

**Minutes of Watab Town Board Emergency Meeting
Wednesday, August 28, 2013**

An emergency meeting for the purpose of discussing safety on the Lakewood Shore Road project was called to order by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 28, 2013. He participated by phone. Also present at the town hall were Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck and Clerk Pat Spence.

The Chair had requested an emergency meeting earlier that morning by telephone to Clerk Spence due to people trespassing on the work site, removing barricades, and crossing the railroad tracks when the road is closed. This is a very large safety issue as vehicles cannot safely cross the tracks until the paving sections are widened by Burlington Northern Sante Fe Railroad.

Also, Xcel Energy was currently working on burying the gas lines deeper and Century Link was moving telephone cables.

Supervisor Erdmann, who is the inspector for the project, reported that Benton County had a front end loader go across the tracks and drive over the new curbing. They also had numerous dump trucks using the crossing throughout the morning. Clerk Spence had witnessed the front end loader crossing at about 7:30 a.m. today. Supervisor Erdmann met earlier in the morning with the county engineer and maintenance supervisor regarding the incident. They apologized and will install stakes later this week to help secure the road. The board was pleased with this offer.

Supervisor Erdmann also received a phone call from Bentley Tomlin, the township contact with BNSF, regarding the timetable for installing the wider planks and rails. Due to the largest maintenance project in fifty years between Staples and the Twin Cities, they may not be able to complete the work until October. They are trying to get it done sooner, but currently do not have the 10-foot sections available. Bentley apologized and asked for the township's patience. The board discussed the long wait with the railroad and the impact on the neighborhood.

Supervisor Kacures raised the issue of extra signage including detour signs. He witnessed a woman earlier this morning moving the barricades and crossing the tracks. She then told him that there were no detour signs, so that she didn't know where to go. Supervisor Erdmann will coordinate additional signage with Tri-City Paving since it is part of their lump sum bid.

The board discussed the additional barricades that have been added, the flyers distributed by the Clerk, and other measures that might be taken; they noted that it is illegal to move barricades or trespass on the closed area and people should call the Benton County Sheriff's Office if they see anyone doing so.

Tri-City Paving will be paving the road in the area adjacent to the railroad tracks on Thursday.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence