

Municipal Boundary Review
P.O. Box 1645
Madison, WI 53701

Subject: Proposed Incorporation-Village of Tichigan

Position: Register in Opposition

Dear Board of Review:

The August 2, 2021 meeting at the Waterford Town Hall brought to light many common concerns on various items.

One of the most obvious, the complaints of the townspeople that the town hasn't communicated nor answered questions, was blatantly over obvious.

How are people expected to make informed decisions with the lack of information?

I personally, along with others, had to go to the Village's meetings to get some knowledge. They were very obliging.

I also that went outside the town & village and found others, in professional positions, that underwent incorporation exercises, some were successful, some were not but, the 2 things I learned from all I spoke with is: 1.) Taxes will go up, they have to, not if but when. 2.) Behind a move to incorporate are just a handful who stand to gain or profit by the move and the residents end up paying for it, not profiting by it. One individual suggested I take all bets from anyone stating taxes will NOT go up, I'll be a rich man !

Prior to the meeting, not only were people not informed, a plethora of scuttlebutt and disinformation flooded the town at gatherings, social media, etc.

Worse yet, it was spread by not only by the misinformed but by members of the board what I believe were scare tactics. Such as:

- Your taxes are going up !
- Mil rate will jump !
- If you don't vote in favor, the village of Waterford will seize the Town of Waterford !

Again, let me reiterate, Town board members, lying to their constituents.

The scariest part of the meeting that I walked away with is when the Town dept. heads got up and said "nothing will change" relative to that departments supplied services. That virtually seems impossible if Incorporation were to happen.

Sewer/Sanitation:

The last two years rates jumped over 24%. The reasons given for the hikes were required maintenance to an old system.

However, during the review board meeting the town said the sewer infrastructure could maintain growth til 2035 !! At what cost to townspeople.

Fire & EMS:

Relative to criteria to meet incorporation mandates, I have been battling, way before the word "incorporation" was muttered, almost 2 years now, "Response Time" by Fire & EMS. When the decision to not renew the Village's Fire & EMS service, many concerns surfaced, not only by residents but also by board members. (See attached Journal Times article dated 9-18-2019.) That made me ask for a report from the town as this was going to cost more with less coverage.

Subsequently, I was discovering, almost by accident, incidences of disconcerting long response 911 times that was hardly believable. So I investigated.

One incident, Tichigan Volunteer Fire Dept(TVFD) incident #21-063, dated 3/15/21 Was personally witnessed by me relative to arriving at patients home lead by/escorted by Tichigan Police Dept.(TPD). After review of both the TVFD and TPD's reports(see attached) there was a discrepancy between arrival times at patients home. The ambulance, who was right behind the TPD, reported they arrived 8 mins before the TPD.

When I made this public, to the Town Board, I was bashed on social media by the Assistant TVFD Chief, (see following) that stated it was impossible and also they do not ask for TPD escorts. I didn't say they requested it, but they definitely arrived directly in front of the ambulance:

Mr. Gavin DeGrave's Response:

At the recent Town Hall Annual Meeting, a citizen voiced his concern that he had "investigated" a life and death issue with regards to TVFC. This stemmed from an alleged 9 minute discrepancy between the arrival time of TVFC as stated on a fire report vs a Waterford PD report. After researching this issue with Waterford PD, we can find no evidence of such an instance. As the Waterford PD report does not generally include any response information regarding Fire & EMS apparatus, I am not sure where this information is coming from. If the concerned individual would like to reach out to us with further information about the specifics of this or any of the "several instances" they believe there was an issue, we will be happy to research them further. Without any specifics, at this time we can not lend any credence to the comments made and refute them as such.

During the comments made, it was also indicated that WPD had escorted the TVFC ambulance on scene. For the record, WPD does not "escort" our ambulances to EMS calls, nor could WPD recollect any instances of doing so. It may be possible that the two agencies arrived at the same time, but merely as a matter of circumstance, not policy.

As always, we are happy to work with the citizens on any concerns. As a point of information, since TVFC has taken over responding to the full Town area, we have not received any complaints from the citizens we have served. We have however, received multiple messages of thanks and gratitude.

Gavin DeGrave
Assistant Chief
Tichigan Volunteer Fire Company

Ms. Laurie Schneiker's response(wife of patient) to Gavin:



Laurie Schneiker

I am the spouse of the person concerned here, I have seen both reports and there is a difference in times as stated. I was not present but my daughter was and was quite concerned of the time frame for a response from the 911 call. We have called a few years earlier and the response time was not even half the time of present call, quite alarming in a critical situation. This needs to be revisited because it's not acceptable.

Tichigan Police Dept. Report:

8 minute arrival time discrepancy between two depts..



CAD Activity Detail Report

Printed On: 04/12/21 14:06

Town of Waterford

21-002739 4520 Golf Ln;TW **Rescue Run (RR1)**
 Reported : 03/15/2021 10:32:52 Prime Unit : 7716
 Priority : 1 Call Taker : Aukland, Chelsy R
 Stacked : 10:33:29 Dispatcher : Jones, Janet L
 Dispatched : 10:34:48 Case# :
 Arrived : 10:53:05 Finished : 10:53:08
 Disposition : No Rep't To Follow

Notes

Date	Unit	Notes	PF
03/15/2021 10:32:52		62 Y/O MALE VOMITING BLOOD - HE IS CONCS - USE THE FRONT DOOR	9356
03/15/2021 10:34:48		Dispatched: 7716	7168

Names

Activity	Name	DOB	Address	Phone#
Complainant	Schneiker, Scott, J	11/25/1957	4520 Golf Dr Waterford , WI 53185	H:(262) 514-3628

Units

Unit	Unit Time	Activity	Officer	Dispatcher	Disposition
7716	03/15/21 10:34:48	DI DISPA	9025		
7716	03/15/21 10:34:54	AC ACKNOWLEDGE		9025	
7716	03/15/21 10:50:48	NC - NAMES CHECK	9025		
7716	03/15/21 10:52:32	NC	9025		
7716	03/15/21 10:53:05	AR ARRIVED	9025		
7716	03/15/21 10:53:08	FI FINISHED	9025		No Rep't To Follow

Monday, March 15, 2021

Nygren, Nicholas (9025)

10:34:48	DI	7716	Prime Unit
10:34:54	AC	7716	
10:50:48	NC	7716	Name SCHNEIKER, SCOTT ; 11-25-1957 , LAT: 42.776378066667, LONG: -88.218040683333
10:52:32	NC	7716	Name SCHNEIKER, SCOTT R; 11-25-1957 , LAT: 42.776379916667, LONG: -88.218048483333
10:53:05	AR	7716	
10:53:08	FI	7716	

Tichigan Volunteer Fire Dept. Report, p1

Complex Control: Schneiker, Scott J

Incident 21-063

Number:

PCR #: 9333843513

9342609709

07b81e69d

421

Response/Trip #: 21.000098



Comprehensive Care Report

Patient Information

Name: Schneiker, Scott J Age: 63 Years D.O.B.: 11/25/1957
Address: 4520 Golf Dr Waterford, WI 53185 Gender: Male Race: White
Social Security Number: 394-66-9995

Patient Phone

Table with 2 columns: Patient's Phone Number, Type. Row 1: (262) 210-0665, Mobile

Incident Details

Service Type: 911 Response (Scene) Dispatch Complaint:: Nausea/Vomiting
AHC Transfer:: Not Recorded Veh. #: R736 Call Sign: R736
Response Mode: Emergent (Immediate Response) Unit Primary Role:: Ground Transport
Transport Mode: Non-Emergent Transport Method: Ground-Ambulance
Disposition: Treated, Transported by this EMS Unit
Level of Service Provided: ALS (No Med Control Contact)
Sending Type: Single-family (private) house/residence Receiving Type: Hospital-Emergency Department
Receiving: Milwaukee (Zablocki) VA Med Ctr
5000 WEST NATIONAL AVENUE
Milwaukee, WI 53295
Sending (incident Address): 4520 Golf Ln Waterford, WI 53185 Dest. Determ.: Patient's Choice
Response Zone: 5

Times and Mileage

Sending Odometer: 0

Incident #: 21-063

Printed: 03/31/2021 11:27

Printed: 03/31/2021 11:27

Printed: 03/31/2021 11:27

Response/Call #: 21.000098
PCR #: 9333843513
9342609709
07b81e69d
421

Electronically Signed:

Tichigan Volunteer Fire Dept. Report, p2

3/31/21 Incident 1610280

Complex Control: Schneiker, Scott J

Assigned: 03/15/2021

10:33:52

03/15/2021

10:34:57

03/15/2021

10:44:30

03/15/2021

10:45:00

03/15/2021

10:51:10

03/15/2021

11:31 :43

03/15/2021

11:44:47

Incident 21-063

Number:

PCR #: 9333843513

9342609709

07b81e69d

421

Response/Trip 21.000098

#:

Receiving Odometer: 31.9

Departed: : Patient Loaded Miles: 31.9

Arrived - Sending Location:

Arrived - Patient: Beginning

Odometer:

Depart - Sending:

Arrived - Receiving:

Available:

Narrative

Narrative: Dispatched 911 Emergency for report of a 63 y/o male who is vomiting blood.

Responded without delay and arrived to residence and found pt. sitting on his bed. Pt. is holding garbage can that has significant amount of blood in it. Pt. states he has vomited a few times and is still feeling nauseous. Pt. has no reports of pain and reports no trauma in recent days to abdominal area. Pt. had liver transplant 26 years ago and is a Type 2 diabetic. Assisted pt. in walking to cot for transport to the VA hospital. En route, VS obtained and recorded aU within normal limits. IV established in L forearm - 20 Ga flush/lock. Blood Glucose checked and recorded at 244. Pt reports that he has not had much appetite for the past few days and did not take any insulin today. Pt. reports normal BM this morning that was soft, but contained no blood. Pt. is AOx4 throughout transport with no change in condition. Pt. vomited several times during transport into emesis bag. Bright red blood totaling approx 150 cc in emesis bag. VS checked every 5 minutes and remained consistent. One minor dip in BP to 113/58 but returned to baseline with next VS. Pt. delivered to ED staff in room 18, report given and signatures obtained. Returned to quarters in service.

Medication

M. Borchardt - AEMT

Past Medical History

Patient Medications

Dosage Route

Unable to Complete

Medication Allergies
Medication Allergies
Unable to Complete
Incident #: 21-063 Printed:: 03/31/2021
11:27 Printed:: 03/31/2021
11:27
Printed:: 03/31/2021
11:27
Response/Call 21.000098
#:
PCR #: 9333843513
9342609709
07b81e69d
421
<https://www.emsmedicalelite.com/Elite/Organizationemsmmedicalbilling>

Note: These two reports were already in Ms. Schneiker's hands when Mr. Gavin DeGrave posted on social media, but he could not find any record of the incident !!

At the recent Town Hall meeting, one week after the Review Board's meeting, the TVFD's Chief Miller made a statement saying people should get accurate information before going around bashing the TVFD-they really should investigate themselves especially when Mr. Miller, for the first time I ever heard, reported response times of the TVFD and their response times weresupposedly better than the village's FD !!

- In last Monday night's meeting(8/9/21), Chief Bill Miller reported some statistics of the Tichigan Volunteer Fire Company (TVFC) that were based on an "average". It is difficult to provide an analysis of the TVFC's statistics as reported in last night's meeting, because reporting with "averages" is neither how the Waterford Village Fire Department (WVFD) nor the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) measures performance. An average is a 50% reflection - simply put, 50% of the time a measured performance metric is [better] and 50% of the time a measured performance metric is [worse]. The WVFD does not make decisions that impact the lives and safety of human life based on a 50/50 flip of a coin.
 - Chief Miller stated that TVFC's Dispatch to Enroute "average" is two minutes and thirty nine seconds (2:39). Using "averages", this means that 50% of the time, TVFC takes longer than (2:39).
 - Chief Miller stated that TVFC's Enroute to Arrive "average" is (4:69). It is unclear to me why Chief Miller would not report this "average" as (5:09).
 - If adding the two "averages" together, (Dispatch to Enroute + Enroute to Arrive) it would seem to that the "average" Dispatch to Arrive time should be (7:48) and not the (7:08) "average" that Chief Miller reported. In both cases, using "averages", this means that 50% of the time, TVFC takes longer than whatever "average" is reported.
 - The foundation for how Chief Miller arrived at the "averages" as reported remains unclear, confusing and hard to understand.
- The WVFD reports statistics focused on the performance of fire suppression vehicles and/or patient transporting ambulances as these vehicles are properly equipped with the tools to help solve a customer's problem. It is unclear if Chief

Miller used this same metric to report his "averages", or if his "averages" include the response data of first responders in personal vehicles responding from their homes. For clarity, this does not serve to debate the efficacy of first responders in personal vehicles, rather it is a progress report for the customer. When a Village of Waterford Fire Dept. customer's house catches fire, they've expressed to their Village Board a desire to have a fire truck respond [quickly] equipped with the personnel and tools to put the fire out. The WVFD's focus is to report progress based on the requests of the customer base and the methods we use to measure their performance are given to them through the wisdom and guidance provided by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA).

- The NFPA issues a standard of guidance and as such, the WVFD makes decisions based on the 90%. It would seem that Chief Miller reported Monday night his 2021 "averages" as less than 8 minutes in an effort to depict a shorter response time than WVFD. I do not believe this is an accurate reflection of actual performance based on the use of "averages" and I believe the statement to be misleading when comparing TVFC service delivery to WFD service delivery. Specifically, the comparison at hand is TVFC's 50% versus WFD's 90%. Chief Miller did report a 2021 "average" Dispatch to Arrive time Monday night. For the purposes of the points listed below, WVFD's data is compared using the same Dispatch to Arrive performance equation. The WVFD's "8 minutes" is outlined below:
 - By measuring 90%, WVFD delivers [XYZ] service to a specifically defined standard 90% of the time. Simply put, 90% is a more accurate representation of actual performance, versus 50%, half the time, or "average" service data.
 - In 2019, the WVFD responded to 101 calls for service in the Town of Waterford that were not part of the Automatic Mutual Aid agreement (Structure Fires) or otherwise explicit requests for assistance by the TVFC. 101 calls for service were mitigated by the WVFD.
 - To compare and clarify Chief Miller's statement made last night, WVFD's 90th percentile was (8:00) or less.
 - Put another way, out of 101 calls for service to Town of Waterford customers, only 10 out of 101 times did the WVFD take longer than (8:00) to arrive at the scene of the emergency.
 - WVFD's longest response to the Town of Waterford was (10:08) and is the only incident out of the 101 thoroughly documented incidents where the response time was in the (10:00), or longer, category.
 - WVFD's response data is measured using the performance of fire suppression vehicles or Paramedic ambulances with patient transporting capabilities.
 - Chief Miller stated that TVFC's "average" 2021 Dispatch to Arrive response time is (7:08). 50% of the time TVFC is faster than (7:08), 50% of the time TVFC takes longer than (7:08). The TVFC did not report their longest response time.
 - When WVFD delivered service to the Town of Waterford under contract, WFD's 90th percentile was (8:00) minutes. 90% of the time (91 out of 101)

WVFD was faster than (8:00) and only 10% of the time (10 out of 101) WVFD took longer than (8:01).

In summary, Chief Miller stated in last night's meeting that TVFC's "average" response time is 7 minutes and compared it to WFD's response time of 8 minutes - this presents a confusing, inaccurate and misleading comparison of apples to oranges. The WVFD measures the performance of fire suppression vehicles and paramedic ambulances using the 90th percentile. The WVFD does not measure performance using "averages" as it is not a reliable metric to use in making life and death decisions. Chief Miller offered that if anyone has a question regarding TVFC performance, they should direct their inquiries to Chief Miller. In fairness to WVFD, I would then ask Chief Miller what TVFC's performance is at the 90th percentile.

Journal Times Article:

Waterford Town Board votes against re-opening fire contract negotiations with village

Jonathon Sadowski
Sep 18, 2019

WATERFORD — A divided Town Board voted Wednesday morning not to resume fire and emergency medical service contract negotiations with the Village of Waterford.

It's a move that jeopardizes intergovernmental relations and that will let 1,000 town households fall under the jurisdiction of the Tichigan and Rochester volunteer fire companies beginning Jan. 1.

In a last-ditch effort to preserve the current contract, the Village Board voted earlier this month to extend the agreement through 2020 to allow more time to hash out the details. By rejecting the extension, the Town Board cemented its decision made last month to cancel the contract, leaving the Rochester Volunteer Fire Co. to pick up coverage in the southern area of the town that the village's Fire Department currently serves.

Village President Don Houston, in an attempt to give different avenues for negotiation, laid out three options for the town, and Town Supervisor Dale

Gauerke relayed those at the meeting. Houston proposed: for the village to cover the existing area for \$20,000 per year plus EMS fees; for the village to cover 50% of the town for \$10,000 per year plus EMS fees; and for the village to cover the entire town for \$101,940 per year

In comparison, the Tichigan Volunteer Fire Co.'s proposal for covering the entire town is \$179,000, or \$77,060 more than the village's proposal.

Town Chairman Tom Hincz and supervisors Tim Szeklinski and Nick Draskovich voted against a motion to reopen the negotiations, while supervisors Teri Jendusa-Nicolai and Gauerke voted in favor of continuing discussions.

"We've got to think about the long-term growth of the town," Szeklinski said in an interview after the vote. It was "a very tough decision" to vote against further negotiations, he added.

Szeklinski's son volunteers at the Tichigan Fire Co., but Szeklinski said he did not consider recusing himself from the vote because he and his son don't discuss the company much.

"Even if I would have recused myself, it would have tied and the original thing would have stood," Szeklinski said.

Response time concerns

Gauerke, Jendusa-Nicolai and several town residents expressed concern that town residents currently under protection of the village Fire Department could experience longer response times because the Fire Department is staffed 24/7, whereas the Tichigan and Rochester fire companies are not. The Tichigan Fire Co. has a second station south of the Caldwell area of the town, but it is not currently manned.

"If a rescue squad can come in two or three minutes from the village, versus even (Tichigan's) station two — if it is rehabbed, it's going to be operated with volunteers, not with onsite staff — so it can't possibly match the response time," Gauerke said in an interview. "Every minute can be the difference between a life saved or lost. ... For the southern part of the town, I think the village fire and rescue is better equipped to handle those emergencies, and the northern part of the town around Tichigan Lake, probably Tichigan Fire is just fine."

To maintain a similar response speed for the southern part of the town, Jendusa-Nicolai suggested a call-intercept agreement between the village and town fire departments. Such an agreement would have the closest unit to respond to a call, she said.

“Say that couple with their baby calls, ‘Our baby’s not breathing, we need a paramedic in two minutes,’” Jendusa-Nicolai said. “(With) the intercept plan, that call would go to the closest place so they can get to them. We would pay the village for doing that on a per-call basis. That would be, I think, my next move to make sure those highly critical calls are covered.”

Jendusa-Nicolai said that while she felt the Tichigan Fire Co. could scale its services to effectively cover the entire town in the future, she did not think it was prepared to do so on such short notice.

“Tichigan didn’t ask for this, so I don’t think they should be rushed into (the decision),” she said.

Officials with the Tichigan Fire Company did not immediately respond to an email on Wednesday about the change in service.

Closed to comment

The meeting — which took place at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday — was closed to public comment, but a handful of residents still attended.

Town resident Tammie Begotka, during the meeting, challenged Hincz’s decision to close the meeting to comment.

“Wouldn’t you want to hear from the people that you serve on what our comments are, what our concerns are?” Begotka said.

Hincz responded, “No, because if I opened it up, then it would be everybody sitting there, and we have had two meetings to discuss this with public information.”

After the meeting, Begotka told The Journal Times that she lives in the town’s Waterford Woods subdivision and has had to call the village Fire Department before to treat her son. Personnel arrived at her house in two minutes, she said.

'Something's wrong here'

Despite the vote, Begotka said she hopes the Town Board would still reconsider its stance.

"The fact that they don't let people comment and give our opinions, something's wrong here," Begotka said.

Town resident Scott Burns voiced the same opinion.

"I just wish we could have had the opportunity to give input on this," Burns said. "The only opportunities that the residents were given ended up in closed session, and we weren't allowed to talk, so this has just been run through."

At a joint meeting on Sept. 4, town and village officials vowed to work together moving forward. On the agenda were discussions on the fire/EMS contract, the police contract and a boundary agreement. All items were left unresolved except for the fire contract, with the Village Board voting to extend it and the Town Board voting to consider reopening negotiations.

The village contracts with the town for police coverage, and Police Chief Matt Johnson said on Sept. 4 that he hoped the department could continue to serve both communities. Both municipalities' leaders were also open to a boundary agreement that would limit the amount of the town's land that the village could annex.

Other points of contention

Now, the police contract and boundary agreement seem to be non-starters. Village Administrator Zeke Jackson previously threatened to end "any way that we cooperate" with the town if the supervisors did not reverse course. Houston indicated Wednesday that the Village Board may indeed end up severing ties between the two communities.

"I don't know what our next steps are going to be," Houston said. "It's up to the board, but I doubt if it'll include the town."

Gauerke, who has served on the board for more than a quarter century, warned fellow Town Board members before the vote that not reconsidering the cancellation would damage the town and village's relationship for the foreseeable future.

"The decision we make today could either heal or destroy our relationship with the village for a generation to come," Gauerke said.

Jendusa-Nicolai had similar concerns, saying, "I didn't want to give the village the impression that, 'Nope, we're not working with you,' because now everything else is just going to spiral down from there."

Szeklinski denied that the Town Board was effectively cutting off intergovernmental relations with the vote.

“We want to work together,” Szeklinski said. “We want to work together; I do.”
But Houston did not see it that way after the meeting.

“To me, it’s very clear on how the town wants to work with us: They don’t,”
Houston said. “Like I said, I got the message loud and clear, as our board did.”

Summary:

Decisions like the Fire and EMS selection which is a life & death service only goes to prove the board has abandoned common sense and is not serving the best interest of the townspeople and could not serve the townspeople in another form of governance such the issue at hand-Incorporation.

Sincerely,

Ed & Anna Olender, 22 year Town of Waterford residents-Waterford Woods
4609 Riverside Road
Waterford, WI 53185
Cell: 262-210-7655
eolender@aol.com