

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 13, 2014

7:00pm

Present: Lowell Hagen, Rodney Wilson, Norman Prusener, Carrie Hintz

The minutes of the July 9, 2014 town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Rodney. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk report – Carrie reported that the DNR found Emerald Ash Borer for the first time in the Township in July. Town doesn't need to take any specific action. Carrie also reported that the Partisan Primary took place Tuesday with 222 voters. There was about a 2% difference in the Democratic State Senate 15 race so there is a chance of a recount.

Treasurer report – Carrie read the account balances. Norm made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as written, seconded by Rod. Motion passed unanimously.

1st Side Supervisor – Rod reported that he has a cancer diagnosis. In another month or so he will know whether he will be able to continue on the Town Board.

2nd Side Supervisor – Norm reported that Payne & Dolan won't pave until after Labor Day. Dead trees on E. Lakeshore Drive need to come down. Weber Tree Service hadn't responded in two months and yesterday he finally gave a quote. One big oak will be \$1000+ and the other tree will be \$175 per hour. Norm also called Kriszan's Tree Service who wants \$400 and \$150 for the two trees, but recommended not doing them until the end of October due to an oak tree disease. Norm made a motion to notify Kriszan to do the work in October, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman – None

Sheriff's Department Incident Report – Tim Otterbacher read report (see attached).

Ditching & Culverts on E. Lakeshore Drive – Rod reported that they looked at water issue. Rod suggested the town reditch about 130' at about 1.5' deep to run down existing ditch line into existing culvert that runs adjacent to Cruse lane. Jim Harmon's driveway would need a culvert. Then town would clean out the ends of the culverts 10'-15' each so the water flows and get it reseeded. The culvert that crosses the road by Jim Harmon's would be plugged up. Art S. said that two summers ago that culvert was opened up by Jim Harmon with a sledge hammer and that caused major water issues across the street. Jim Harmon said it is illegal to concrete the culvert shut, but Rod believes that keeping it blocked and ditching will help with the water issues. Norm said those culverts were put in when the road was put in because that was the lowest spot between 2 hills. The problem he believes is that they are small lots with lots of water and the culvert should be opened with a swail between the properties on the lake. He suggested opening up culvert that is illegally plugged up, but Art thinks this will cause more water issues. Residents stated that they have spent a lot of money on their own property to try to control the water situation. Jim Harmon said that if the water goes to Cruse Lane, then the house on each side will get flooded. Norm suggested hiring an engineer to determine the best course of action. Rod thought the ditching would cost about \$1500-\$2000. A resident not on E. Lakeshore Drive suggested taking Rod's course of action and then hire an engineer. Lowell mentioned that if we hire an engineer and have to ditch the entire road, the town doesn't have enough money to pay for that in many, many years. Jim Harmon said he can put a culvert in, but he doesn't think it will do any good and will fill in again in a few years. The driveway south of Harmon's has a culvert, but the owner didn't bury the culvert. Claudia Holst asked if anyone at the county could come out to make suggestions without charging, but the board doesn't think they will do it at the town level. Lowell made a motion to ditch about 175' starting north of Jim's driveway going to the south to get the water to go to the culvert to take it to Cruse Lane at an expense up to \$3,000 to get it to the lake and have Jim Harmon put in a culvert. Motion seconded by Rod. Motion carried 2-1.

Parking pads on E. Lakeshore Drive – Norm said that multiple blacktopped parking stalls pitched back to the road and cause water issues. Norm suggested the town send a letter telling them they caused a problem with grading and paving in the parkway. If they want to use the parkway they need to get an encroachment agreement from the town and come in with a plan to repitch them. Rod agreed. Town needs an ordinance to cover this. Town isn't told in advance about parking spot blacktopping. Norm made a motion to send owners letters saying they need an encroachment agreement and they must remove the problem causing materials. Norm to provide addresses to Carrie. Lowell will look at them before town sends letter. Seconded by Lowell. Motion carried unanimously.

DOR SDC collection agreement for unpaid fire and ambulance bills – Carrie reported that there is an option for the town to try collecting on unpaid fire and ambulance bills that puts a type of lien on people's future tax refunds. There is no cost to the town and the DOR will try collecting for 5 years. Norm made a motion to approve the SDC plan and that out of state claims that wouldn't be covered can be sent to a collection agency by Carrie. Seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Building inspector services – Lowell received 2 complaints about our present building inspector, Independent Inspections. One was a missed appointment and the other was the inspector arrived 2.5 hours late while the applicant's workers were waiting. Lowell is wondering if the town should look for another building inspector. Norm suggested sending a letter to Independent Inspections and see if they can get the issue corrected. Carrie to send a letter.

Operator license – The board reviewed one application for Tabetha Block for the Whitewater Country Club. Rod made a motion to approve the license, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

Plow truck driver pay – The current pay for plow drivers is \$12 per hour and Lowell is wondering if we should raise it. Norm suggested \$18 per hour, seconded by Rod. Motion passed unanimously.

Fireworks permits – Carrie reported that there have been complaints regarding fireworks being shot off around the lake all summer long at all hours of the night. The town only issues a few permits per year and the complaints have come when no permits have been issued. Lowell would like to issue permits for not over 3 days for the hours of 10am - 10pm. Norm said that it is illegal to shoot fireworks in Wisconsin. Rod made a motion that if we issue, they have to be to licensed pyrotechnic with proof of insurance, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

1-ton F550 pick-up truck replacement – Lowell asked if we should look into replacing the current truck and plow. Rod to look into purchasing a used 4-wheel drive. Table to next meeting.

Other town business – Resident sent an email regarding the condition of Island Road. Rod to look at it.

Public Input – Ms. Pulera spoke about a September 9 public hearing to be held regarding the removal of two town roads (already removed) where Rock-Walworth County Line Road ends and connects to the sharp curve on County M, as it heads south toward Highway 14. Ms. Pulera is asking residents to attend this meeting at Richmond Town Hall.

Two residents said that there is a pile of road slag by the Dam on Rice Lake. Lowell will ask Bob to clean it up.

Tim Otterbaher, as a town resident, asked about the big jump from \$12 to \$18 for plow drivers. Board stated that it is the going rate to be paid for this type of job without benefits.

Board paid bills.

Rod made a motion to adjourn at 8:19pm, seconded by Lowell. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer