

Watab Town Board Meeting: July 7, 2015 Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 at the town hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Kacures, Craig Gondeck, and Lloyd Erdmann; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were: Sandra Saldana, Anna Saldana, Michael Kubat, Eugene Kubat, Ed Popp, Paul Jacobs, Kevin Anderson, and Bob Raveling. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the Board Chair asked for approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the agenda as presented. Approval of the minutes of the regular June meeting was given through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a cash balance of \$276,211.49. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to accept the report as read. There were no Citizen's Issues.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve the monthly claims as presented and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Claims presented were 5786-5812 totaling \$82,343.58.

Old Business included:

- A. Adoption of Resolution 2015-10: Accepting Grant from Benton Telecommunications Foundation. Supervisor Gondeck explained the township request for full funding for the second outdoor warning siren from Benton Telecommunications, which is a local foundation. Installation will be in August on the township road right of way near Pine Edge Grocery. Amount of the grant is \$32,695. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adopt the resolution allocating the funds for purchase and installation of the outdoor warning siren. The board expressed appreciation for this large grant amount.
- B. Notice of Establishment of Quiet Zone for Frost Road: Supervisor Erdmann reported on the project, which is completed. There were no problems and the project came in several thousand dollars less than the quote. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, to send the Notice of Establishment to all necessary officials, and the motion passed. The notices will be mailed on July 8th with an activation date of July 30th for the Quiet Zone.
- C. Sanbur Trail Repairs: After the grass is cut in the ditch, Supervisor Gondeck will meet with the residents to find out what they are asking. The work completed was not what they are seeking.
- D. Crack Filling and Seal Coating: Crack filling will resume this week. Seal coating will proceed in two to three weeks.
- E. Citizen's Input on Agenda Items: Supervisor Gondeck said that he would like to have citizens be able to be heard on each agenda item. Supervisor Erdmann also said that citizens need the chance to be heard, but we can't allow individuals to take over the meeting. He felt that if an issue comes up during the meeting, the board could benefit from citizen input. Supervisor Gondeck said that you could have a time limit on how long a person could speak. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to allow citizens to speak on an issue for a maximum of two minutes or with exception by board action. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann. Clerk Spence is to bring the

administrative policy back to the next meeting with the above-stated change. Motion passed.

- F. Clerk Spence presented a letter from the town board endorsing Supervisor Craig Gondeck for the township representative position on the Benton County Water Advisory Board. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Kacures and passed to send the letter to John Bemboom for consideration at the fall Benton County Association of Township Meeting.
- G. Mosquito Control: There have been two presentations from resident Jerry Lage about mosquito control in the township. Supervisor Erdmann said that the township could not afford to treat the entire township. Supervisor Gondeck said that we should have the mosquito control information on our brochure rack for citizens. Supervisor Kacures said that he agreed because there is so much standing water in the township with the wetlands, lake, and river. Jerry was thanked by the board for all his information and stated that the township will continue to make the information available.
- H. Sign Installation: Supervisor Gondeck said that he is continuing to install signs where replacement is needed.
- I. County Board of Equalization Report of Changes. Brian Koester, County Assessor, sent a report with county changes for the valuation of the lots in Pirates Cove Development, which were lowered. Supervisor Gondeck asked about adjustments for Louis LeBlanc's request. There were no changes noted on the report.

New Business included:

- A. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann to adopt Resolution 2015-11: Establishing a Town of Watab Policy for Plat Process. This resolution replaces Resolution 2007-2 for the purpose of including policies and procedures for meeting the new Stormwater Permit from MPCA. Supervisor Gondeck commented that he learned at the L & R Conference that the township should require a bond from the developer. The proposed ordinance lists a bond as one of several options for the board. Motion passed to adopt Resolution 2015-11.
- B. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to dispose of the large brown table at the town hall since it is unstable and cannot be repaired and to purchase three new folding tables. Motion passed.
- C. A revised date was adopted for Watab Clean Up Day due to a conflict with the Rice and Little Falls Arts and Craft Fair. The new date set is for September 26th at Twin Pines Parking Lot.
- D. The board discussed the road right of way erosion due to heavy rains on Lakewood Shore Road. The decision was made for Supervisor Gondeck to meet with Allen Saldana to decide on a repair and have the situation remedied. Excess sand is also to be removed at the bottom of the hills for bicycle safety.
- E. Sprinkler system repairs at the town hall have been made during the past month.
- F. The township property insurance valuation report was received during the past month from the township insurance trust. Prior to renewal the Clerk was asked to question if there might be a rate reduction for correcting the mileage to the fire department, the hydrant locations near the town hall, and the ISO rating of the Sauk Rapids Fire

Department, which is 4. There is another hydrant in the cul de sac. This was tabled until the August meeting.

- G. Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, and Supervisor Gondeck reported on what they learned at the township summer short course. The Clerk's notes are attached to the minutes. Supervisor Gondeck noted that there should be no township signs that say "Travel at Own Risk" since that will assume liability. Signs will be replaced.
- H. Board members were reminded of the Little Rock Lake Association Picnic this Saturday at Rumors.
- I. Clerk Spence and Treasurer Saldana will appear in Conciliation Court at 2 o'clock in the afternoon on July 27th as plaintiffs on four cases that have been filed for unpaid medical calls totaling \$2,940.96.
- J. Correspondence included an email for Sheriff Heck on enforcing the new speed limit as soon as signs are installed on 105th Street and advertising from Erickson Asphalt.
- K. Supervisor Gondeck reported that Geringhoff will pay back a portion of their grant due to employing fewer people than originally projected. New housing starts are down because the appraisals are coming in as low as the 2008 rates and building materials have increased in cost since that time. He asked for authority from the board to post three notices at the Pine's Edge Grocery posting board regarding rides to the doctor, how to obtain burning permits, and that Watab Township will be more aggressively pursuing payment for unpaid emergency calls by Rice Fire Department. Also, Gene and Mary Kivi are asking for support for a variance. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to support their request to the Benton County Department of Development.
- L. July Work Plan: Supervisor Gondeck will continue work on sign installation and culvert marking. Supervisor Erdmann will oversee seal coating and work on the driveway widening for K Johnson Concrete.
- M. Bob Raveling asked about the Shoestring Loop repair. Commissioner Ed Popp spoke to the board about county issues. He said that the commissioners have selected twelve people to work on setting up an economic development non-profit status for the county. The Clerk asked him to research ways the township can access park dedication funds for playground equipment in Lake Andrew and Oak Hill Estates, where park dedication fees originated and there are large numbers of children. Currently this use does not meet the county park plan.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk