

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for November 3, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures on November 3, 2014 at the town hall. All board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana; Clerk Pat Spence; Supervisors Craig Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, and Ed Kacures Jr. Audience members were Maureen Graber, John Olson, and Paul Jacobs.

Chair Kacures welcomed the audience to the meeting; following the pledge to the flag, the Chair called the Public Hearing to Order on Amendments to Ordinance 4: An Ordinance Regulating Town Road Rights-of-Way. Those wishing to speak in favor of the Ordinance were: John Olson and Maureen Graber. Those speaking against: Supervisor Erdmann spoke against the section on installing sprinkler heads in the road right of way. He feels that people should be able to install them in the road right of way. He requested that the sentence come out "No person shall install irrigation systems or sprinkler heads in the Right-of-Way." Following three calls for those wishing to speak in favor or opposed to the ordinance, Chair Kacures closed the Public Hearing. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to eliminate the sentence stated above and to add: "If a person elects to install sprinkler heads or sprinkler systems in the road right-of-way, the township shall have no liability for them. If a utility company has a permit to enter the right-of-way, they are not liable for any damage to the sprinkler system or other personal utilities that have been placed in the road right-of-way." The motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures. Supervisor Gondeck voiced his opinion that he wanted permits for sprinkler systems in the road right-of-way. The motion passed as stated above.

The regular meeting was called to order. Approval of the Meeting Agenda was given through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Approval of the October Meeting Minutes was given with correction of a typographical error on page two to change "award" to "aware," and the amount of the quote for the dry hydrant system to \$4,500. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Kacures and passed to approve the minutes with the above-noted corrections. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's report with a cash balance of \$330,294.66; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to accept her report. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the claims #5567 through 5592 and electronic transfers to IRS and PERA totaling \$34,746.90; second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.

There was no Citizen's Input.

Old Business:

- A. **Dry Hydrant System:** Supervisor Gondeck said that the work will begin tomorrow with board approval; the DNR and Benton County Department of Development required a floating fence which was not in the original bid, and also piping will be longer. Cost will be \$6,000 per site. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to approve the project at the new cost; second was made by Supervisor Erdmann with the addition that all insurance is in place before work begins; motion passed.
- B. **Communication on Snow Plowing Non-Accepted Funds:** Jeff Hanson, President of Marson Contractors has stated that their company is willing to plow the non-accepted roads for the difference stated in the bid proposal. This will mean that he will offer to

plow the non-accepted roads in The Cove Development for \$676 for the season and Lake Andrew Development for \$882; rates were determined by dividing the amount of the bid difference among the three developments (Oak Hill, Cove, and Lake Andrew) based on mileage totals in each development. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, to accept Jeff's offer and to have the Clerk send a letter to the residents and developers informing them of this decision; motion passed.

- C. Quiet Zone Donation Report: Supervisor Erdmann collected another \$1,000 for the quiet zone on County Road 79; he has two outstanding pledges.
- D. West Lake Road Repairs: Supervisor Erdmann said that the work was completed during the week following the October board meeting. The board has not received the billing.
- E. Crack filling: Hemlock Road is two-thirds complete; then the STS Crew will move to 5th Avenue. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to also crack fill Jasmine Loop if there is enough material left; second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.
- F. Tree Trimming on Shoestring Loop: Supervisor Gondeck said that it is completed – Bob Raveling did the work; the STS Crew also did tree trimming on West Lake Road.
- G. MS4 Training on Illicit Discharge: both Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence attended and received certification for illicit discharge to stormwater. Supervisor Gondeck said that it was very educational. He noted the emphasis on street sweeping. Clerk Spence noted other highlights of the seminar. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures to approve the form "Watab Township Notice and Order to Abate Nuisance;" motion passed.
- H. Update of progress on stormwater ordinance: Wayne Cymbaluk has forwarded it to MPCA for review. It must be adopted by March 2015.
- I. Brush Cutting: Supervisor Gondeck will check with the ditch mowing contractor tomorrow regarding the need for brush cutting on Frost Road.

New Business:

- A. Rice Fire Contract Proposal: Supervisor Kacures recommended that we learn what the other townships are paying for their contract and accept the same rate and also drop the medical calls. Supervisor Gondeck said he would want dropping the medical calls to be brought up at the annual meeting. Currently there is nearly \$15,000 in unpaid calls. Supervisor Erdmann said that he would want to have a public hearing and let the residents vote on it. There was considerable discussion about the cost of the contract. Supervisor Kacures asked how the board wants to act on this contract. The board decided to send a letter to Rice saying that we are going to hold a public hearing and have a vote of residents in Fire District 1 about dropping medical calls before accepting this contract. Also, the board believes that Watab should be charged the same rates as Langola and Graham Townships. The board believes that using the 2013 Net Tax Capacity rather than the current year and multiplying it by 102% is a very inflated value. The board feels that Watab has been overcharged and been paying more than a fair share of the Rice fire budget for many years. Clerk Spence was asked to prepare a ballot for residents in Fire District I to vote on whether or not they want to continue receiving and paying for medical calls. A public hearing will be held after the vote to let the residents know what they decided. The ballot is to be mailed to all property owners who

pay taxes in District 1. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to take the previously stated action and to have a special meeting on Monday, November 10th at 7:00 p.m. to review the ballot and letter. Clerk Spence was also asked to prepare a letter to the City of Rice for the board's review.

- B. Road Certification to the County: The board reviewed the list sent by the county engineer. He had included the non-accepted roads. Clerk Spence was asked to check with him regarding this issue for review by the board at next Monday evening's meeting.
- C. Report on SWPPP Inspections: Supervisor Gondeck reported on all the inspections; one is not sweeping streets adequately; others are in compliance.
- D. CTAS Training report: Clerk Spence attended a training provided by the State Auditor's Office on the upgrade to the City/Town Accounting System. She will need to complete the upgrade by January 1, 2015.
- E. Invitation to Economic Development Meeting: Benton County is having a meeting on Tuesday, November 25th. The board is asked to send one representative and appointed Supervisor Gondeck at his request. He was asked to question when the board will return to having full-time economic development staff and begin writing grants to bring additional revenue into Benton County.
- F. Report on the Central MN Water Education Meeting: Clerk Spence reported on the monthly meeting.
- G. Town Hall Rental Report: the hall is rented for most weekends in December; only the weekend after Christmas is open.
- H. Communications: board members reported on all communications received during the past month.
- I. Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on the Economic Development Board meeting and stated that he will work on organization of the town hall's back storage room during November.
- J. Citizen's input: No comments received.

A motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence