

## **Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes**

The Watab Town Board regular monthly meeting was called to order on May 6, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Kacures, Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members included: Bruce Christofferson, Earl Tuttle, Roger Peterson, John Baune, Janel Vaillancourt, Donna Poganski, Clara Knettel, Doug Harden, Kevin Reiter, Paul Jacobs, Bob Raveling, Chuck Ertl, Steve Blitvich, and Allen Saldana.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the Chair called to order the Public Hearing on the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP) annual report and to get citizen input. Clerk Spence gave the 2013 MS4 Annual Report highlighting the following:

May 3, 2013: The Township learned that there were alleged violations at the Lake Andrew Wastewater Treatment Facility through official notice of MPCA. They had inspected the site on April 24 and identified several issues regarding pumping of the wastewater and overflow of sewage onto the roadways and adjacent property. The township withheld building permits and worked with MPCA to ensure that all their requirements had been met before allowing any additional construction.

May 7, 2013: Watab Township held a Public Hearing to discuss the SWPPP as required by the MPCA under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Phase II rule. One person attended; no comments were received.

May 15, 2013: The Lakewood Shore Road NW CSW project was granted coverage by MPCA. Contractor, Tri-City Paving of Little Falls, has maintained BMP's during and after construction. The permit remains open until the grass cover is effective and any erosion problems are corrected.

June 5, 2013: Thomas Czech, etal/Marvin Tretter received a Watab Stormwater Permit for the borrow pit related to the Benton County Highway 78 project. A maximum of 4.5 acres was allowed to be mined. Corey Tretter was in control of the site. He submitted a fee of \$2,000 to Red Barn Ridge on July 8, 2013. This site was inspected by Red Barn Ridge every seven days and following rain fall. Work was completed in August. There were no issues, and BMP's were followed.

Late Fall 2013: Supervisor Craig Gondeck was notified by a resident of potential violations at a gravel pit in the township. Red Barn Ridge inspected the site, and the property owner was notified of questions. The pit is under the jurisdiction of MPCA.

The board also reviewed the official report that is submitted to MPCA. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to sign and submit the report. The board chair then asked for citizen input. Doug Harden commented that he has concerns about the water runoff in Oak Hill Estates that leaves the property through the township ditch. The board discussed their review of this two years ago and continues to monitor the runoff. The Army Corps of Engineers approved the initial plan, and the board will get a copy of it. If the owners develop Plat II, they will have to contain all the water on site. Now the water is being contained in the gravel pit and some is going into the river. The board added that the MS4 inspector will review the plans and the board will continue to monitor the development. Watab was not a mandated MS4 when Oak Hills was developed. Doug said that if climate change continues with deluges of rain, there will be water flowing into basements in the development. He also added that one of the grates is cracked and has been reported, because a child could fall through. Supervisor Kacures said that the neighbors should contact the owners of the development, and if there is no response to contact the township. Supervisor

Gondeck recommended that residents keep a log of communications. Chair Kacures asked for public comments three additional times. When there were none, Supervisor Gondeck said that the Clerk saved the township thousands of dollars by doing the planning for the new SWPPP application as several government entities had hired professional engineers to prepare their applications at a much higher cost. He also asked that citizens notify the township if they see a culvert overflowing and report the number on the culvert ID. The public hearing was closed.

The regular meeting began with a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve the agenda as printed. Approval of the Meeting Minutes was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a current cash balance of \$187,534.47. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to accept the report. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to add the Deputy Clerk, Maureen Graber, and Deputy Treasurer, Linda Langer, to checking accounts at Falcon National and Bremer Banks if they need to fill in for the Clerk or Treasurer. There were no citizen's comments. Approval to Pay the Monthly Bills for Claims #5405-5423 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$28,497.82 was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Renewal of On Sale, Off Sale, and Sunday Sale Liquor License was given for Rumors Bar and Grill through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Renewal of On Sale and Sunday Sale Liquor License was approved through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed. Off Sale Liquor License was granted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Old Business included:

- A. Rice Fire Contract: Supervisor Kacures opened the floor for any additional comments or questions about the current status of negotiations between Rice and Watab after he reviewed the draft of the letter that the board is considering sending to the City of Sauk Rapids asking for their willingness to serve the entire township. The board responded to John Baune's question about the monetary difference between the two contract proposals (Rice and Watab). There were other comments about response time, questions about how the boundaries were established, and concerns about property insurance. The board explained that there are many considerations in setting property insurance for an individual property including home construction, credit rating, heating system, and distance from nearest fire hall. Chair Kacures explained that an insurance agent told him that there is a variation among insurance carriers as to how they value distance from fire halls, and all property insurance in MN will likely be going up in the coming year because of the number of weather disasters in the state during the past year. Doug Harden inquired about the process for responding to an incident when 911 is dialed. Supervisor Gondeck explained that the addresses are programmed into the computer system at the Sheriff's office. Supervisor Gondeck said he wanted to wait on sending a letter to Sauk Rapids until the board could research changing the service area boundaries. Doug Harden asked what the population of the township would need to be to have its own fire department. Supervisor Kacures explained the costs and coverage for having our own department would be very challenging. Having a substation of the Sauk Rapids Fire Department might make more

sense. Paul Jacobs said that both departments are volunteer, so the response time will be large regardless of which one has to come. His personal opinion is that the departments can't save the house burning, but rather their purpose is to save the neighboring homes. Kevin Reiter asked if there has been any headway since the last meeting. Supervisor Kacures said that at a recent Rice City Council meeting, one of the council member had held up his invitation letter to residents of the Rice service area and said the letter was nothing but lies. Kevin said he still feels that we should go with Sauk Rapids, stun the City of Rice, and see if they'll come around in the future. Kevin Reiter asked about mutual aid working if there was a fire at Rockwood Estates. Supervisor Kacures said that when there was a barn fire in the township, Sauk Rapids called Rice, Foley, and Sartell for mutual aid. Janel Vaillancourt said that she is concerned greatly about response time as she lives only two miles from Rice. She asked if Sauk Rapids is willing to accept all of Watab, if the people will get to vote on the decision. The Supervisors said they would get more citizen input before they make the decision. John Baune asked who wrote the letter to Sauk Rapids and said it was an excellent job. Supervisor Kacures said that the main job of the town board is to look out for people's taxes. Bob Raveling said that if Sauk Rapids will accept us, maybe that will be a bargaining chip with Rice. Allen Saldana said that this poor relationship in negotiations has been going on since 1970; but he personally likes the response time of the Rice Fire Department. Supervisor Gondeck made the motion to send the letter to the City of Sauk Rapids requesting their consideration in serving the entire township; motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

- B. Dry Hydrant System Request for Quotes: two locations for hydrants one at the boat landing and one south of Frost Road on the Mississippi River. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to check if the specifications noted the locking mechanism that would be the same lock as on a fuel tank. Quotes will be accepted until 7:00 p.m. at the June meeting.
- C. Railroad Crossing Update: Supervisor Erdmann reported that work started yesterday and the contractor ground off the existing tar; he told them they were working too close to the tracks without a flag man. This morning Omann's said they were reprimanded by BNSF with a verbal warning and told to keep back 25 feet from the tracks; they felt that the railroad is partly to blame because they couldn't have a flag man available when needed. The curb stakes are in. The contract is for fifteen working days.
- D. STS Crew Update: Supervisor Gondeck said that a new crew leader has been hired by Benton County, and Watab is first on the list for crack filling and tree trimming.
- E. Clerk Spence reported on the proposal for a 60 month lease with Marco for a new copier/scanner at \$106 per month; this includes all supplies. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdman, and passed to get the new copier since the old one was over ten years old, and parts were no longer available.
- F. Flag Pole: The quote presented by Supervisor Gondeck seemed high so it was tabled for him to get more vendors' quotes
- G. West Lake Court project: Supervisor Erdmann said that it has been too wet to dig test holes, so he has no project cost estimate at this time.

New Business included:

- A. Design of Future Crossings: Supervisor Kacures reported that he met with Jon Bogart to ask what engineering costs would be for design of quiet zones for the remaining township railroad

crossings. Supervisor Gondeck wanted to delay a decision on this until next month. Supervisor Erdmann said he would be in favor of moving forward with the pre-design survey and conceptual design for a cost of \$6,800 for all three crossings. Supervisor Kacures said that he would propose going up to item 4 for final plans, which was \$19,180 and within the \$25,000 budgeted for planning this year. Supervisor Gondeck said that he thinks that is going too far at this time. Allen Saldana asked why the township is doing more crossing plans, when the current ones aren't completed. Supervisor Kacures responded that there is a long time from planning to execute the projects, and people at the annual meeting said they wanted to move forward. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to contract with Jon Bogart to do the pre-design surveying and conceptual design, estimate, and report preparation for a total cost of \$6,800; the motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. The Clerk was asked to contact Jon about the project authorization.

- B. Road Tour Report: Categories of work are miscellaneous projects, sign projects, pothole repairs, corner repairs, and road projects. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that Allen Saldana repair the potholes as in the past. The Sucker Creek Road ditch needs to be deeper; Supervisor Gondeck will contact Chris Byrd to come and look at it. 105<sup>th</sup> Street needs blading and ditch work. The culvert is 95% blocked. Ditches need to be formed and it needs to be raised with class 5. 66<sup>th</sup> Street needs blading and gravel on it. Jackle Road needs blading. 10<sup>th</sup> Street has a dip by the railroad tracks, which is a future project with improvements to the railroad crossing. West Lake Road has a serious frost heave by 10390 West Lake Road with two to three inch cracks. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to draw a design and get pricing. Seal coating will not be done on Sanbur Trail this year. Crack seal will be done on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Hemlock Road, the Watab Hall Parking Lot, and 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE. Sign projects will be completed by Supervisor Gondeck. A letter should be sent to Oak Hill Estates regarding water valve caps sticking up and a catch basin plugged on 85<sup>th</sup> Street. Ditch cleanup will be delayed until Watab Clean Up Day. Janel Vailancourt said that there is a large hole at 115<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 10; Supervisor Gondeck will check it. He was asked to get quotes for the road work from all the township contractors.
- C. Membership in the Central MN Water Education Alliance: Clerk Spence was asked to attend their next meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 8:15 a.m. and report back to the board through a motion by Supervisor Kacures and second by Supervisor Erdmann. The benefits of membership are to fulfill our education requirements of MS4.
- D. Review of the SWPPP Form was tabled until next month; the board reviewed the homeowner's fact sheet from MPCA.
- E. Lake Andrew Development Stormwater Runoff: Supervisor Gondeck reported that he and Wayne Cymbaluk visited the home sites under construction. Future developments should have escrow funds to cover MS4 requirements. There were six sites that were photographed where there are issues. Wayne will be sending letters of action required to the builders/homeowners.
- F. Water Heater Replacement: Clerk Spence reported the quote for a new 50-gallon, electric water heater. Supervisor Gondeck wants this tabled to explore other options, such as an on-demand and 30 or 40 gallon water heater. She was asked to bring this information back to the next meeting.
- G. Summer MNDOT work and impact on township residents: A copy of an article from the St. Cloud Times was reviewed by the board. Supervisor Kacures said that he thinks a lot of people

don't know what MNDOT is going to do this summer with resurfacing or reconstructing Highway 10 from the railroad tracks west of St. Germain Street in St. Cloud to Benton County Highway 4 in Watab Township plus Highway 15 from Benton Drive to Highway 10 in Sauk Rapids and Sartell. He proposes drafting a letter to go to residents of the township with info on the road project and what is going on in Rice. MNDOT is taking over Frost Road as a bypass and NE River Road southeast of Frost Road. A letter should be sent to MNDOT asking for the impact of this on the township road.

- H. Meeting of the St. Cloud APO on May 15<sup>th</sup>: Supervisor Kacures requested authority to make a presentation on Highway 10 needs in the township and encouraged the entire board to attend.
- I. Review of Contracts: A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve renewal of Chuck Ertl's ditch mowing contract at 60.00 per hour for mowing and \$90 per hour for brush cutting for two cuttings: one swath in early summer and two swaths in fall; motion passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to extend the contract with Jon Bogart as township engineer. Supervisor Gondeck commented that Nancy Scott has done an excellent job as Building Inspector; he inquired if a building permit can be posted in the window. He made the motion to renew the contract with her if rates stay the same; Kacures seconded the motion; motion passed. Snow Plowing Contract: concerns were expressed about plowing the entire width of road. The board asked that his be placed on next month's agenda.
- J. There is a sewer concern at 6070 Lark Road; Supervisor Gondeck will follow up.
- K. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to have the Clerk terminate the MS4 permit for town hall construction, which was never sent in by George Mastey. Clerk Spence also reported on the MS4 permit for Bend in the River Park and the review by Wayne Cymbaluk.
- L. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck said that daily flights started today to Chicago, which was an initiative of the development corporation. Lake Andrew Development has a huge heave in the road. The board also learned at the APO meeting that they need to keep our Highway 10 concerns in front of MNDOT.

Citizen's Concerns: Kevin Reiter asked if the township engineer will look into using the Kwik Curb on the future railroad crossing projects; there could be many advantages. Supervisor Erdmann will follow up with this. Janel Vaillancourt asked how the board will proceed after they have a response from Sauk Rapids. Supervisor Kacures said that it will be listed on the agenda. Supervisor Gondeck asked to have a letter send to Joann F. Miller, P. O. Box 103, Winger, MN 56592-0103 to clean up her site.

The board discussed the May work plan for meetings, road projects, and signs. The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Spence