman reported that he has spoken with Tribal legal to investigate about who can and cannot hook into the Tribe's water system. Discussion. A high capacity well was considered and investigated; however rocks are a concern. Mike will continue to follow.

### **Statement by elector John Bernard (Click for [full statement](#)):**

Discussion: John Bernard Fundraiser and Community Relations. Mr. Bernard spoke of the goodness in our community. Suggesting opening an account for donations for future fire and ambulance needs for the new building. Additionally, proposal for Tribe and exit plan regarding easement payments.

### **Responses to questions from elector Jim Sommerfeldt:**

Discussion: Jim Sommerfeldt specific questions regarding fire/ambulance equipment. Interim Chief Zimmerman reported that the old tanker is being looked at to see if it can be fixed. Until fully check out, unsure of its potential sale or use. The 4WD pumper fire truck is old, however operational status with new tires and is used for forest fires. As standards go, some equipment should be replaced, however cost is a factor. The department is still gathering information on replacement types, cost as well as reviewing existing equipment for repairs/maintenance.

### **Postings of positions for Fire Chief and Ambulance Chief:**

Discussion/Possible Action: Supervisor Hanson's request for Posting for Fire Chief & Posting for Ambulance Chief. Discussion regarding current department by-laws and a department vote was held in favor of Mike Zimmerman and Chirs Mayer. Supervisor Hanson would like to establish regular reporting to the Board. This is occurring and will continue. Discussion on keeping the organization intact, however separate chiefs is beneficial to maintain separate department standards and the workload involved. Some perimeters discussed. Mayer and Zimmerman will put together their service record, certifications, letter of interest, current by-laws and State requirements for a future meeting.

**August 8, 2023.** At the town board meeting on August 8, 2016, the town chair read a [report](#) provided by the interim chiefs of the fire and ambulance departments. The interim chief of the ambulance department, Mike Zimmerman, then responded to questions. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**September 6, 2023.** At a town board meeting on September 6, 2023, the town board appointed Chris Mayer ([letter](#), [credentials](#)) as Chief of the Fire Department and Mike Zimmerman ([letter](#), [credentials](#)) as Chief of the Ambulance Department. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#))

**September 20, 2023.** At the town board meeting on September 20, 2023, Chris Mayer was sworn in ([oath](#)) as the town's Fire Chief, and the board received an update from the architect on

constructing the new fire station and discussed security for the construction site. ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**October 18, 2023.** At the town board meeting on October 18, 2023, Fire Chief Mayer reported on recent activity of the department. In addition, town chair Gaulke commented on the status of the new fire station and well ([Agenda](#), [Audio](#), [Minutes](#)).

**October 24, 2023.** The [October 24, 2023, edition of the Lakeland Times](#) reported on the new well.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Wisconsin Fire Service Guidebook, 2017](#). "The Fire Prevention Section of the Department of Safety and Professional Services developed this guidebook to familiarize fire departments with the structure of state and local government; to provide guidelines for established and acceptable management and operational practices, and to provide information on selected topics that may be difficult to find in the field."

[Lac du Flambeau EMT Operational Plan](#)

[Lac du Flambeau Ambulance Department Operational Procedures](#)

[Fire Department Mutual Aid Agreement](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services](#)

[Wisconsin EMS Association](#).

[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#). The Wisconsin Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Section, located in the Office of Prevention and Emergency Health Care (OPEHC), is charged with developing and maintaining an EMS delivery system throughout Wisconsin. The website includes data on licensing and the number of calls.

[Chapter SPS 330 - Fire Department Safety & Health Standards](#). This chapter of the Wisconsin Administrative Code establishes minimum safety and health standards for public sector fire department employees.

[Wisconsin Towns Association Roundtable](#). On May 18th, 2016 the Wisconsin Towns Association hosted a gathering of 20 fire, EMS, and Town officials from throughout Wisconsin to brainstorm answers to a series of questions related to shortages of volunteer firefighter and EMT personnel. This document conveys some of the issues and potential solutions discussed at the meeting.

**Lakeland Times**. The Lakeland Times has issued several articles about the construction:

*Debate unfurls around Lac du Flambeau fire department expansion*, April 19, 2019;

*Lac du Flambeau to see fire station expansion, April 26, 2019;*  
*LdF Town Board revises bid opening date for fire station expansion, September 17, 2019;*  
*Budget concerns raised at Lac du Flambeau budget hearing, November 26, 2019*  
*Lac du Flambeau considers how to move forward with bidding process, February 18, 2020.*  
An article in the March 3, 2020 edition details the February 27, 2020 meeting.  
*LdF Town Board reschedules fire station expansion meeting to July 27, June 26, 2020.*  
*LdF town board, tribal council meet: Town request to lease land for a new fire station topic of discussion, August 20, 2021.*