

## Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting of June 2, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 2, 2015 at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Chair Ed Kacures, Jr., Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, Supervisor Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Jerry and Char Lage, Joe McPherson, Bob Raveling, Sandy Saldana, Anna Saldana, Jason Kruger, and Kevin Reiter. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the chair requested approval of the agenda. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to add two items to the agenda: (1) request from Geno Beniek for Sanbur Trail repairs and (2) articles in the newspaper. Motion passed. Approval of the minutes for the May regular meeting was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a cash balance of \$344,761.48 in the two accounts. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to accept her report.

No Citizen's Issues were brought forward at this time.

Approval to pay the monthly bills for Claims #5759 through 5784 and Electronic Withdrawals for PERA, IRS, and MN Department of Revenue totaling \$14,857.49 was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Clerk Spence noted that the invoice for the Rice Fire Contract had not been received, but payment is due in June. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve payment of the Rice Fire contract upon receipt of the invoice.

Guest Joe McPherson from Benton County Highway Department presented plans to repave part of Highway 33 and replace five culverts. They will need to close that section of road and are requesting to detour traffic onto Frost Road for three to five days. The start date is anticipated for June 22<sup>nd</sup>. The town board gave approval for the detour. Clerk Spence was asked to add something to the website and Channel 3 regarding this detour.

Old Business:

A. Johnson Road extension for frontage road: MNDOT staked the right of way; local manager of RDO thinks the project is good, and he would be willing to give up the right of way. The head manager will be available in two weeks for a meeting to get his approval; Supervisor Erdmann will contact Jon Bogart to put together the official plan if approval is given; Kevin Johnson is in favor of the project. Clerk Spence is to send a letter to MNDOT giving our intent to apply for funding for this project if it looks like it will proceed. Supervisor Erdmann brought up questions about placement of the sign and whether MNDOT will allow a common ditch. Supervisor Erdmann also said that Kevin Johnson requested a blue directional sign for his business; Clerk Spence is to ask Claudia Dumont at MNDOT if the township can have that sign in the township right of way so people know where to turn off to get to his business. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to move forward in hiring Jon Bogart at

\$3,250 for the staking and design of the frontage road if final approval for the easement is granted by RDO; motion passed. RDO has requested that the frontage road be a ten-ton road.

B. Progress Report on Road Projects: pothole repairs were done well by Saldana Excavating and Aggregates; the township will begin cleaning up brush on the road right of ways; the sign order has been placed and delivery is expected soon; 75% of the cost of the Adopt a Highway signs will be covered by the grant.

C. 66th Street Dust Suppression: completed by Tri-City Paving during the past month at a cost of \$400. The entire amount was paid by the township.

D. Safety Cones Ordered: Supervisor Gondeck checked what the county uses and he ordered twenty cones.

E. Traffic Count Update: Lakewood Shores averaged 623 cars a day on the north end of the road; Supervisor Gondeck was asked to continue to do this to check for accuracy. Frost Road averaged 250 cars per day, and 95<sup>th</sup> Street NW averaged 130 per day.

F. Resolution on 66<sup>th</sup> Street Speed Zone: 2015-9 establishing a 30mph speed limit. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve this resolution. Clerk Spence was asked to send a copy of the signed resolution to the Sheriff.

G. Road Signs: Supervisor Gondeck did the annual sign inventory. His report was placed on file. The signs needed will be placed in the next couple of weeks. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to authorize the installation of the signs.

H. Outdoor Warning Siren: Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence met with Rebecca Baumann, consultant for the Benton Telecommunications Foundation, and Supervisor Gondeck will meet with the board on Monday for their review and decision on our grant. August would be the earliest time for installation.

I. Burning Permits: Supervisor Gondeck said that a call came through to the Sheriff's Department that there was a fire in Watab Township; the dispatcher checked and saw that they had a burning permit, so the fire department wasn't contacted; this results in a cost savings to the township and the resident with the permit. Supervisor Gondeck encourages everyone to activate their burning permits with the DNR before burning. Currently permits can be obtained through the DNR website for an annual fee of \$5. Also, permits can be obtained from Al and Bev Haehnel and Al and Lori Schlein; they are Fire Wardens within the township. Clerk Spence was asked to place a sign regarding this for the Pines Edge posting area.

J. Buckthorn and Native Planting Meeting: it was well delivered and received by about twenty people.

K. Jerry Lage gave an update on mosquito control. He went to Clark Pest Control at Clearwater for information and materials. The tablets are a briquette to put in areas where the mosquitos breed; they also have options for a chemical. Flit works well but it will harm pollinating insects. Naturalr uses bacteria to control them. He presented the board with much printed information. He thanked the board for their time. The board thanked him for his research. Supervisors will study the information during the month.

L. MS4 Planning: Clerk Spence reviewed items that need to be accomplished in the coming year: (1) add inventory numbers to maps showing all the outfalls; (2) develop a bi-annual recognition program to promote BMP's in the township and implement it by June 15, 2016 (possibly do this in cooperation with the Little Rock Lake Association; (3) prepare letter of endorsement for Supervisor Gondeck to continue to serve on the Benton County Water

Resource Advisory Committee for a vote at the September Benton County Association of Township Meeting; (4) hold quarterly board training at the August and November board meetings; (5) update the Plat Manual for review at the July meeting; (6) review the Plat Map for ShangriLa Loop to address runoff issues in that development (may possibly need curb and gutter; (7) write up the BMP's for the township on all road maintenance practices.

M. Flag pole and light pole reinstalled: The board thanks Supervisor Gondeck, Marson Contractors, and Bob Raveling for their assistance in these improvements.

N. Frost Road Quiet Zone construction will start at 7am on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

O. Railroad Tie billing: This has been resolved during the past month. The township has already paid for 32 railroad ties that were never installed at the Lakewood Shore Road crossing; they will be installed this summer. The township was rebilled for these in error; and the issue is resolved. Thanks to the new BNSF road master for helping the township.

P. Park Dedication Funds: Supervisor Kacures will contact Commissioner Ed Popp during the coming month to ask for revisions to the park plan, since we have not had a response for a meeting with the commissioners on this issue.

New Businesss included:

A. Three board members will attend the June 15<sup>th</sup> Minnesota Association of Townships Summer Short Course.

B. Couri and Ruppe Legal Course: Supervisor Gondeck reported that they work closely with MAT and have a great deal of expertise on township issues. He is waiting for a response from them on billing owners of rental property for unpaid medical and fire bills.

C. Right of Entry Permits: There are open permits in Lake Andrew for Xcel Energy.

D. Supervisor Kacures brought up past newspaper articles about a county board meeting with discussion of the Benton Drive/County Rd 55 crossing and the article about the quiet zones in Watab. Supervisor Kacures said that he wished more board members would have had input for the article on the quiet zones to get out correct information. He made a motion that in the future if a newspaper writer contacts a board member, that we request a draft of an article before it is run; Supervisor Gondeck seconded the motion. During discussion Clerk Spence suggested that the board use an official spokesperson or his/her designee for talking to the media representatives. Supervisor Kacures amended his motion to have the board chair or his designee as the official spokesperson; Supervisor Gondeck agreed to the amendment; the amended motion passed.

E. Correspondence: Clerk Spence reviewed the month's correspondence.

F. Town Hall Rentals: There are several rentals for graduation parties during the month of June. The board will do minor cleaning as needed between events to save funds.

G. Board Member Reports: Supervisor Gondeck attended the Minnesota Association of Township's L & R Meeting in St. Cloud on our snow plowing issue; John Bemboom didn't send in our county association's resolution, so that caused extra work for Supervisor Gondeck at the meetings, but the resolution was adopted today and will be sent on to the State Legislature. Senator Brown has agreed to introduce it. The St Cloud Greater Development Board had a presentation by the University of MN on training. Supervisor Kacures asked if the development board has had any input on location of the FedEx distribution center going to Brainerd and

conversations on Geringhoff not employing as many people as committed. Supervisor Gondeck will inquire about these two issues.

H. Geno Beniek asked to have the hump bladed off on the east end of Sanbur Trail. Supervisor Gondeck will get a price to do that from Marson's and they can do it when they repair the snow plowing damage on the right of way.

I. September 12<sup>th</sup> is the date set for Clean Up Day.

J. Supervisor Gondeck said that he had a call about having citizen's input re-instated for each item on the agenda. This led to a very heated discussion with concerns expressed on both sides of the issue: (1) Having Citizen's Issues at the beginning and end of the meetings helps preserve time to reduce the length of the meetings; versus (2) Limiting citizen's input on each agenda item eliminates residents' wisdom on issues. This practice was put in place through a resolution at the April reorganization meeting of the board. The board will discuss it further at the next meeting.

#### Citizens' Issues:

A. Kevin Reiter asked about the potential for coordination with BNSF on their replacement of planks and ties and the township quiet zone construction; Supervisor Erdmann responded that the township had asked for this but coordination is not possible.

B. Paul Jacobs commented that the board cannot control what a newspaper prints.

C. Jason Krueger said that he doesn't believe the township could effectively treat for mosquitos because of the distance they travel. Kevin Krueger feels that people should take care of mosquito control on their own property; the township should not get involved. Supervisor Gondeck said he would like to show the board the map of all the water in the township that would need to be treated.

The board discussed the Work Plan for June: signs, MAT Conference, STS crew doing crack filling, the annual weed tour, railroad crossing inspections, startup of the sprinkler system at the town hall, and work on the Plat Manual revisions.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence