

## Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting of March 3, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of Watab Township was called to order at the town hall on Tuesday, March 3, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. 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 Jason Krueger, Paul Jacobs, John Olson, Nancy Scott, Kevin Reiter, and Bob Raveling. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the approval of the agenda was made through a motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Nancy Scott was present to give her annual building inspection report. She awarded sixty-seven permits last year for \$6.5 million in valuation with eighteen new homes. We had more single family homes than Rice or Foley. There was a building code and energy code change, so she has already issued four new home permits in 2015. Supervisor Gondeck thanked her for the excellent, hard work she has done. Pat Spence asked her if she would contact Supervisor Gondeck when she does the footing inspections so that he can make a required MS4 inspection. Nancy summarized her communication with all building permittees. Building valuation data is posted on the state website for the department of labor. Nancy uses the chart to determine values on the construction which uses square footage. She takes off about 5% off for our properties not being located in the metropolitan area. She said that no one has made her aware of a difference in what she is valuing a home and what an assessor is valuing it. There was discussion with Nancy on her process for inspections, and the board was well satisfied with her contracted work. She was again thanked by the board.

The minutes of the February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved as printed by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Treasurer Eileen Saldana gave the financial report with \$392,638 in the township accounts. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to accept her report.

Citizen's Input: Jason Krueger thanked the board for the newsletter and hopes it gets more people involved in township government. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to pay Claims #5682 through 5704 and electronic transfers from checking for PERA, IRS, and MN Department of Revenue totaling \$15,295.12 and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

### Old Business:

- A. Rice Fire Contract: Chair Kacures has signed a two-year contract with the City of Rice for emergency services. Both years will be at the same rate. The base contract amount is \$\$21,365. Each first-hour call is billed the township at \$350 and each additional hour at \$300.
- B. West Lake Road parking issue: Supervisor Gondeck met with Sheriff Troy Heck, who said that if we put up "No Parking Signs" he will enforce it. It is a large safety issue with people parking on the sides of the road. Supervisor Erdmann said that he is opposed to having "no parking" signs." The sheriff said that it is illegal to park there because it is in the lane of traffic. The area is also being used as an entrance onto the lake. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to table.
- C. Frost Road Quiet Zone: a meeting was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February with the diagnostic team. Chair Kacures talked about his meeting with Jon Bogart about the 95<sup>th</sup> Street crossing. The Frost Road project has not yet gone out for bids; Clerk Spence will follow up.
- D. Generator for the town hall: Supervisor Gondeck has been working to get quotes as directed by the board during the past month. The purpose of having the generator was to be able to use the

town hall during a power outage. Benton County Emergency Management uses it as a command center. Craig phoned several companies, met with some, and received two quotes. The companies suggest that the township do the maintenance for saving cost. Estimated cost is about \$7,500. Citizen input was that if it is needed, Benton County Emergency Services should pay for it. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to not purchase a generator at this time.

- E. Outdoor Warning Siren: Supervisor Gondeck talked about the potential for receiving a grant for a second siren. The board approved the grant inquiry prepared by Clerk Spence through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. The Clerk will submit the grant inquiry to Cheryl Scapanski at Benton Telecommunications Foundation.
- F. SCORE Grants: Supervisor Gondeck requested authority to purchase twenty warning cones through Adopt a Highway and Clean Up Day Grants. Township cost would be \$125; the grants would cover the remainder. SCORE funds come through the State of Minnesota. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck to purchase 20 cones; motion passed.
- G. Iten Court NW street sign was installed, and Marty Reker will reimburse the township for it.
- H. Johnson Road driveway update: Kevin Johnson is very concerned about the U.S. Highway 10 construction this summer, and he would like to have a wider township road so that trucks can make the turn onto the highway. He would like the township to request from MNDOT that our road be widened so his trucks can get in and out. Supervisor Erdmann asked Clerk Spence to contact Claudia Dumont at MNDOT about all the businesses near Kevin Johnson's and how they can be accommodated.
- I. The bill from BNSF for railroad ties has not been ratified. During the coming month, Supervisor Erdmann will check if any additional ties were installed at Lakewood Shore for the quiet zone.
- J. Annual Newsletter: Clerk Spence gave a report that 1,350 newsletters were mailed this year with all cabin owners included in the mailing. Supervisor Gondeck said that he was pleased with the large increase in donations. Clerk Spence thanked Supervisor Erdmann for calling on some of those who contributed. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to accept the newsletter donations, which totaled \$845. The motion passed.
- K. Economic Development: discussion to table for one additional month.

#### New Business:

- A. The board members reviewed several different used chairs that might be available for purchase. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to follow up on chairs available from the Creamery.
- B. MS4: Clerk Pat Spence was asked to contact the township attorney if we have authority to pull the building permit with noncompliance to the Land Disturbance Permit. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to approve all the remaining requirements that have been completed for the MS4 permit. Supervisor Gondeck asked for clarification on the inspection schedule. He is to follow the ordinance.
- C. Annual Election Meeting Presentation: A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed to authorize the purchase of refreshments for the annual meeting.
- D. 105<sup>th</sup> Street Speed Study: township would need to pass a resolution to send to MNDOT for such a speed study. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to have the Clerk prepare a resolution for a speed study on 105<sup>th</sup> Street between Highway 10 and County Road 55. Motion passed.
- E. Meeting with the Benton County Sheriff: Supervisor Gondeck met with him and said he is so impressed with his attitude. The Sheriff's Department will check if there is a DNR activated

burning permit before calling out the fire department if a fire is called in. The STS Crew will have more crew members available due to some changes in the courts, which will help with ditch cleaning and crack filling. He also spoke to someone at Foley CARE who says that some of our residents are calling her to get rides to the doctor. She refers calls from our township to the sheriff's department so the rescue squad from Rice gets dispatched. She suggested that we get volunteer drivers for one day a week to alleviate this problem.

- F. AED Replacement: ours isn't working and Supervisor Gondeck asked for permission to have it repaired; check the battery problem. The board asked him to follow up.
- G. Seal Coating for 2015: 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; Clerk Spence is to send this out to contractors as in past for a May contract award. We anticipate being able to do about two miles.
- H. Monthly Communications. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed to approve preregistration for the legal short course for Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to have the Clerk attend the TMDL reporting seminar in St. Cloud. The Spring Short Course is Tuesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud. Don Hammerel emailed that he will no longer serve as a fire warden. Others are encouraged to step forward to offer this service. Clerk Spence has responded to the request from Standard and Poor for the annual financial report. The board received the minutes from the CMWEA meeting attended by Clerk Spence for MS4.
- I. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to have the Chair sign the letter of engagement to retain Ehlers as Dissemination Agent for Issue of Continuing Disclosure Required by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Motion passed. Their annual fee is increasing from \$100 to \$750 because of the requirements by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Supervisor Gondeck said he thought the township could have saved money by refinancing the township debt through the bank rather than going through a bond sale. Clerk Spence responded that the bank had the opportunity to offer a lower interest rate since they knew the township was pursuing a bond issue. \$105,000 in savings resulted.
- J. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he ordered the crack filling material. He got 5 pallets at a good price through Konrad. He gave a report on Economic Development giving the history of the St. Cloud Development group getting Edmonton Trailer to locate in Sartell; he is currently working on a home-based business. Employees currently need to live on the premises. Joe Janish wants input from the board about this current residency requirement. Clerk Spence offered to obtain the current ordinance on home based businesses for the board to study before the next meeting. Supervisor Kacures brought up the need to schedule the spring road tour and encouraged the board to have it during March if the weather cooperates. He will let the Clerk know to notice the meeting.
- K. There were no additional Citizen's Issues or Feedback.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:25pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence