

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes June 4, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2013 at the town hall. All board members were present: Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr, Lloyd Erdmann, and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Bob Raveling, Allen P. Saldana, John Olson, Paul Jacobs, Brian Erdmann, and Chuck Ertl.

Chair Kacures called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Announcements included congratulations to residents Fred and Joyce Segler on their 50th Wedding Anniversary and to Floyd Erdmann on his 93rd birthday. Approval of the agenda was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann with the addition of an extension of curbing on the Lakewood Shore project. Motion passed. The minutes for the May 7, 14, and 16 meetings were approved as written through motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave her Treasurer's report with a checking account balance to date of \$170,570.26. The next tax settlement payment will come mid-July. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve her report. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve payment of claims # 5168 through 5186 and electronic payments to IRS and PERA for a total of \$54,765.69.

Old Business included:

1. Supervisor Erdmann updated the railroad crossing projects, which are both waiting for action. Lakewood Shore needs the power poles moved by Xcel Energy and Co. Rd 79 needs the right of entry permit from BNSF. Both should occur shortly. Also, he described a solution to the four-wheeler damage that occurs at the Lakewood Shore crossing. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve an increase in the extension of 8 inch high curbing on both sides of the railroad tracks to prevent the four-wheelers from crossing. This is the most cost-effective solution. Supervisor Erdmann also spoke about the movement of the internet cables and phone lines that will need to be moved.
2. Supervisor Gondeck updated the board on his work on the dry hydrant system. Granite Water Works has a kit with everything the township will need. The township will need to apply to DNR for a permit for each hydrant. A potential barrier to receiving the permit is DNR's concern that the fire trucks will transfer the zebra mussels from Little Rock Lake to other waters. Supervisor Gondeck will get a letter from Tony Hommerding, Sauk Rapids Fire Chief, explaining that they wash their trucks at the fire hall with hot water following a fire; this letter will be sent with the permit application. Cost for the permits is \$100 each. There will not be a fee if the permit is not approved. The township also needs to supply the GPS locations for each hydrant with the application. It will take about three months to process the permit application. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck are to complete the applications next week.
3. Supervisor Erdmann reported that due to the rain and his work load, he has not been able to design the West Lake Court Cul de Sac or visit the Shangri La Loop site. This was tabled until next month. Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck are to contact Claudia Dumont at MNDOT to meet with them at the site for a solution to the bus safety issue, since it is on the Highway 10 right-of-way.

4. Allen Saldana has started filling the potholes on the township roads, but due to the rain the work isn't completed. Supervisor Gondeck is also working on pocket gopher control and will work with the STS crew this coming month, since they were rained out on their last trip to Watab.
5. The board lifted the moratorium for building permits in Lake Andrew Development due to lack of signage through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed. The moratorium is lifted with the condition that the one remaining sign will be installed within thirty days; otherwise, it will be reinstated. The Clerk is to send a letter to Nancy Scott, Building Inspector, and Scott Jarnot, development owner with this information. Clerk Spence was also asked to identify the Public Works Director for each development that has a sewer system and give their names to Nancy Scott. The developer is responsible to inspect the sewer hookup from a new home to the development's sewer system.
6. The grant was submitted to Benton Telecommunications Foundation and a meeting was held with Teresa Nelson, consultant. Supervisor Gondeck has the new written quote for the warning siren and installation, and the Clerk will mail it to her tomorrow. Clerk Spence also noted that there have been some grants for \$10,000 given by East Central Energy for Operation Round Up; the board will learn the status of both grants by the end of July.
7. Clerk Spence gave a report on the difficulty in collecting unpaid bills for emergency service calls; over \$8,000 of bills have been turned over to Collection Resources, Inc. in St. Cloud. Several of the claims are pending in conciliation court during June. None have been collected to date. Recently the board was sent a record of the thirteenth call to one home by Rice First Responders.

New Business included:

1. The name of the ditch mowing contractor has been changed to CBDC, LLC. Chuck Ertl will mow the first cut about July 1st.
2. John Olson, 10293 Ferry Point Place NW, appeared before the board to request support for his application to Benton County Department of Development for a variance after-the-fact for a septic system. He reported that he was not told of the need for a variance prior to the installation. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the Chair's signature on the application. The board is in full support of the variance and feels that John should not have to pay the after-the-fact variance fee since it was requested after the installation of the system.
3. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, to approve declining Arbitrage Monitoring Services for the recent Bond Issue by Ehlers, Inc. Motion passed with the Board Chair signing the Election Form.
4. Supervisor Gondeck will check in with Wacosa regarding the cleaning of the town hall floors. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to pay \$300 to Bill Rauch and Keith Kirchner to wash and wax the meeting room floor. Supervisor Gondeck will also check into options for a mop sink. Clerk Spence will clean the carpets.
5. The Minnesota Association of Townships Summer Short Course will be held Monday, June 17th at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Supervisor Craig Gondeck, Clerk Pat Spence, and

Treasurer Eileen Saldana will attend. The Clerk should check if there are still openings in the Board of Equalization training, since Supervisor Kacures needs to update his certification.

6. The board discussed the advantages of joining the Area Planning Organization (APO) at this time for the potential of them paying for design of future railroad crossing quiet zones in the township. Supervisor Erdmann asked if the APO would help fund frontage road design. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he had spoken to Scott Mareck, Executive Director, and that all funds are appropriated for 2013. Clerk Spence was asked to set up a board meeting with Commissioner Joe Wollak to seek his input, since he is a member of the APO Executive Board.
7. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to have the STS crew assist in removal of the dead trees in front of Pine Stop. The business is to pay the cost of the STS crew's work.
8. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve the Clerk and Treasurer of issuing a check in the amount of the original bid to Omann Brothers as soon as the invoice is received from Benton County Highway Department. Board Chair Kacures asked Supervisor Erdmann to collect on the pledges for the County Road 79 crossing project.
9. Board Chair Kacures announced that Benton County is having an Amnesty Day on June 15th at Sauk Rapids Rice High School, which is open to all county residents.
10. Clerk Spence summarized the monthly correspondence.
11. Supervisor Gondeck asked the board for a decision on the design for the signs "No Train Whistle." He was asked to order four signs.
12. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed with Supervisor Erdmann abstaining to hire Brian Erdmann to do work on the minimum maintenance road from Steve and Becky Bogie's home to County Road 78 for a cost of \$1,770. He is to bring up the ditches and apply two loads of crushed concrete.
13. Supervisor Gondeck informed the board that no building permits are required if a home owner applies a steel roof over an existing asphalt shingled roof.
14. Supervisor Kacures informed the board of a call from Bob Helland asking for sod to be laid on the road right of way in front of his home in Ferry Point. Supervisor Gondeck will ask Jeff Hanson to possibly seed the area, even though it is not a township obligation. A resident of Timber Lane Estates requested that the board do street sweeping to remove the sand; this will not be done. The board requested that the Clerk ask Nancy Scott to visit Brad McIntosh to see if he should have had a building permit for work on his decks and retaining walls. Supervisor Gondeck also reported on the appreciation of Eric and Kelly Johnson for the support of the town board in getting their variance.
15. Board work during the coming month was all identified in these minutes, except that Supervisor Gondeck will also attend the Greater MN Development Corporation meeting and Supervisor Erdmann will connect the irrigation system.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence