

**Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting  
May 7, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 at the Watab Town Hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All other board members were present: Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were: Mike and Jo Flannery, Roger Peterson, James Hoihjelle Jr., Jeff & Betty Weber, Allen Saldana, Bob Raveling, Chuck Ertl, Bill Jacquemart, and Nathaniel Gorham.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the board acted on Liquor License renewals for Oak Hill Golf Course and Rumors. A motion was made to approve the license renewal requested by James Hoihjelle Jr. for Rumors by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed. Roger Peterson presented the renewal application for Oak Hill Golf Course; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Both business owners were thanked and congratulated for their well-run businesses in Watab Township.

Next the board chair called the annual public hearing to order on the Watab Township Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System General Permit MNR0400000. Supervisor Gondeck reported that we contract with Red Barn Ridge LLC for inspections. He thanked Little Rock Lake Association for their fine work in installing buffer strips on Little Rock Lake. He reported on the inspections on Fifth Avenue and that there may be a possible appeal to MPCA for their decision on the dumping with lack of permits and no erosion control by Tretter Excavating on Fifth Avenue. He added that the township held flood control meetings this spring; one was attended by more than fifty people. During this summer, the township will be adding two new culvert markers for culverts discovered during the road tour. He showed the map that he has created with culvert locations. Clerk Spence presented the 2012 report that was recently submitted to the MPCA. Chair Kacures then invited public comment from the audience. Bill Jacquemart asked a question about the impact of Highway 10 work in Rice. There were no other comments or questions, so the public hearing was closed. Clerk Spence then explained the schedule for application for the new permit this summer.

Supervisor Gondeck made announcements of sympathy to the Terry O'Keefe and Chuck Wocken families; report of a break in and burglary at a residence on Isaac Road; and reports of other suspicious activity in the Lakewood Shore neighborhood. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, to approve the agenda as printed; motion passed. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the minutes of all four meetings in April. Treasurer Eileen Saldana presented the current checking account balances: Falcon Bank is \$152,929.13 and Bremer Bank is \$91,363. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed approving her report. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, to pay all claims as presented and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts; motion passed. Claim numbers are 5145 through 5166 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS; claims total \$16,459.84.

Old Business included:

- 1) Lakewood Shore Road NW Railroad Crossing Project: The Chair explained that there was a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for the Lakewood Shore Rd NW project last week. Tri-City Paving is the contractor, and work began yesterday. Staking has been completed; however, power poles need to be moved, and the town board is asking Xcel Energy to move this up

earlier than the mid-July date currently scheduled. Once the power poles are moved, the project can be completed within two weeks. Supervisor Kacures handed out maps that showed a circle around the project area. He asked the audience members to take Saldana Road to go out to Highway 10 to alleviate safety problems and eliminate damage to vehicles. Supervisor Erdmann said that when the railroad comes to do their work, they will definitely close the crossing until their work is totally done. Allen Saldana inquired if any land needed to be purchased. The board reported that Marty Reker donated the extra 33 feet needed when he platted Paradise Plat. Kevin Reiter asked about the alignment of the road; Supervisor Erdmann explained that there will be a new ditch on the south side of the road and that the current centerline will become the north edge of the blacktop. Bill Jacquemart asked about changes to the road on the west side of the tracks. Supervisor Erdmann explained that on the west side of the crossing the road is in proper alignment. Most of the changes will be on the east side of the tracks. He emphasized the problem with four-wheelers cutting up the edge of the road, and recommends extending the eight-inch high curb and gutter along the edge of the road to prevent this problem. He was given authority to get an estimate from Jon Bogart on the cost for this potential change order. It was also explained in answer to a question by Betty Weber that there won't be any digging before school is out. Construction will be between the hours of 7am and 7pm. Tri-City Paving will be contacting all the emergency personnel of the project. Nate Gorham asked about the railroad easement. Supervisor Erdmann explained that some of the town roads predate the railroad, but the railroad owns the crossings, so there are no easements. He also addressed John Pearson's concern about losing fifteen pine trees. The contractor feels that he could work around it, but Jon Bogart will look at it tomorrow.

- 2) The MS4 Permit on the Lakewood Shore project will be paid by Tri-City Paving, and they will submit the application.
- 3) Clerk Pat Spence prepared the new time sheets for occasions when supervisors are working as employees. The time sheets contain the affidavits recommended by the Minnesota Association of Townships. This ensures that the township will be in compliance with conflict of interest laws.
- 4) Supervisor Gondeck reported on his work on the Dry Hydrant System: a) a five-year water permit from DNR will be \$100 for each hydrant; b) a land use permit costs \$100 for each hydrant; c) Ferguson Water Works will charge \$96.40 for the piping for each hydrant versus a traditional fire hydrant cost of \$2,800; d) there is little chance of the dry hydrant freezing since water drains back to the water source. Supervisor Gondeck requested authority to meet with the Sauk Rapids Fire Chief, Tony Hommerding, to have him help locate the two hydrants. Supervisor Kacures emphasized that he didn't want any potential problems with freezing. Supervisor Gondeck explained that other townships have used Schedule 40 six-inch PVC pipe; he showed a picture of the fittings. Supervisor Erdmann added that there will be additional cost for the screens inside the piping. Supervisor Kacures asked Supervisor Gondeck to contact Scott Janski from Rice about placement of dry hydrants as needed in their service area. Also, there needs to be an agreement in writing that the fire departments will maintain them. Supervisor Gondeck was also asked to verify permits needed from DNR.
- 5) West Lake Road Signs: Supervisor Gondeck asked Supervisor Kacures to assist him on Saturday morning with the installation of road signs.

- 6) Clerk Spence provided a copy of the Township Administrative Policy that was adopted by Resolution in 2009. The resolution includes a \$25 per hour fee for research in supplying information when requested by the public, so no additional policies are needed.
- 7) The Supervisors agreed to release the retainage on the snow plowing contract with Marson, Inc. The damage that is done within the town road right of way is not the responsibility of the snow plowing contractor. On the road tour, the supervisors did not see any damage outside the township road right of way. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to have the Clerk and Treasurer prepare the check and send the retainage.
- 8) The board reviewed the grant application to Benton Telecommunications Foundation for the Outdoor Warning Siren and passed approval. The grant will be reviewed in June.
- 9) Following explanation for the need for a Debt Service Fund for the Town Hall Building and Road and Bridge projects by Clerk Spence, a motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed to set up these two accounts. Excess funds from the Bond sale and refunded interest from Falcon Bank will be placed in the appropriate Debt Service Funds.

New Business included the following:

1. Resolution 2013-6: Appointing Lloyd Erdmann as Road Inspector for Railroad Crossing Projects. Clerk Spence explained the resolution and Supervisor Kacures explained the background on the need for the resolution. When Supervisors do work for the township that is outside their job description as a supervisor, and when that work is not included in the resolution passed at the reorganization meeting, a separate resolution is needed. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed adopting Resolution 2013-6. Supervisor Erdmann abstained. This will be a cost savings to the township of \$25 per hour to Supervisor Erdmann versus \$95 per hour to an engineering technician.
2. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to prepare Resolution 2013-7: Appointing Craig Gondeck to mow the lawn, seconded by Kacures, and passed with Supervisor Gondeck abstaining.
3. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to prepare Resolution 2013-8 for Supervisor Erdmann to take care of the sprinkler system. Supervisor Erdmann abstained.
4. Road Tour: The board discussed findings of the road tour and presented the list of findings. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to award the work for repairing potholes to Allen Saldana, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed. Supervisor Erdmann talked about the damage on Shoestring Loop; and, the suggestion was made to have Tri-City Paving patch it when they are doing the Lakewood Shore project. Supervisor Gondeck will mark the potholes with red paint.
5. Crack Filling: Supervisor Gondeck explained the potential of using the STS Crew to do Crack Filling, which is estimated at \$1,000 per mile. He met with Bob Moon, road supervisor for Langola Township, last week and he said they are very happy with the work. The town board will take Jon Bogart's recommendation and not do seal coating this summer and then do some crack filling with the STS Crew next spring. Bill Jacquemart asked about the hole at the intersection of Iten Road and Lakewood Shore Road. It was caused by the sweeping of the road following brush cutting. Supervisor Kacures brought up the minimum maintenance road grading. Supervisor Gondeck had a price from Brian Erdmann for \$300 (same as last year). There should also be a load of gravel over a culvert about ¼ mile from the east end of the

