

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 30, 2015

8:00am

Present: Lowell Hagen, Robert Strand, Norman Prusener, Carrie Hintz

The minutes of the April 22, 2015 town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

2015 road bids – Two sealed bids were received. Board opened and read each bid. The board made the following motions:

- #1 - #6 – Lowell made a motion to award #1-6 to Payne & Dolan, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.
- #7 Ditching: Norm mentioned that in 2014 the board approved \$3,000 for ditching and this bid is higher. Bob asked if it was premature to approve this work until the culvert has been opened on E. Lakeshore Drive. Norm made a motion to table ditching, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.
- Patching material – Norm made a motion to accept Wolf for patching material, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.
- Matt from Payne & Dolan said the work would begin late June or after July 4th. Norm said that we have 2 culverts to put in before the road work begins.

Larry Jacob 1' right-of-way front yard setback variance and grading & retaining wall in right-of-way at N7405 Ridge Road – Norm mentioned that we still don't have the proper paperwork to approve anything. We don't have anything related to the setback denial from Walworth County. Must apply at the county and get a county denial letter. Then apply for variance that comes to town so that the board can vote on what the law is versus what he's asking for. Norm noted that the drawing shows an optional storm water hole it can't be optional. Bob agreed that we need the county's disapproval in ink prior to making a determination. Larry paid the zoning permit fee and met with Darrin Schwanke yesterday. We need a letter denying application before our board can vote. Larry is on the June variance agenda at Walworth County. Tabled to May meeting.

Hi-Low and State Park Roads – Paul Sandgren and Anne Corman from the DNR appeared. Lowell had Bob go out and measure the roads and 1.6 miles of Hi-Lo and ½ mile of State Park Road are under discussion. DNR is wondering if we can trade Hi-Lo Road for State Park Road. Norm doesn't see any benefit of giving up this road now because of 1) unforeseen things that cost money and 2) getting rid of town property without any real advantage. He'd let Hi-Lo Road be real low maintenance and he'd like the DNR to help pay for maintenance. Paul said that the current proposed budget removed all road moneys so there wouldn't be money to give to the town to help repair it. State Park is a high maintenance road with 15-18 years left and then we'll have to repave. We can't let State Park Road go, but Hi-Lo Road we can. Bob asked if the big advantage is that we'll never have to maintain Hi-Lo again. Lowell thinks it's about \$2200 that we'd lose in GTA by losing a mile of road. Lowell and Bob don't think we should be maintaining Hi-Lo Road. Paul said that the DNR doesn't have any set plans as to whether or not they'd block off the Highway P entrance. It's a dangerous intersection, but would need input from residents. They care most about the access to the two campgrounds and a potential future bike trail into the city, but those would need to be determined at a later date. Might not need to plow in winter if it's just serving the campers. Potholes and repair the DNR would pay to maintain. In the past there was discussion of the DNR buying the road outright. Paul suggested that if the town abandoned Hi-Lo Road they could possibly pay some of our lost GTA for a number of years. Paul said that State Park Road really serves the town residents and not the forest. Bob asked Paul to put together a more formal written buy-out program option. Hi-Lo road would take a public hearing and a resolution to give it to the DNR. Will have to research State Park Road transfer procedure. Closing costs and most

other fees are paid by the DNR, unless we specifically ask our attorney to review it or do other work on our behalf.

Krahn Estate – Paul Sandgren said that the possible \$600,000 (about) purchase proposal will go to the Natural Resources board in late May, then will be reviewed by the Joint Finance Committee, and then signed by Governor. Money is in the old budget. Since 1991, after the DNR acquires land, the town receives all taxes that previously were paid on that property and it is adjusted based upon the assessed value of the property. So we'd collect the same taxes as we'd have collected before. The tax payment never goes away. Would like to move their park entrance to that property. Would also like to move the Ice Age Trail away from campsites onto the Krahn parcel. Paul asked if the board would send a letter of approval to the DNR for this purchase. Lowell made a motion to send a letter of approval, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Brush cutting – Paul Sandgren from the DNR said that we did a great job on State Park Road last year. For this year they'll pass on brush cutting on DNR roads. The one place he'd suggest is at Kettle Moraine Drive and Esterly Road and a driveway to the gravel pit due to poor sight lines. Brush cutter will be here in early May. LaGrange isn't interested in sub-leasing.

Storage container – Carrie looked into purchasing a 8'x20' metal storage containers to store all of the old paperwork that we must retain. Cost of a used one delivered is going to be about \$2500. Norm suggested storing street signs in building across the street and store paperwork in the shop. Bob suggested building shelves in the building across the street. Lowell suggested microfiche. Board will investigate options using the buildings we currently have. Norm made a motion to look into it further, Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Other town business – Norm said that the new shouldering equipment was not used last year. Roads that we approved the road work on, there are little pot holes that should be filled before the road work is done. Culverts on Island Road and Millis Road need to either outsource digging or we can do it ourselves. Either Egnoski or Jim Harmon could possibly do it. Culvert on Millis Road needs to be sawed. Norm said that for mowing the road right-of-ways the standard used to be 3 times per year mow shoulder and once per year mow everything.

Bob said shoulder equipment needs to be mounted to the truck, which Bob Harris is investigating how to install it.

Will likely have \$30,000 left in road budget that we can use for Woodward or Island Road west of Highway 89.

Carrie to send letter to Tim Mattingly on Taylor Road with road repair cost.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 10:02am, seconded by Norm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer