

NOTICE: DRAFT MINUTES - subject to change, pending final approval by the Town Board

**TOWN OF WALWORTH REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Monday, July 16, 2018 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING @ 7:00 PM
W6741 BRICK CHURCH ROAD, WALWORTH, WI**

- 1) Pledge of allegiance
- 2) Rowbotham called the meeting to order
- 3) Roll call: David Rowbotham, Steve Santeler, Bill Pearce, Marie Baker and Eric Sterken; all present and 14 audience members
- 4) Meeting was properly posted
- 5) Amend agenda, approve amendment(s) None
- 6) Public comments –

Robert Stewart - I am here on behalf of Eric Sterken. There is a small gene pool for workers like Eric and the Board should step up. Eric is always working. I see Eric mowing the Cemetery with his own mower and kids helping. Give him what he needs.

Robert Pearce - I am Eric's neighbor and I know him, as a kid he worked for me, he's a farm boy, he knows tractors and machinery, and he works hard & knows how to work. Give him what his family needs.

Ron Ellis - I am here to support Eric, Eric just knows what needs to be done. He doesn't need to be told what to do.

Glen Feltham - Same topic Eric does a great job. I don't hang out with Eric. I am here to support him, Eric is always busy. The town needs to pay a realistic wage for a good employee. Chatter in Coffee Shop about how the Town of Linn was getting Eric no matter what. I think we should step up & pay him.

Joe Abell - I have had the privilege of being part of hiring Eric for the job. We interviewed many people, and without a doubt Eric was the best & better ever sense and he laid out a highway program for the town. Talk to a lot people and driving and doing things we're the best in the county. We got that way because of Eric. Pay him what he wants, keep him.

Alex Rasch - I moved here in October and it didn't take long to get to know Eric and I could tell right away he has a strong work ethic. Give him what is needed to retain the talent. Step up with the little things behind the scenes. Make sure he has what he needs, full support. It will take 2-3 to replace him and cost a lot more. The Town should have stepped up when they first heard about the Town of Linn wanting him shows him you don't really have his back. You have had opportunity to step up to the plate, I hope you guys do it tonight.

Chris Miller – Compliments to Eric high honors. I agree it will take 2 + men to replace Eric. You can't pick and choose today. He'll be hard to replace and I hope you keep Eric around he's a compliment to the community.

Tammy Sterken is Eric's wife, she thanked the Town for hiring him, he goes out in the evenings when the Sheriff calls in minutes, and this takes away from family time. Eric wasn't looking to leave but with three kids, we have financial needs. Eric enjoys the people he works with and we always call this his baby this is his home and where he grew up. Eric really enjoys his job.

Michael Stewart - My dad talked earlier and everything he said is true. Eric takes care of the Town & is a great worker and family guy. Driving down the road I'd see Eric and he waves with a smile on his face. There's nothing around here that he doesn't already have a plan to do.

Eric Sterken – The Board has given me great equipment and support. I don't want to hold anybody over the barrel. The Town did offer more money and I took less. I appreciate everyone being here and what they have to say. I want the Town to succeed whether with me or someone else. The Town is not the bad people here. It's a joint effort to make me look good. Thank you.

Bill Pearce - I have known Eric for all his life. He showed up on time to pick sweet corn as a kid for them and is always there and was responsible. He's an asset to the Town. Eric would ask for things to help do his job better and we would figure it out, with Eric's help, to get him what he needed. You can tell when you leave our township. I want to commend Eric on an excellent job.

Marie Baker - @ \$68,000 it would cost each resident \$40.35 to keep Eric and @ \$65,000 it would cost \$38.57. I enjoy working with Eric and sometimes I don't even see him because he is out working.

Steve Santeler - I have been in government for 32 years in different capacities. I have negotiated union contracts and I have seen good & bad. I have dealt with bad and you can't get rid of a bad egg. Eric is on the good end. His work ethic is unparallel to what I have seen. Job well done.

David Rowbotham - As a resident I travel for my job and I like what he see here. Speaking as a Town Chairman, Eric told me when the Town of Linn approached him on this. I am very fortunate as Town Chairman because the work is just done and I have no calls about work not getting done. We'll talk about ways to keep him and I personally, and the board will take what the audience said very strongly. We feel the same way you do. I'd like to work on keeping him and we want him to stay. It is Eric's decision in the end.

Santeler made a motion to amend the agenda to move Number 7 after Number 8/ Pearce 2nd; carried 3-0

- 7) Discussion/Action on acceptance of Road Superintendent Eric Sterken resignation – heard after Number 8 – Sterken did not present his resignation - Pearce motion to table until Monday, July 23, 2018 @ 7:00 PM/Santeler 2nd; carried 3-0
- 8) Closed Session: To consider a motion on whether or not to conduct a closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility for the Road Superintendent – Pearce motion to go into closed session/Santeler 2nd; carried 3-0
- 9) Return to open session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(2) and take action on any items discussed in closed session – Pearce motion to return to open session @ 8:15 pm/Santeler 2nd; carried 3-0

- 10) Fire/EMS Contracts – Pearce motion to send letter to Village to talk/Santeler 2nd; carried 3-0
- 11) Adjournment – Santeler motion to adjourn @ 8:21 pm/Pearce 2nd; carried 3-0

MINUTES SUBMITTED BY: Marie Baker, Clerk-Treasurer

DATED: August 13, 2018

APPROVED:

David J. Rowbotham, Chairperson