minimum maintenance road. Supervisor Gondeck was also asked to have Brian do that work. The curve by Eileen Saldana's home needs to be tidied up. Allen Saldana recommended not doing anything at this time. The board found that the turnaround on West Lake Court has a large mud area. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that Supervisor Erdmann be hired to come up with a design to improve it. He agreed to do so. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he met with Dick Raveling today about the safety issue for buses coming out of Shangri La Loop. Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck will meet at the site to make a recommendation for the next meeting. Pine Stop Highway 10 access needs to be addressed, and Jim Newberger and Claudia Dumont are working on it. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to work on gopher control and tree trimming with the STS Crew. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to take care of the necessary items on the road tour, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed.

6. Moratorium on Building Permits in Lake Andrew Development: On April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Supervisor Gondeck had a phone call from a resident that sewage was overflowing on the road in the development. He met with Don Jarnot on site and took photos. Two officials came from MPCA, and they found that a sewer pipe was broken causing the tank to overflow. MPCA found the problem very serious. The Duty Officer had not been contacted; no one is testing it on a monthly basis; and the owner did not have maintenance records. Scott Jarnot could be facing a fine, and the township is not allowed to issue building permits until we have a letter from MPCA. The board was copied on a letter dated May 3<sup>rd</sup> from MPCA to Mr. Scott P. Jarnot of all their findings. Clerk Spence was asked to draft a letter based on MPCA's recommendation that there is a moratorium on building permits based on the instruction from MPCA. However, she should first get an opinion from Kent Sulem, Minnesota Association of Townships attorney. Allen Saldana recommended that the board not put a moratorium on building permits. Supervisor Kacures then asked the Clerk to call MPCA to confirm what needs to be done in writing regarding building permits. Allen Saldana asked who will inspect the sewer hookups in private developments. Nancy Scott is supposed to inspect all the sewer hookups. Clerk Spence was asked to contact the State Building Inspector on who should be inspecting the hookup in private developments. Also, she was asked to call Nancy Scott about it. Kevin Reiter asked about the roads in Lake Andrew Development; nothing has been done by the developer to fix them. The township will not accept them in the current state.
7. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck recommend that the township use Facebook and Channel 3 with photos of the town hall and a link to the township website for rental promotion. The Clerk will work on it during the summer.
8. Clerk Spence summarized the requests for variances. Eric and Kelly Johnson have asked for support of the township to construct a new garage on the same footprint. The Clerk was instructed to write a letter of support for their variance.
9. The board received two email communication from Representative Jim Newberger about highway 10 issues during the past month. The board received copies of both emails.
10. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck said that there is excess sand in the parking lot. The board instructed him to get it swept if the cost is less than \$200. He sold a driveway permit today to Kevin Johnson, and Kevin had concerns about his road not being plowed before his business opens at 7am. There is a township snow plowing policy that requires the contractor to plow roads in order of their priority. Major arteries are plowed first.

11. Citizen's Issues: Bob Raveling asked about the schedule for the County Road 79 Railroad Crossing Project; Jon Bogart, Township Engineer, is scheduling it with Chris Byrd, County Engineer. Kevin Reiter asked about the start date for the interchange in Rice. Utility relocation is in April; bids will be opened on May 15<sup>th</sup>; construction work will start in July.
12. Board Work for May includes starting the sprinkler system, road projects, marking potholes, getting the STS crew to do tree trimming, removal of gophers, cul de sac design, and a meeting with the development corporation.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to adjourn at 10:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence