

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, December 12, 2018  
7:00pm

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

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

The minutes of the November 14, 2018 town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk report – Carrie reported that the 2018 tax bills were mailed November 29.

Treasurer report - Carrie read the account balances. Norm made a motion to accept the clerk and treasurer reports, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

2<sup>nd</sup> Side Supervisor – Norm had a concern about clean up on Hillside Drive. A couple big branches that can be pulled out and chopped up in an hour or two.

1<sup>st</sup> Side Supervisor – None

Chairman - None

Sheriff's Department Incident Report – Ira Martin read the report (see attached). House checks are down for this time of year. Be aware of packages being stolen off of front porches. We haven't had any issues in our township, but it's happening all over. No home burglaries reported.

2019 Fire & EMS / Ambulance contract with Whitewater Fire Department, Inc. – John Pecha and Mike Higgins were present. Mike compared price costs of other townships and their various fire departments. Many other municipalities are higher than Whitewater Township. We pay \$20,400 towards equipment out of our standby fees, which is the highest of the 6 total towns that chip in with the City of Whitewater and the payment is determined by assessed value of the municipality. Carrie said that the 2018 Fire standby fees are \$35,000 and the EMS standby fees are \$22,554 and for 2019 the fees are \$39,200 and 23,020 plus the cost of individual charges for fire and ambulance calls. So far for 2018, the fire and ambulance call charges are over \$18,000. Norm asked if we can get relief from anyone that doesn't pay for their fees. Lowell said every time there's a storm someone calls in wires down and WE Energies doesn't pay us back because they say it's an act of nature. Norm asked if we could split the cost on those or increase our per call charge to help make up the difference. Our contract says a minimum of \$1,000 per call, but most calls are only billed to us at \$900. Norm asked why we don't pay based upon usage versus assessed value. John said the rural area calls are about 25% of all calls so that won't work. He said there's always a level of fixed expenses, but could possibly look at different levels of charges per call. City of Whitewater taxes cover all city calls so they have a higher payment and individual users aren't charged. They said the university students aren't charged for their calls, but rather it's paid for by the city tax payers. Mike said the city would have to decide to take action on changing that and it's not something they've discussed. Mike said the ambulance side is tough in terms of collecting the charges. John said they're running an experiment to see if they can take the collection burden from us. They'll keep us advised. About 4% of total calls (or 1500 calls) require paramedic intercept from Jefferson. Norm said there's a cap on our budget and we can't increase revenue. John said they are a paid per call department at an average of \$13 per hour. Mike as the chief doesn't get any additional stipend for his extra work. In the future, they may have to increase the current \$13 per hour that we're paying for standby calls because we're losing members who are going to other higher-paying municipalities. EMS is on-call 24/7 and we have on-call fire from 10-6. About half of all EMS workers are college students. DLK does a scholarship program to help attract students. Total \$1,075,000 for

2019 budget, which is up about \$20,000 from 2018. About half of revenue is for EMS call collections. City pays about \$225,000 total fire and EMS plus the facilities, billing, payroll, HR, computers, etc. There were 393 calls in 2018 and 93 were rural. Norm said he's glad we have the fire and rescue services for when they're needed. John said they'll come up with a plan to alleviate the left-over expenses at fire and possibly EMS to help the township out. They can't cut services, equipment and gear, or any other excess in order to reduce immediate costs to the township. Billing is possibly an opportunity to reduce costs, but they will investigate. Municipal services payments have been below their budgeted amounts. Bob said they do a fine job. Norm suggested an open house where the townships are shown where the money is spent. John suggested the board attend the pancake breakfast the first Sunday after Labor Day. Mike said there's talk of a bigger facility, but it would be city supplied. That's a very long term project.

2018 bridge inspection report review – Walworth County sent our 2018 bridge report with two maintenance items for the Millis Road bridge: replace the rotten guardrail posts and clean the deck surface. Norm asked if the county can replace those posts in the spring. Carrie will put the request in to the county now for next year.

Sale of 11' Wausau plow – We have an extra 11' 4-way take-off plow from the Oshkosh truck that's probably 20-25 years old from when we switched to the new system. Ed McManaway said it was done when he was at the town. Lowell said we could sell it online or load it on the trailer and scrap it at Kienbaum if we can't get the scrap value on Wisconsin Surplus. Lowell made a motion to put a reserve price of \$350 on Wisconsin Surplus, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

Whitewater Town Code editorial and legal analysis discussion – In late 2017 the town contracted with General Code to do a 2-year recodification process. We have received a manuscript of the town's code and an editorial and legal analysis from General Code. This contains specific questions on the Town's legislation for the board to review and make decisions on. The Town's responses to the analysis as well as any other code changes the town board would like to make should be returned to General Code in March. Norm suggests the board read the paperwork this month and set an hour at the January meeting to go through the changes. Norm said MZIS is suggesting we add in commercial building permits over \$10,000. Norm wants to make sure MZIS wants to do all of the commercial inspections.

Christmas bonuses – Lowell made the motion to pay Christmas bonuses as follows: Sean Blatten \$100, Bob \$150, Tim \$100, Loren \$100, Mike \$50, Carrie \$150, and Donna \$100, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Other town business – None

Public input – None

The board paid bills.

Norm made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm, seconded by Lowell. The motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer*