

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 13, 2017
7:00pm

Present: Lowell Hagen, Robert Strand, Norman Prusener, Donna Sherman

Approval of agenda – Norm made a motion to approve the agenda as written, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the September 7, 2017 special town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes of the September 7, 2017 special town board meeting closed session were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk report – Donna reported that there is a Walworth County Clean Sweep on Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7. More information can be found on the town's website under "notices." Lowell confirmed this was also a Business Clean Sweep.

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

2nd Side Supervisor – Norm meetings about bouys and will speak more about it later in the meeting. He has been out with the chippers picking up down limbs one pothole, said Tim and Amanda are doing well.

1st Side Supervisor – Bob= N/A

Chairman – N/A

Sheriff's Department Incident Report – Sargent Ira Martin read report (see attached).

189 service calls- nothing jumps out 34 traffic stops. Ira followed up regarding the discussion of Warning Stickers but rather than those he brought along a sample bright orange envelope as they have a supply of them (left one with me) that they could insert the warning his only concern was the envelope has a notice of failure to pay fine on it. Ira said they would print out the warning and put it in the envelope there is also a section they could type any comments. Ira said they can still enforce the state/county ordinances as of now they do not enforce the township ordinances. Ira thought there were at least 12 common township ordinances they could start enforcing that are generic in nature. Norm stated the town ordinances tops the state ones Lowell said this envelope would be acceptable to use.

Bob asked if Ira could speak about the recent incident near Whitewater Lake Ira said and unidentified male mid 20's Skinny build had had walked into someone's residence, the homeowner who was bigger in size compared to Ira got into a scuffle and removed the individual from his home while the wife phones police the man took off in a maroon jeep wrangler no license plate was identified. Ira said they are stopping similar vehicles to see if they match the description of the individual. The resident did not want to file a report.

Update on the State of the Whitewater Unified School District (M. Elworthy & M. Sylvester-Knudtson) – District Administrator Mark Elworthy provided an update on the state of the school district. Mark spoke first and introduced Matt. Thanked the Township for supporting the Referendum.

Spoke to Lakeview School since part of our township-

*Plans for the driveway to reduce congestion as well as drainage improvements.

*Updating entry point – step and ramp on east side as well as secure entrance.

*Repurposing the old locker rooms to accommodate STEM (Science Tech Engineering and Math) similar to science labs with teachers coordinating activities it will have concrete flooring and a couple of work areas

*Updating media center

The \$23.5 million bids came in under budget so they looked at possible projects the computer room will be updated next yr at Lakeview as well bathrooms.

Bob asked about enrollment if it was up or down slight bump from 4K to 5K because parents opt to keep kids home. Migrant workers and homelessness is up. Bob asked if he can push parents to use the bus system. Is there a program to entice families to use the bus system rather than seeing 3 kids on a 66 seat bus? Mark said there are no current incentives in place to get them to ride. Mark will make note and report to Carrie the % of those students who ride vs those who don't.

Matt reported about mill rates and it was reported we are below target.

Mark reported Lakeview scored very high in testing and Lowell asked if the improvement was based on their numbers or compared to state and Mark said it was both.

Mark mentioned the ELL (summer program) had 158 students – thanks to Nelson Bus as well as Kiwanis donations.

Touched on Mental Health Consortium

Whitewater high school was awarded with a silver medal as well a staff awards

Lowell asked about ACT scores – Mark mentioned those that took the test we are right below average.

Lowell asked what our cost per pupil is compared to others. Matt will report back to Carrie

Mark also provided the handout (Attached)

Lowell opened it up to questions none asked.

Open building permits through SafeBuilt – Steve Guage and Chris Butschke from SafeBuilt attended. Donna gave this re-cap: Our contract with Independent Inspections, which was bought by SafeBuilt, says that they'll finish out any permits that they issued and collected the fees for. We severed ties with SafeBuilt on 12/31/16 so SafeBuilt could potentially have open permits for our town through 2018 (permits expire 2 years after being issued). However, they'd like to close out as many as they can in 2017. If there are still open unexpired permits at the end of 2017, SafeBuilt is proposing that they compute the percentage yet to be complete and then give the town a refund for that. We would then transfer that over to MZIS (Municipal Zoning and Inspection Service) to complete the permit. Carrie spoke with Greg at MZIS and he is open to this and said that it's not that uncommon. However, he said that he would want to receive and review all inspection reports and paperwork for all incomplete permits before agreeing to it. He would reserve the right to review all of this prior to agreeing to take over the permits to ensure that he isn't taking over any permits that seem to have issues, lawsuits, etc. that MZIS would be walking into.

Steve mentioned there are 58 open permits. Norm asked the ones that are out dated will they be renewed Steve said no it would go to the new people. Lowell said new fees would be assessed. We do not have an ordinance for that Lowell said to make a note of this so when ordinances are reviewed this could be put in place. Norm does not want to get in the middle of it. Rather than getting the money back and would be a lot less confusion for us. With the 58 open there were 24 that expired. Chris said new homes permits should not be left open however smaller projects they may find the project was never started. Lowell said the ones they are opened with say 23 months wouldn't you want to finish them? Lowell confirmed they would be willing to finish those. Steve said rather not but they will as the contract states. Steve said he will work with Carrie. Lowell said he would not be objected if they wanted to work something out with the other party involved and Steve appreciated that. Steve mentioned they are coming out of the busy time of year – so they will be proactive and make follow up calls to follow up on those not completed No other questions. Steve said after Thanksgiving they will review what remains and go from there. Chris mentioned the Mr. Hirsch project he called Chris's office regarding some issues with a gas leak – Chris does not know what violations existed since it occurred 2 yrs ago in 2015.

William Spring donation agreement of rip rap retaining wall on town property near N7535 Ridge Road- Carrie noted that the DNR has approved the retaining wall. Bob confirmed if the next person buys it this would become part of the deed. Norm made a motion to accept it as long as Carrie has a confirming email that the DNR has approved it. Seconded by Bob, the motion passed unanimously.

WE Energy fire calls – There are four fire calls relating to WE Energy lines that Carrie billed to them, but they only paid for one call. Norm suggested that we ask the Whitewater Fire Department to always be very clear on fire call details, especially when it relates to arching wires or power lines so that we can try to collect from WE Energies.

Also mention that John Manierre was originally billed for the 5/28/17 fire call because the fire call report had his address listed. Mr. Manierre informed Carrie that this pole was not on his property. Carrie didn't confirm whether or not this pole was actually on his neighbor's property. Carrie then billed WE Energies for this call, which they aren't paying. Mr. Manierre would like confirmation in writing that this fire call is not his responsibility, which we'll let the board decide. Lowell said we would need to update the ordinances when reviewed in the fall. Norm said it would need to be spelled out in the ordinance. Bob mentioned the Hi-Lo road if we can go after that state since the tree is on the state's property. Norm said the fire dept. needs to be specific on the call if it is a fire call or if the smoke is coming from the wires or transformer box. Lowell suggested we update our contract with the Fire Dept that if a wrong address is listed then we are not responsible for the call. However, to go after WE Energies without an ordinance we can't.

Buoy installation 2018 – Norm said 20 yrs ago 65 buoys, we would leave the anchor, he explained. Bob H. built racks so they could take the anchors off add them to the racks unload them here but now they have permission to leave them at the boat launch. Norm said we should have 3 different size chains buoys' coming loose – many saying more boys are needed. Lowell said we need to set a limit on how many and any more beyond that it would be on them to pay the expense for them and to set them out. Norm said there was a resident (lives on Townline road) Paul Schwartz who was willing to do buoy replacement (he wants to use the pier). Norm said when it is time to take the buoys out cut all chain out replace them and bolt them to the anchor and the buoy. Lowell asked what would be used for an anchor. Norm said it would be the old buoy-could cut the top off and use the bottom for the anchor 60-70 lbs we do not have enough.

Norm said to leave the boat in with a map and take a reading of what buoys are in now and the depth. So we have an idea to start with and report to lake management – of where they want them so we can set a limit. Everyone wants to move them to the front of their house. Norm said our lake is not shaped to have them at an equal distance. Norm said next year we can get a bid to get them put in. The boat should not be used for that. Lowell said the chain should be cut for that specific buoy and they should be used in the same spot. The chain should be according to water depth plus a bit extra. Next spring make sure the buoys stay where we put them – and state how many and have Sean review for safety. Bob asked when the buoys come out. Go around the lake and measure where they are – to report to lake management – we should stick with 125 and if they want more it would be up to them. Bob said when the buoys get picked up he wants to go along. This Sat. Bob is booked. No reason for the buoys to be in the water any longer. Norm will call Sean to set a date.

Policy on contributions for flowers, gifts, etc. – This was brought about by the passing of Bob H. mother passing. Lowell felt if it was someone that works here the township could send flowers. Norm talked to fort hosp it was discussed that a hat was passed. Lowell felt it should be a person that works here on a regular basis and an immediate family member. Bob felt the town should not pay for someone's flowers. Lowell is for a person working here on a full time basis the town should send flowers. Lowell said then it needs to be uniform across the board no giving of township money for anything period. Norm moved to suspend all donations to personal events which will not to be supported by township funds Bob seconded motion carried.

SEWRPC resolution for local endorsement of Vision 2050 – Norm mentioned there was a study about wells not being taken care of that wells would be taken over. Norm made a motion we do not endorse it. Lowell asked for a second, asked for a second, and one more time asked for a second. No Second received the motion the motion failed. Bob made a motion to endorse it as written Lowell seconded all in favor, Norm opposed motion passed.

Other town business – Bob mentioned Townline Rd west of 89 past Jim Wutkes residence for the 2018-19 trip money.

Public Input – Residents – Lowell asked for input.

Resident asked why roads mowed multiple times where East Lakeshore was not as well as trees trimmed. Lowell said there has been a crew out 5 days a week. Tree trunks in the ditches that have been there for years Norm is working with chipping crew now to get rid of the dead wood. Lowell suggested putting additional money in the budget next year to hire additional man power and equipment to get it done. Things are getting done the best they can. No further discussion.

Board paid bills.

Norm made a motion to adjourn at 8:28pm, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Sherman, Deputy Clerk/Treasurer