

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes September 3, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3, 2013 at the town hall. Other board members present were Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were: Allen Saldana, Kim Kubat, Elaine Harren, Ginger Jarnot, Kevin Reiter, Paul Jacobs, and Bob Raveling.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the following announcement was made by Supervisor Gondeck: sympathy to the Mel Grile family on the death of their daughter. Approval to the agenda was made through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Approval of the minutes of the August 6th regular meeting and August 28th emergency meeting were made through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave her Treasurer's Report; total cash balance for deposits at Falcon National and Bremer Banks is \$370,448.22. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed approving the Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Gondeck thanked her for her good work. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to pay claims # 5228 through 5244 and electronic transfers to IRS and PERA totaling \$5,398.80 and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts; motion passed.

Ginger Jarnot presented the legal description and plats to show the utility and drainage easement that she and her husband want vacated so they can sell their forty-acre parcel. The easements are within an out lot of Lake Andrew Plat that is inside the boundaries of the forty acres owned by her and her husband Don, which they are selling. The board set a public hearing to consider the vacation of the drainage and utility easements for September 24, 2013. The board will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the town hall and travel from there to the site for inspection. The public hearing will follow the inspection at approximately 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. The Jarnots will notify all the residents of Lake Andrew Development regarding the public hearing. They will also provide the township an escrow account of \$500 to cover expenses for the public hearing, publication, and recording with Benton County. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. The Clerk will notice the Public Hearing with published and posted notice and be in contact with the Jarnots regarding the notice to Lake Andrew residents.

Old Business:

1. Supervisor Gondeck commended Supervisor Erdmann for the work that he has done as Inspector on the railroad crossing project, saving the township approximately \$11,000 in cost. The Clerk was asked to send Tri-City Paving a letter asking them to delay the remainder of the tarring on Lakewood Shore Road until the railroad is finished with their work in early October; the township will not enforce a penalty. The board also agreed that the township would make partial payment for the work completed to date. Supervisor Kacures described the notification of the residents on Lakewood Shore Road and the problems with people moving the barricades and crossing the tracks. He asked Clerk Spence to draft another notice to the residents about the delay until October. The

county road 79 crossing is still in delay until the railroad gives the permit of entry to Omann Brothers.

2. Minimum Maintenance Road: Supervisor Gondeck said that Brian Erdmann has signed an agreement to do the job for \$600. It is on file.
3. Highway 10 follow up: Clerk Spence described the contacts with Rep. Newberger and Sen. Brown. They will both author legislation for the next session requesting funding for interchanges along Highway 10 through Watab Township.
4. Installation of Signs: Supervisor Gondeck stated that there are a few left to install. The STS Crew assisted him with installation of some of the signs. Supervisor Kacures outlined some issues with placement of signs and wants to make them more visible. Allen Saldana raised the issue of the need for a stop sign at the access of Lake Andrew to 5th Avenue. It will be done and billed to Lake Andrew.
5. Tree Trimming: Supervisor Gondeck said that Lakewood Shore Road won't be trimmed until the sap stops running to prevent oak wilt. Kevin Reiter said that the township needs to wait until after the first hard frost to trim the oaks.
6. Shangri La Loop: Supervisor Gondeck met with Dick Raveling to review the township plan, and he thought it was a good way to give the buses more room to get on the highway. Supervisor Erdmann hasn't had time to work on West Lake Court due to the Lakewood Shores project.
7. FEMA claim for storm damage: Supervisor Gondeck went to the meeting in Foley and was told that the township needed to provide GPS coordinates for each tree removed and the two road washouts. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck have completed this project and will be meeting with a FEMA representative soon.
8. Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck has handed out 750 flyers promoting the event for September 14th. The township will not accept any hazardous waste; it can be taken to Foley to the county garage on the same day.
9. Plat Process: Clerk Spence asked the board to review the revised document very carefully before the October meeting including language and the amount of the professional responsibility fee. She will attend an MS4 meeting in late September regarding the application for the new township permit, and there could be potential changes needed in the plat process due to MS4 requirements. The board will discuss this further at the October meeting.
10. SCORE Grant for picnic table: Supervisor Gondeck reported that the grant request was approved by the SCORE Committee and now goes before the county board. Next month he will bring pictures and costs of the tables for the board consideration. The grant amount is \$700.
11. The strip of land along West Lake Road that is labeled as owned by St. Regis Corporation on maps seems to be owned by the adjacent property owners.

New Business included:

1. Levy Certification: Clerk Spence reported that the levy was certified to the county with special amounts listed for the debt levy for the town hall and road projects; the board approved the amounts as submitted.

2. MS4 permit: Watab has a deadline of December 31, 2013 to submit application for the new MS4 permit. Clerk Spence will attend the St. Cloud City Hall workshop on Thursday, September 26th for assistance with the application process.
3. District 8 Meeting: Supervisor Kacures described meeting with Chuck Popp and asking him to get together regarding the fire contract with Rice. Clerk Spence described the conversation with Representative Newberger and Senator Brown about Highway 10, the importance of Benton County Association of Townships appointing a representative to the L & R meeting, special care needed with special meeting agendas, thanks needing to be expressed to Tri-City Paving for paying for the bus to the capitol, ideas needed for the annual township awards program, and the need to let the Governor know that we need transportation dollars in outstate Minnesota. MAT will be lobbying the legislature for a gas tax increase with dollars dedicated to roads.
4. Monthly Correspondence: Clerk Spence went through the correspondence received during the past month.
5. Supervisor Reports: Troy Heck from the Benton County Sheriff's Department called Supervisor Gondeck about people selling things in the road right of way in Watab. Supervisor Gondeck asked the town board to authorize sending a letter to Russ Ripka to remove the pickup truck in the road right of way in Circle Pines as it affects snow plowing. He reported that he worked with Clerk Spence to submit a grant request through Sauk Rapids Fire Department to AgStar Financial for \$2500 for the outdoor warning siren. He had Clerk Spence send a donation request to Firearms Safety for another 8 foot table for the town hall since they use the town hall for training. He also asked the board for authority to purchase 20 used, upholstered chairs for the town hall at \$2 each; Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to purchase them, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Clerk Spence was asked by Supervisor Kacures to prepare a letter to everyone on Lakewood Shore, Saldana Road, and 10th Avenue informing them of the outdoor warning siren that will be installed on township right of way near Ray Thompson's property. Supervisor Gondeck will deliver them.
6. The board discussed the work plan for September: Supervisor Erdmann will continue to supervise the Lakewood Shore project and hopefully the County Road 79 project. Supervisor Gondeck will coordinate Watab Clean Up Day, do the building exterior maintenance, weed inspection, trim brush around signs where needed, and finish installing the signs.
7. Kevin Reiter asked the board for authorization to remove dead trees on road right of way near his house. The board gave approval but asked him to notify the neighbors.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence