

Town of Whitewater Town Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

8:00am

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

The minutes of the January 13, 2016 town board meeting were reviewed. Norm made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Interviews for open snow plow position – Brian Madl was the only person who applied for the open position. Board conducted interview. Brian said that he used to have 50-60 plowing accounts with his previous business. He used to plow Chapel Drive before the town took over. He can make himself available at any time, day or night, to snowplow. Lowell made a motion to hire Brian to fill the plowing position, seconded by Norm. Motion passed unanimously. The board made Brian an offer of \$18 per hour for as-needed snow plow work. Brian accepted the position.

East Lakeshore Drive water study, options, and process –

-Doug Snyder of Baxter & Woodman explained that he studied options to improve drainage on E. Lakeshore Drive. He concluded that option 1, which includes the installation of 6 new cross-culverts, grading downstream of these culverts, and debris removal from the upstream ditch on E. Lakeshore Drive, is less costly at \$410,000. The more expensive \$829,000 option includes installation of curb and gutter on the upstream side of E. Lakeshore Drive and the installation of inlets and storm sewer to transfer this water to the launch area near Cruse Lane. His preliminary recommendation is to attempt to attain drainage easements and work toward option one. If that doesn't work, we may be forced to proceed to option two. Option two is taking most of the water to fewer locations. Exhibit A shows 6 drainage basins east of E. Lakeshore Drive. Option one is drainage swails between five or six areas, affecting ten or twelve property owners. There are utilities in the ditch, so inform the utility companies and let the utility companies relocate if necessary. To scrape them out we don't want to go any deeper than the existing culvert. Would then need to regularly maintain that ditch. Main problem was letting people build along the lake over the years without proper drainage. There will be maintenance with any option. The second option has curb and gutter with storm sewer, and will need to clean the catch basins and sweep. Would eliminate most parking on the east side. These options should help with a 10-year rain, but not a 100-year rain. So this is not a permanent cure-all.

-The number of properties affected could be either 1) everyone in the orange box on the map and toward the lake or 2) just the people on the lake who are the people having the problems. Bob said that there are about 46 properties on the lake from past Larry's Road up to Highway P. Or there are about 63 properties if you include the properties on the east side of the lake that is sending the water down to the lake. Generally Town would borrow the money and then add half a percent for our administrative costs and do a special assessment to the affected property owners.

-Doug said that every driveway should have a culvert. The buried culvert in area 4 could be omitted and have everything flow down to area 3, with some adjustments and extra cost. Survey crew would need to come out and get more exact measurements. Can also share the existing conditions report and let the property owners agree to get a swail there, and then we'll fix our culvert. Tell them if they don't agree on the swail, then the town won't take any action. At 7611 and 7613 the water goes through and underneath their yards and dumps on 7617. Doug said there was likely a swail there in the past and had to put a pipe in to build the houses. Norm said he'd like to see a storm sewer go to Cruse Lane. Need to keep the water off the road. Option 2 is to abandon at least 2 cross culverts. Storm sewer isn't all the way up and down the road. Curb and gutter brings water to inlets on B side to take it to these outlets. Cruse Lane would need an underground sewer. If the lake is higher, the pipe stays full and pushes water back into the ditches. Five vertical feet between road and lake at Cruse Lane, so this shouldn't be an issue. DNR also needs to be involved when dumping water into the lake and must meet their requirements. Can also do this work in pieces. Biggest hurdle is deciding whether we want to do anything.

- Claudia Holst, E. Lakeshore Drive property owner, thinks each resident should take care of their own water issues, like she has with her property over the years. She thinks the town should maintain the culverts and clean the ditches, but not take care of everyone's water issues.

-Bob suggested sending a letter to all people affected so they can see the options and maps. Doug suggested putting exhibit A on the website with a letter to homeowners saying the town is considering this and needs property owner input. Next step is informative open house on a Saturday in May with maps, questions and answers, and a suggestion box. Letter should say the town is considering improvements to E. Lakeshore Drive and we'd like their input.

-Attorney Brian Wanasek of Wanasek, Scholze, Ludwig, Ekes & Iselin, SC explained that, if the board decides to do the work, the standard is to charge the properties that will get the direct benefit of the work. It's like you're creating a small drainage district. Brian said some cost could be special assessed to the property owners on E. Lakeshore Drive and some could be Town costs. It's also an option to not special assess and have the Town pay the total cost.

-Norm made a motion to name the project of improving E. Lakeshore Drive and set a date for an open house where people can come and look at the possible proposals and offer their input, seconded by Bob. Motion passed unanimously.

Other town business – None

Public input - None

Board paid bills.

Norm made a motion to adjourn at 9:25am, seconded by Bob. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Carrie Hintz, Clerk/Treasurer