

# Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes

## Wednesday, January 11, 2017

### 7:00pm

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

The minutes of the December 14, 2016 town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Clerk report – There will be a primary election on February 21. Tim Ryan sent a thank you note to the board for his Christmas bonus and saying that the snow plow drivers are doing a great job.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Side Supervisor – None

2<sup>nd</sup> Side Supervisor – Norm met with John's about televisions that we'll discuss later.

Chairman – None

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

Edge Broadband's request for open cut permits under town roads & in the town right-of-ways for fiber optic cables – Brian Madl would like to move forward with fiber optic, but isn't going to expand his 8 wireless network towers around the lake. In some of the lake areas where he can't provide wireless, he'd like to run fiber optic to every house there. This is a fiber optic that is run off of their existing wireless network. It will greatly improve the service to the customers. Brian thinks he currently has 65-70% of lake customers and believes he'll hook up to 90% or about 500 customers around the lake with the fiber optic. It involves trenching every house and burying underground. Phase 1 is 8,000 feet in the right of way on Pine Knolls, BayView, Alden, West Drive, W. Lakeshore, and State Park Road. He has a wireless hub that will temporarily feed that area's fiber optics. Fiber optic main cable is often at 2 feet deep, depending upon other utilities in the way, but it's up to the town. The drops from the pedestal to the houses are only about 6" deep. Digger's Hotline will know of their information for every pedestal and house. Norm asked if this would be a private cable that would give him a corner on the market. Brian said this would be a private cable like AT&T and Charter own their own cables that can be leased out to other users. Nelson Bus and Burns Industrial have fiber optic lines that AT&T owns but the service is through Windstream. When someone hits the line and breaks it, Brian said that's not generally costly to repair. Brian could repair it but it would be at the cost of the person / business who cut the line as long as it's properly located. Hitting a line would take out a neighborhood. Cable is the size of a hair inside of a tube the size of a pen. Bob asked if the location of the cable could be recorded on the property, but Brian said no that you just call Digger's Hotline to locate. Brian said that he'll be doing the trenching in-house, though he may have to outsource some like railroads and creeks with JR Underground due to the liability. Brian said he is insured in case he'd cut a gas line or something else. They will go to an underground training course and he has a guy who has been doing this for years. Norm suggested \$10/foot restoration that we'd hold until it's restored. Brian said he's part of a couple of associations and restorations are very important. He'll have a separate crew, partly subcontracted possibly to Egnoski, to start. He will use directional drilling underneath the roads and driveways. Once the area fills in and has to be connected to a bigger area, he might use a plow. TDS in Elkhorn and Geneva Online offer fiber optic. Brian said that his competitor, Netwurx, has discussed this as well, but they're focusing on wireless right now. Each resident will pay an installation fee of likely \$200 with a discount to those who can pre-commit, sign a contract, and pay in advance. Monthly plan will be comparable to wireless and should cost under \$100 per month. Norm said when cable television came through years ago they stopped because it wasn't going to hit every house. He's wondering how long this technology will be around and what will come next. Brian said for a wire in the ground, fiber optic is the way to go. The electronics on

each side of the cable can be upgraded. AT&T and Verizon are ditching their underground phone networks. Norm said we have a lot of cables around the town that are cut and not in use. Brian made an initial call to the county and there are some DNR type things he'd have to take care of. Lowell said he doesn't see an issue with this going forward, but he thinks we should have a bond and Brian is okay with that. He hasn't spoken with the neighboring townships yet. Bob asked if Brian needs a community meeting to explain what he's doing, but Brian doesn't think that's needed. Norm said he thinks we should talk to our town lawyer to see if there's value and to see if there is an issue with allowing one company to offer this service. He's worried about giving someone sole area to run a cable and have exclusivity. Brian said anyone else could come in and run lines as well underground and overhead. Carrie checked with the Wisconsin Town's Association and they recommended implementing a utility policy, and provided a sample, that includes an application and permit process that would apply to everyone. Our town attorney would need to review the sample and draft a policy and make sure it addresses all areas of concern for our township. Norm made a motion to send the WTA draft to our attorney to tweak for the town, with a blank space for restitution in a bond, and create a policy, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Brush cutter rental – Carrie said the town cancelled the rental in October when Bob Harris was going to have surgery. The cost to rent the brush cutter for one week is over \$3000, which is \$2400 cutter rental (40 hours at \$60 per hour) plus blades at \$160 per set plus about \$450 delivery /pick-up (\$75 per hour for about 6 hours total). Weyers also offers buy 4 weeks for the price of 3, but still pay delivery/pick-up and blade fees. Bob Harris told Carrie that there is a 2-3 day learning curve so Bob would like to run it himself even though Steve Olson offered. Bob could do 40 hours per week in April because there isn't much else pressing then. Norm said that we currently have half of our roads where we can mow to the fence. If we have 2 part-time guys who can trim for a couple of weeks, they can get a lot done. We could get the other half of our roads trimmed so they too could be mowed up to the fence. Norm said the brush cutter doesn't clear to the fence in 90% of the places and he doesn't think we should rent it. He thinks we should get a crew to clear it and then keep mowing it. Putting a crew together is tough, but we have Tim Ryan and will need another guy. Norm suggested college kids or high-school guys who can work hard. It's a lot of work, but they don't have to race. Richmond probably does a good ¼ mile per day of rough territory by Deep Pond Road. Bob will call Chad Schweitzer to see if he can commit in spring, will call to the high-school for 18-year-old workers, and will call Richmond Township to see if their part-time workers would be available to us because they do a good job. Bob agrees to table to the cutter because he hit and misses with the brush cutter. He agrees with Norm's plan. Tim Otterbacher will check if there is a Walworth County work-release program that could do this work.

Water heater for shop – Bob said he wanted this to keep the trucks cleaned. Bob's plumber suggests a 50 gallon water heater where 35 gallons would be hot while it's recuperating. He'd have a by-pass for just cold water, on-off switch so it's not constantly heating, and his estimate is \$1235 plus electrical service to the north-east corner. We'd need a 220 line with a Delta Electric cost at \$646. A hot water pressure washer is probably more costly. We have a pressure washer that can be used, but it's not hot water. Norm said the pressure washer can take ice off and everything without hot water. Lowell agreed. Norm said you don't want to put a lot of salt in our internal drain, so on nicer days we should wash outside. Bob said on-demand water heaters don't work well in the Midwest, there are annual maintenance costs, and it wouldn't keep up to the gallons per minute we need. Bob made a motion to table the hot water heater, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Water softener for town hall – Bob said he looked into this because the hot water heater should have soft water, so maybe we don't need this since we aren't getting a water heater. We have a softener currently that's not hooked up. Norm said we should have one. Bob got prices from Dalee who could sell us one for \$1097 or rent for \$19.95 per month. Norm said you can get one for \$400 from Menards and he can hook it up. Norm made a motion to let it go, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Temporary Liquor License for the Lion's Club – Bob made a motion to approve the one-day temporary liquor license for the Lion's Club, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Schutt Bartender application – Lowell said he read the background check, but Dan’s problems were years ago and we’ve issued him bartender licenses for many years. Lowell made a motion to issue the license, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

2017 Whitewater Fire Dept. EMS standby contract – Carrie said that the 2017 EMS standby fee is \$18,685. In 2016 it was just over \$15,000. Lowell said that’s a huge jump but we don’t have a choice. Last year fire was over \$30,000 and that will go up this year too. Lowell signed up for a Walworth County committee to look at a county-wide solution. Norm said the hard part is that we have small little areas without the coverage that we want using the volunteer and paid service providers. Lowell made a motion to pay it as it stands, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously.

Abandoned televisions – Norm said that he met with John’s Disposal and we currently have 9 televisions at the hall that we found in the ditches. John’s will take these at no charge. Another town marks televisions on the curb with a sticker with instructions of who to call to dispose and tag the televisions so we know where they came from in case they’re found in the ditch later. Then put the televisions back on their property so that it’s not on the road. John’s has stickers we can use. The ones we find in the ditch John’s will take and weigh them. We can deliver them and in the future they may have to charge us for them because it costs them over \$2000 per truckload to dispose of them. Our job is to inform home owners of the \$40 cost to dispose of them. Norm would like the 3 board members and Bob Harris to carry John’s stickers to tag them. John’s would consider that being the town doing our share. If we find televisions in the ditch with a tag and an address, then we call the sheriff to give them a ticket for littering. Norm made a motion to tag, identify and move televisions onto the owner’s property, seconded by Lowell. Motion passed unanimously.

Other town business – Bob said that the Lohff residence on Ridge Road have a bubbler in the water by their pier. Bob believes they have a DNR permit to do this and have a flashing yellow light. There is a lot of open water, which is a concern for people and animals, especially with the ice fisheree coming up. Tim Otterbacher will ask the DNR warden about it. He said the town wouldn’t be liable for any accidents, but possibly the property owner could be liable.

Public Input – Ed McManaway said a regular hot water heater wouldn’t regenerate quick enough to fuel the pressure water.

Board paid bills.

Bob made a motion to adjourn at 8:34pm, seconded by Norm. The motion passed unanimously.

*Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer*