

NEW WHITELAND TOWN COUNCIL

MARCH 4, 2026

MEETING MINUTES

Town Council President John Perrin opened the meeting at 5:00p.m. with the pledge to the American flag. Council members present were John Perrin, John Schilawski, John Purdie, Dennis Combs, and Chad Waltz. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Angela DeVoss and Attorney Lee Robbins. Councilman Schilawski offered the opening prayer.

MINUTES

Councilman Schilawski moves to approve the minutes of the February 4th regular meeting and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Clerk-Treasurer DeVoss presents copies of the March 4, 2026 Fund Report and Docket for approval. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and ratify the March 4, 2026 Fund Report and Docket and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

OLD BUSINESS

Dewatering Project / Funding

Robert Reynolds from LWG CPAs presents financing options for the dewatering project at the wastewater treatment plant. Because our project was not high enough priority to qualify for an SRF loan, he suggests either using the bond bank or underwriting and he provides a couple options for both (wrap or level). Mr. Reynolds shares the differences between the options which include different interest rates, different application processes and time-frames, with underwriting being the least expensive and easiest process to navigate. The project will come with a utility rate increase. Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock states there has not been a rate increase since 2018. Most utilities have a rate increase every 3-5 years. Council President John Perrin asks if we can phase-in or ladder the rate increase for homeowners. Mr. Reynolds states that any financial institution will require debt coverage before doing the financing. Council discusses whether to dip into money put back from the sale of the water utility and asks Mr. Reynolds if that would reduce the amount of the utility rate increase. Mr. Reynolds states he will prepare a model for both options: the town supplying money up front to reduce the loan amount and funding the project in its entirety. Mr. Reynolds also states that the information presented tonight was just to inform Council. They need to make a decision about funding by April but do not have to do that tonight.

Dewatering Project / Bidding Phase

Utility Superintendent Matt Gillock asks Council approval to proceed with the bidding phase of GRW's dewatering project contract, which is task 3. On July 2, 2025 Council approved the design phases of tasks 1 and 2. The bidding phase of the contract is \$13,000 and Utility Supt. Gillock budgeted for that amount in his 2026 budget. Councilman Purdie moves to approve the bidding phase portion of the GRW contract at \$13,000 and is seconded by Councilman Schilawski. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Code Enforcement

Councilman Purdie shares that he is still concerned about some of the condition of some of the properties in town. He turned in a violation last week to Police Chief Joe Rynerson and it is a location that has been ticketed multiple times already. He asks about the next steps Town Attorney Lee Robbins can take on the matter. However, he notes that there are other

properties that should be similarly addressed. Attorney Robbins notes that there is one homeowner in particular who has received several tickets, several notices of claim, and several judgments have been filed. The homeowner does not show up in court. Attorney Robbins is sensitive about spending the Town money further pursuing the matter. However, he is willing to take further steps if Council would like him to. There is discussion about providing notice that includes language requiring the homeowner to begin improvement measures within 10 days and have the property in compliance within 30 days. Police Chief Joe Rynerson mentions that Russ Crague, one of his Reserve Officers, who is retired, might be willing to work a few hours a week at an hourly rate to exclusively handle code enforcement issues. This would provide consistency in handling the code enforcement issues. Chief Rynerson says he would oversee everything. Council likes the idea of having one person stay on top of things. Chief Rynerson plans to put this in his budget for next year and any other details will be considered so that this can be put in place.

Johnson County Emergency Management

Council President John Perrin shares that he and Town Fire Marshal Kerry O'Haver will be attending the second of two meetings tomorrow with Johnson County Emergency Management. The purpose of these meetings is to update the County's Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Participation is required by FEMA for each incorporated city and town within the county.

NEW BUSINESS

Bond Counsel Engagement Letter

Town Attorney Lee Robbins reminds Council of the email he sent to Council on February 12th with the engagement letter from Tom Pitman as bond council for the wastewater treatment plant project. That letter was signed on February 17th after approval was communicated from at least 4 Councilmembers. Attorney Robbins states that it is necessary for Council to ratify that decision and asks for a motion. Councilman Purdie moves to ratify the approval of executing the engagement letter with Tom Pitman and is seconded by Councilman Waltz. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

Town IT Provider

Council President John Perrin shares that he heard from our IT Vendor, Wright Tech, who stated that in 5 years of serving the town they have not given us a price increase. Costs to provide the service have increased and they will need to raise their prices. They have agreed to give the town a proposal that would allow the price increase to go into effect next year to give time to add those increases to next year's budget. Council President Perrin wanted to point out that Wright Tech never charges a trip charge when they need to physically come to the offices. Some months they do not come here at all and some months they need to make 10 trips. He wants department heads to be aware so they can plan ahead when making next year's budgets that there will be a price increase.

Radios for Police Department

Police Chief Joe Rynerson shares that he received an email recently indicating that the radios the police department currently uses will be obsolete. He and Assistant Chief David Brooks have been looking at available replacements. They found radios offered by Kenwood but are

concerned with reviews indicating difficulty with communications with their products which will cause safety issues. The other vendor they are looking at is Motorola and specifically their APX N Series radios which should have a 15-year product lifespan. Radios are \$8,200 each and the police department states they will need 14 total. Fire Chief Dave Curin states that the fire department will need 25 total. At this time no decision needs to be made, however Police Chief Joe Rynerson wanted Council to know of the new requirement and the need to replace the radios in the near future.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Resolution 2026-01

Employee Compensation on Emergency Days Off

Town Attorney Lee Robbins explains Resolution 2026-01 which covers how the Town will compensate employees in the event the Town needs to close due to unforeseen emergency, typically related to weather conditions. Councilman Purdie moves to approve and adopt Resolution 2026-01 and is seconded by Councilman Combs. **Vote 5 affirmative.**

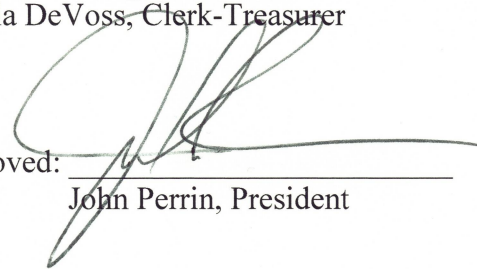
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Victor-Luis Cruz with Globe Life: The Whittingham Agencies located at shares with Council that he is an agent with Globe Life. He states that they offer a supplemental insurance plan that includes a free benefit discount card. The discount card is available to any employees including volunteer firefighters. Mr. Cruz shares his contact information with Council.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36pm by Council President John Perrin.

Respectfully submitted,


Angela DeVoss, Clerk-Treasurer

Approved: 
John Perrin, President