

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2017
7:00pm

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

The minutes of the February 8, 2017 town board meeting were reviewed. Bob made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Norm. The motion passed unanimously.

Norm made a motion to move agenda item 7 to 12, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Clerk report – There will be a spring election on April 4.

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

2nd Side Supervisor – Norm got a call from Charlie Hatchett about the 20 acres of the old Krahn property on the south side of Kettle Moraine Drive that Camp Joy is buying from the DNR. The barn will be a petting zoo or have chickens. Lowell said it must be used for camping, though they can build structures used in camping. Lowell said there's a hearing at the county that will make it happen. Lowell received a call from someone averse to the purchase who wanted to continue to hunt there. Norm said the sawmill and the tin buildings are staying there. Bob mentioned that we were told that the DNR was going to move their camp entrance buildings there. Lowell asked Carrie about getting taxes on that property that is now tax-exempt. Carrie has a call into the DNR.

Norm said at the boat landing on the west side of the lake, there's a tree on the landing that is half in the lake. Lake Management is wondering if we can cut that off and pull it out. It's okay with the DNR because it interferes with navigation on the lake.

1st Side Supervisor – Bob said if we could give a resident of the month award, he'd give it to Brian Madl for keeping us informed about icy road conditions and trees down.

Chairman – None

Sheriff's Department Incident Report – Sgt. Josh Staggs read report (see attached). Sheriff's Department appreciates the space in the Town Hall as a substation. Speed trailer will be coming out in spring and if we have a road area of concern, we can let Tim Otterbacher know. If residents are going on vacation, can contact the Sheriff's Department for a house check or extra patrol. Controlled burn calls can go to the city or the county because they share an information management system. Resident commented that Engel Road is a busy road with a lot of speeders. When the weather gets nice, the Flowing Well gets busy and the speeders who go past are a concern.

Sheppard variance request at N7401 Ridge Road (DW3500024) – The Sheppard's are requesting to construct a seat wall 34' from the ordinary high water mark while the Walworth County ordinance requires a 75' setback. The Sheppard's representative, Adam Sandberg, the landscape contractor, is going through the permit process and will install. Asking for a variance because there is an existing seat wall that acts like a railing. The owners want to maintain the footprint, but replace with new materials. They are also replacing an older existing patio without county issue. Norm said as long as the seat wall is in the same footprint, he doesn't see a problem. Bob said he spoke with the daughter of the guy who built the property and history says the seat wall is probably only 10 years old. Bob doesn't see an issue because it doesn't block anyone's view and the concrete foundation has a low rise. Norm made a motion to approve the request for a variance, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

McCormack variance request at W8062 Bay View Drive (DLS 00017) – The McCormack’s are requesting to construct a residence 6.93’ from the road right-of-way while the Walworth County ordinance requires a 25’ setback. The McCormack’s representative, Bob Strand, said that they would like to extend the current small 10x22 garage because they are a 3-car family. Norm was initially concerned about plowing the cul-du-sac but on this area it won’t be a problem. Bob said that if it was detached it would be a 10’ setback, but being attached, it’s a 25’ setback. Two doors to the west on the culvert is a 16” setback that should have been 10’. Bob Strand abstained from the vote. Norm moved that we okay the variance request of 6.93’ from the road right-of-way, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed 2-0.

August 5, 2017 NMSS Best Dam Bike Tour approval and liability - NMSS has planned their annual bike ride going through the township. Carrie said that in the past we’ve not signed their letter, but instead responded with a letter requesting 1) that traffic not be stopped along the bike route, 2) that we receive a certificate of insurance, and 3) that we receive a letter stating that the MS Bike Ride will be responsible for paying any and all unpaid ambulance bills resulting during the bike ride where riders get injured and then do not pay their bills. Bob said we haven’t had an incident in the past few years. Lowell said as long as they send this letter, we’re good. Bob made a motion to accept, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Joining Wisconsin Independent Assessing Officers Association – We received a letter from this group asking all tax districts who use contract assessors to join their non-profit organization with associate dues at \$100 per year. Bob said the assessors would be more affected. Norm said the assessor started up when the counties wanted to take over all assessing so this would be a lobbying committee to keep the status quo. Norm doesn’t know if it would be advantageous for the counties to take over. Lowell thinks the county should stay out of it. Norm made a motion to join the group for \$100 per year in dues, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Date for road tour – Lowell said it’s supposed to be 50 degrees next week. Lowell asked if we should consider hiring the guy who graded our road previously and Norm wasn’t impressed with the way it was done. The road tour will tell us what we need. Board thinks every 4-5 years we should hire someone. Road tour will take place on Thursday, March 23 at 7:30am.

Schechter variance request at N7598 Ridge Road (DMH00026) – The Schechter’s are requesting to construct a patio 49’ from the ordinary high water mark while the Walworth County ordinance requires a 63.5’ setback. The Schechter’s representative, Tim Weber, didn’t attend the meeting, but the board reviewed the request. Bob wants to know if the newer block wall was done with a permit. He said that the neighboring houses are even closer to the lake. And it’s original. Bob made a motion to approve, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

Other town business – Bob said that Tom Jaeckl is planning on April to mark E. Lakeshore Drive and do the ditching work. Lowell said Enbridge renewed their \$100,000 bond and sent it to us. They’re doing the new project on Townline Road and are wondering if this bond is enough to cover the work. Lowell and Norm think it is. Lowell will sign the letter. Richmond Township sent a road maintenance agreement for the roads we share. Bob Harris should review and Lowell will sign if it’s accurate. Norm said we had an oral agreement on these roads and now it’s going to be in writing. Norm made a motion to accept it as long as Bob is good with it, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously. We should create a similar agreement with the other neighboring townships and city of Whitewater.

Public Input – Residents said that Walworth County did a terrible chip and seal job on Hwy P last year. It seems this is the only section of county highway that was done poorly. Carrie will draft and mail a letter. Sgt. Staggs was asked about the damaged guardrail on Highway P. It was damaged during an accident where the driver was likely impaired and said a deer ran out. The guardrail absorbed most of the impact. Bob asked if there’s a concern with the signage for curves and deer.

Claudia Holst said that Carrie does a wonderful job, is very helpful, and goes above and beyond.

Adjourn to Closed Session - Norm made a motion to adjourn into closed session, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously. Called to order. Present: Lowell Hagen, Norman Prusener, Bob Strand, Carrie Hintz, Donna Sherman

Completed Clerk/Treasurer annual review.

Adjourn back to open Town Board Meeting.

Board paid bills.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 8:09pm, seconded by Norm. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer