

## Schmidtke, Erich J - DOA

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**From:** Scott Burns <scottcburns@me.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 6:16 PM  
**To:** Vick, Dawn - DOA; sharonl@wi.rr.com; Schmidtke, Erich J - DOA; Powers, Renee M - DOA; richeggleston@gmail.com; Goehrwic@gmail.com; jnickels@manitowoc.org  
**Subject:** Waterford Town Board incorporation

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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To the Board Review Members

My name is Scott Burns and I, along with my family, live the Town of Waterford, WI.

I want to go on record, not supporting the Incorporation of the Town to the Village of Tichigan for the following reasons.

The overwhelming reasons for not supporting this are, since this process began (just of over 2 years ago) the Town Board has gone out of their way to silence anyone that spoke out about the incorporation. They have slandered and lied about people's character just for asking simple questions. I know because for the last 2 years it has been aimed at me and select other few residents.

Every Town Board meeting that we could try to attend and ask questions or gather information was abruptly put in closed session or worse the Town Chairman would openly say "He didn't want to hear questions or comments about this issue". So, for 2 years we have not been given **ANY information about this process and the impact on the community.**

I hope you all noticed that when the Town began their presentation they showed a slide of what surrounding communities they were working out Boarder agreements with. Oddly the community that was missing on the list was the Village of Waterford and more the point the most important neighbor that they should be trying to work out a boarder agreement with. I believe the Town Board meeting minutes will show that in December/January, the Town board passed a resolution to contact all surrounding communities to begin the process of coming to a boarder agreement. They listed who should be contacted and the Village was intentionally left out.

It is a documented fact the Village sent requests to the Town Board 3 or maybe even 4 times to have a sit down meeting between the municipalities with only 1 requirement and that was, it had to be open to public so both communities could be involved and informed. The Town declined every invitation because they wanted the meeting closed so the public would not be able to attend. Which of course begs the question why and I believe the answer is simple. The Town Board knows the land mass and population density, per state statues, would not meet the requirements and is in fact, far to large with population density to spread out.

It's my belief and have heard that at least 2 Town board members have said openly that the Town is anticipating the Board of Review will not approve the incorporation as it is currently filed and will ask for a scaled down land mass. Then the Town will pick the most populated area within the Town boarders as their city center (Waterford Woods and Buena Park subdivisions) and refile with the hopes that will fly and then they, the new Village of Tichigan, can annex the remaining Town property. I strongly believe that is the reason for NO open meeting as citizens would be outraged to think they would be left with no town governance.

Another troubling thing we have had to deal with is Fire and EMS coverage. 3 years ago, the Town was covered by the Tichigan fire company and the Village of Waterford Fire Department. It's important to note that the Tichigan fire

company is a volunteer fire house and Village Fire Department is a fulltime fire house with Paramedic level staffing 24/7. Around 1100 homes in the south and west portion of the Town were covered by the Village and that made perfect sense as the Village Fire house is about a mile from the Hwy 83/20 intersection. The Village charged the Town an insignificant rate to cover those household and the response times were some of the best, if not the best in the County. Then for reasons unknown at the time, 2 years ago the Town Board decided to change that coverage and drop the Village Fire Department in favor of Tichigan Fire Company for the entire community.

The Tichigan Fire Company is 12 miles away in the far north east corner of the Town. From the HWY 83/20 intersection and keeping in mind that they are volunteer, many citizens where every concerned because response time in an emergency were going from 3-4 minutes with the Village Fire Department to 12- 15 minutes or longer with Tichigan Fire Company. In addition to the response times, the Town Board doubled the amount the Tichigan Fire was paid for the additional coverage, actually costing the Town more in overall fees for what many felt was a down grade to our Fire sand EMS coverage.

Let me go on record as saying this not about the fire fighters in the Tichigan Company. They are fine public servants, without question, and do the absolute best they can within the parameters of their offering to the community. This strictly about response times in an emergency. 3-4 minutes compared to 12-15 minutes can be life or death and public safety should be the only consideration, if everything else is equal.

At the time I repeatedly asked for information and reasons for the change in service and again the Town board would not answer any questions and played the same games with closed meeting to side step our/my questions, to the point that I decided to run for seat on the Town Board that year (2019). Then things really got out of control with standing Town Board members openly calling me a liar and questioning my honesty and integrity because I was asking simple questions about this horrible decision to change our Fire and EMS service.

Who could have known at the time, that this change was being put in place to show that the Town could provide its own services in this incorporation process. Perhaps if the Town has been forthright, this change to our Fire and EMS coverage would have had some kind of reasoning and helped clear the air, so to speak, but nothing was offered from the Town Board. We lost that battle and others have or are providing documented reports of slower response time in spite of manipulated the call times.

When all is said and done it should be noted that the Town Board has not been forthcoming on this incorporation and will stoop to bullying and disparaging the character of anyone that is questioning the process. It seems to me that part of the process is to be forth coming with residence and to keep them informed of the progress in the process and for that reason alone the petition to incorporate would be denied.

The Communities of the Town of Waterford and the Village of Waterford are being torn apart because the Chairman and the Town Board have used fear to allow people to think the Village is forcibly coming to take their property and tax them into submission and it's simply not the truth. The real reasons for this incorporation are more about aging vendetta's and personal enrichment and not about the communities and trying to find a way to work together and get along. If the Village of Tichigan is granted this incorporation the unintended consequences will further divide a community that was once one community.

This incorporation is being attempted for ALL THE WRONG REASONS and should be denied.

Sincerely

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