



Minutes of the 2/18/2025 Meeting

The February meeting of the Lake Housatonic Authority was held as an online Zoom meeting.

Members Present

Ames, Scott (Oxford)
Blanchard, Sandy (Shelton)
Evans, Chris (Shelton)
Fiedler, Andy (Derby)
Olson, Jim (Oxford)
Stahl, Mike (Derby)
Zitnay, David (Derby)

Members Absent

Behuniak, Paul (Seymour)

Also present was LHAMP Chief Brian Brainard.

The Chairman, Mike Stahl, called the meeting to order at 6:40PM

PUBLIC PORTION:

No public present.

MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:

There were no meetings from November 2024 through January 2025. The minutes for the October 2024 meeting were presented to the board for approval.

Motion to accept the October 2024 meeting minutes as presented:

Motion: Blanchard Second: Evans Vote: Unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The treasurer, Sandy Blanchard, presented the February 2025 treasurer's report. All finances are in order. The only bill last month was for adding the dock to the insurance policy and it was insignificant. The budget letters were sent out to the member towns/cities requesting funding for the 2025 season. There are a few outstanding payroll checks not cashed.

Motion to accept the February 2025 Treasurer's report as presented:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Stahl Vote: Unanimous

GUEST PRESENTATION:

None scheduled.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Patrol:

Chief Brian Brainard reported he completed two rounds of interviewing for the open patrol officer positions. He has a total of nine possible candidates. They still need to have their background check done and they need to pass the swim test to be eligible. The training academy will start week of March. The training is three, four-hour days. Plus, a day for defensive tactics. There are seven returning officers with the potential nine additional officers for a total of 16 officers.

The Chief asked if he could promote an officer to the position of Sergeant. There were mixed opinions amongst the board members. But there is currently no provision in the memorandum of agreement with the DEEP. So, the Chairman asked that any further discussion be tabled until the Chief discussed with DEEP to get their input and if the MOA would need to be modified.

The Chief noted that he was working on getting an updated quote for radios with the same vendor that the state uses. The LHA is currently approved for a total of up to 6 radios.

Water Quality:

Scott Ames reported that a request was sent for an updated quote for the 2025 season. Testing would resume in May and conclude in October.

Weed abatement:

Jim Olson reported that he is still working on the 2025 plan, but it closely mimics the previous year's plan for addressing Milfoil and Eel Grass. There is still an issue with the weeds in front of Wholand. This is a native species and requires a different chemistry than what is covered in the permit. He is requesting a new permit to cover just 1 acre to deal with the area. It will be difficult due to the fact it is a native species. It was suggested that he emphasize the safety issue since it's not possible to get to Wholand by any means other than by boat. Which he said he has already done. He has not received the end of year survey results yet.

Vessels and Equipment:

Chief Brainard reported that both boats now need to have their fuel gages looked at. The Blue boat has had a problem for a while, but the black one has just started acting up. The Chairman asked the Chief to check with Beacon Point to see if they could make the repairs before the start of the season.

The Chief requested an additional three portable radios to support the additional officers and the ability to be stationed at the park boat launch. The board discussed and agreed to an additional two radios. The Chairman asked for a motion to purchase two radios.

Motion to purchase two portable radios:

Motion: Zitnay

Second: Evans

Vote: Unanimous

SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

None at this time

OLD BUSINESS:

None at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

New LHAMP holiday pay

Officers and boat handlers to be paid two times their standard hourly rate for Holidays. There are three holidays – Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day. The holiday pay is for the actual holiday day only, not for the entire weekend.

Motion to increase the holiday pay rate to two times the regular hourly rate:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Olson Vote: Unanimous

New LHAMP pay rates

New Boat Handlers starting rate will increase from \$17/hour to \$21/hour. New Patrol Officers starting rate will increase from \$20/hr to \$25/hour. Assistant Chief pay is now \$30/hour and Chief pay is now \$35/hour. There will be an adder for existing officers to keep the rates consistent based on years of experience. There will no longer be an automatic \$1/hour yearly increase. Further increases are to be reviewed annually. Currently there will be no bonus plan but it is under consideration for next year.

Motion to increase the base pay rates as defined above:

Motion: Zitnay Second: Olson Vote: Unanimous

Rehire patrol officers

2025 LHAMP Patrol Roster:

Chief Brian Brainard
Asst. Chief Alex Commander
Officer Michael Simons
Officer Renaldo Bretones
Officer Javonte Ramos
Officer Patrick Martin

Motion to hire the LHAMP roster for the 2025 season as presented:

Motion: Blanchard Second: Evans Vote: Unanimous

CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence received since October was presented to the board.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT:

None at this time.

AJOURNMENT:

The Chairman asked for a motion to adjourn the February meeting at 7:37PM.

Motion: Olson Second: Zitnay Vote: Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Ames
Secretary – LHA

These minutes are subject to approval.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE LAKE HOUSATONIC AUTHORITY IS SCHEDULED FOR
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2025.