

Minutes of the Watab Town Board Meeting for December 1, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at the Town Hall. All board members were present; and audience members were Joe Poganski, Allen and Anna Saldana, Bob Raveling, and Jason Krueger. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved with the addition of approval of the final plat for the Poganski Addition and Snow Plowing Issues through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. The minutes of the November regular meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Treasurer Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a current balance of \$321,012; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures and passed to accept her report. The approval to pay the monthly bills for Claims #5908 through 5932 and Electronic Transfers for MN Department of Revenue, IRS, and PERA totaling \$51,641.86 was made through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. This included authorization to make the payment to Lori and Allen Schlien for thirty-two burning permits. There was no Citizen's Input.

Old Business:

- A. Fire District I Letters were sent out at the end of November.
- B. Town Hall outside lights will be installed next week; Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to replace the lights in the meeting room with LED bulbs; second by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed to order by end of December for an extra rebate from Xcel Energy.
- C. Langola Township authorized \$200 for a donation towards the participation of Langola residents in our Cleanup Day; Supervisor Gondeck attended their township meeting to make a request.
- D. Johnson Road Widening is completed. There was a culvert extension and fill to expand the road by eight feet. Supervisor Gondeck commended Supervisor Erdmann for his work on this. Kevin Johnson was requested to pay half the cost of \$2,000; township will bill him.
- E. Railroad Crossing Damage by BNSF is still unresolved; Clerk was asked to send photos to Dustin Karraker, Road Boss.
- F. Pole Saw Purchase: Supervisor Gondeck tabled this.
- G. Stormwater Runoff Issue into the Harris Channel: Supervisor Gondeck met with Wayne Cymbaluk and he submitted suggestions to remedy the problem. The county issued all the original stormwater permits for Oak Hill Estates. Supervisor Gondeck will meet with the designer to see if the owner is abiding by the original permit. One manhole drain needs to be opened that is totally blocked. Supervisor Gondeck was also asked to contact DNR and Clerk Spence to contact MNDOT for a report at the January meeting.
- H. MS4 Report: One home needed to have a rock entrance installed and to sweep the streets. Supervisor Erdmann added that he received a report of a straight pipe leaving a home with sewage directly going into a wetland. Supervisor Gondeck and Erdmann were asked to do an inspection tomorrow. Supervisor Erdmann has also had a report

that very little sewage, if any, has been recently pumped from the holding tank at Lake Andrew. This will be reported to MPCA.

- I. Brush Cutting: Supervisor Gondeck said that the STS Crew cleaned up all the areas of the township.
- J. 115th Street: The sheriff has requested a reduction in the speed limit from 55 to 35 mph. The board will make the request to MNDOT with a letter of endorsement from Sheriff Heck.
- K. The SCORE Grant report was submitted to Benton County and funds have been received.
- L. Joe Poganski reported that he will soon have the mylar copies of the final plat for the Poganski Addition, which the Board Chair will need to sign and the Clerk to notarize. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to sign the paper and mylar copies of the final plat for Poganski Addition when they are available.

New Business:

- A. Watab received the Grassroots Government Award – “Public Safety, a Township’s Highest Responsibility” at the state MAT conference on November 20th at Arrowwood Lodge in Alexandria. Supervisor Gondeck reported on what he learned at the conference: state fire marshall said that \$12 million went back to the state due to fire departments not applying for grants; MPCA potentially eliminating burning barrels; maintenance of road signs; recording all important documents with the county recorder; and easements. He requested that the board hire Couri and Ruppe Law to prepare the easements for the proposed frontage road. The board decided that they may be able to negotiate directly with all the property owners without involving an attorney at this time.
- B. Ferry Point Cul de Sac: Supervisor Gondeck received a phone call from a resident in that neighborhood regarding deep holes in the road. Since it was a safety issue, Supervisor Gondeck requested that Rice Contracting repair it as soon as possible. Cost is under \$500.
- C. Retaining Couri and Ruppe to Draft Proposed Legislation: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to retain them; second was Supervisor Erdmann; and motion passed. This legislation will have the support of the State Auditors Association and will benefit both the township and counties to collect unpaid bills and taxes from owners of property.
- D. Review of Proposed Ordinance between the City of Rice and Benton Telephone Cooperative: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to request an ordinance between Watab Township and Benton Cablevision rather than being incorporated into the one between the City of Rice and the business; Clerk Spence was asked to contact Cheryl Scapanski. Clerk Spence thanked Chris Scheel, Council Member from the City of Rice for notifying the township of the renewal of the ordinance and requesting the town board review it.
- E. The quarterly Budget Review was conducted by the board; there were no issues.

- F. Snow Plowing Issues: Supervisor Gondeck asked permission to go out with Marson's Contracting owner on Thursday morning to address issues. Clerk Spence reviewed the concerns that Don Garlock expressed on the cul de sac near his home; Supervisor Erdmann and Gondeck also reported on calls they received.
- G. Monthly Communications: (1) a letter of appreciation was received from Peggy Herman of the Rice Area Food Shelf for the donation of over 200 pounds of food from Cleanup Day; (2) Supervisor Gondeck received a certificate of completion of training on winter road maintenance for MS4; and a letter has been sent to the American Legion requesting the donation of a flag.
- H. Board Member Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Greater MN Development Board meeting; he recommended support for Derek Nelson's conditional use permit; he reported on vandalism of graffiti on 5th Avenue, which he reported to the Sheriff's Department.
- I. Work Plan: Supervisor Gondeck was authorized to attend the county board meeting to thank them for the SCORE grants; he will retain the STS Crew to trim a corner; and Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck will work together on Lake Andrew issues; Supervisor Erdmann will work with the Clerk on frontage road easements.
- J. Citizen's Input: Jason Kruger complimented the board on receiving the Grassroots Government Award and congratulated the township. He also asked if we need more election judges; not at this time.

Chair Kacures wished everyone a Merry Christmas and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence