

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes: November 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm on Monday, November 1, 2015 by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr., Craig Gondeck, and Lloyd Erdmann; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Kevin Reiter, Jane Torborg, and Anna Saldana. Following the Pledge to the Flag, additions were made to the agenda of (a) Johnson Road widening and (b) Grassroots Government Award through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. The minutes of the October 6 meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report of a cash balance of \$350,701.88 in two checking accounts. During Citizens' Input, Kevin Reiter asked if the recently purchased house in his neighborhood is going to be a halfway house as has been rumored. Supervisor Gondeck responded that there is a slim chance, since the county board is not supporting it. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to pay all monthly claims as presented for claims numbered 5889 through 5907 including payment for the County Recorder and Marco, Inc. and two electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$15,720.90.

Old Business included:

- A. Trees on 66th Street: Supervisor Gondeck reported a commitment from Jason Zwilling to voluntarily remove the dead trees at no charge to the township; all are marked by Supervisor Gondeck.
- B. Flag Donation: Clerk Spence was asked to send a letter to the Rice Legion Commander requesting the donation of a new flag for outside the town hall. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.
- C. Silt Fence Removal: Supervisor Gondeck had the STS crew remove them from the railroad crossing quiet zone sites, and debris was taken to Allied Waste.
- D. Fire Billing Update: Clerk Spence explained two calls from those billed during the past month for medical calls and a call from the attorney general's office with a complaint from a Watab resident about being billed for a service not requested. The Clerk reviewed the recommendations from the Attorney General's office, and a follow up meeting she had with Sheriff Troy Heck and Supervisor Gondeck. Sheriff Heck stated that residents have the right to express the services that they want when they call 911; if they want only the ambulance, they must state that to the dispatcher. The board reviewed the draft of a letter to send to the residents of Fire District I informing them of this fact. It will be sent out within the month of November on the approval of a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.
- E. Supervisor Gondeck had a call from Karri Thorsten, County Auditor-Treasurer, last week. She is in full support of having a new state law passed that would make property owners responsible for unpaid emergency calls.

- F. Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence reported on meetings held with several County Officials during the past month: Auditor, Recorder, Asst. County Attorney, Sheriff, and Dept. of Development regarding a variety of issues. They were all extremely helpful.
- G. Town Hall Maintenance: The men's restroom urinal was repaired today; there is a quote for \$340 for a new light fixture and LED light for the flag pole and to replace lights in hall with LED bulbs for \$650. We would get a much brighter light. Clerk Spence was asked to contact Xcel about energy saving rebates if the board voted to do this. The board will discuss again at the December meeting. Also, the photo eye for the outside light needs to be replaced at a cost of \$75. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to contract with Little Rock Electric for the outside lighting work.
- H. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to meet with the Langola Town Board in November to ask for a donation to share in the cost of Cleanup Day proportional to the number of their residents that brought in debris.
- I. Planning for Frontage Road: Supervisor Erdmann talked about the progress on potentially extending a frontage road south from Johnson Road to County Road 33. He and Clerk Spence have been researching maps and abstracts. He showed the board a 1961 map which shows the placement of the township road through this area. There is no record of the township road being vacated at the County Recorder's Office or Benton County Abstract. The Clerk expressed appreciation for all the work provided by Marilyn Novak, County Recorder. The township will need to provide the necessary easements to apply to MNDOT for the funding, so additional work is needed on the township's part.
- J. Johnson Road Widening: Clerk Spence applied to MNDOT for an access permit to widen Johnson Road. Supervisor Erdmann explained the plan he had drawn up to make a wider turning radius, extend the culvert, and widen the road 8 feet. The township is waiting for approval of the permit from MNDOT and desires to have the project down this fall if possible. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to get quotes from Saldana Excavating and Rice Contracting and Development and to move the project along.
- K. Crack Filling Grant: Supervisor Gondeck said that he would apply for the SCORE Grant in January to cover a portion of the compound.
- L. Railroad Damage: Clerk Spence reported that the BNSF road boss has not met with her and Supervisor Erdmann. She will continue to follow up with him regarding damage to the shoulders on the Lakewood Shore crossing.
- M. Municipal Project Delegation: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed for the Board Chair to sign the state delegation document.
- N. Co. Rd 55 and Benton Drive Railroad Crossing: Clerk Spence reported that she phoned the County Engineer to follow up with the safety concern expressed by Joan Baumgart at last month's meeting. He is taking it under advisement and said that the county will be working on the crossing.
- O. Island View Road property: Clerk Spence said that the township assessor will be reviewing the property that is currently not assessed for a large garage located in the cul de sac of Island View Road. Apparently, a land use permit was never issued for

construction of the garage since it is located in the public road easement. It has never been on the tax rolls.

New Business included:

- A. Pole Saw: Supervisor Gondeck said that he would like to get quotes to get a pole saw that is gas operated. He is to get quotes to present at the next meeting.
- B. West Lake Rad Signage Project: Supervisor Gondeck said that curve signs for the West Lake Road curve would be \$200 for four chevron signs; the poles are donated. The board decided to table this until spring.
- C. Planning for MS4 Recognition Event in 2016: The board has a recognition event included in the current MS4 Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit. Clerk Spence recommended holding on next summer in conjunction with the Little Rock Lake Association. Supervisor Gondeck will approach LRLA to see if they are interested. Perhaps the township would recognize a contractor using Best Management Practices.
- D. Stormwater Runoff Issue reported by Terry and Jon Hull: Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck to hire Wayne Cymaluk to review the issues and come up with a plan of action. Motion passed.
- E. Land Disturbance Permit Report: Supervisor Gondeck reported on contractors not always supervising when the cement trucks come in and not using the rock entrances. When a problem was identified in Lake Andrew, it was swept the next day. Four permits have been terminated this month, since the sites are stable.
- F. City of St. Cloud Maintenance Expo Report: Supervisor Gondeck reported on a new crack filling product that is made from recycled materials and an arrangement with another entity to give the township their used sign posts.
- G. MNDOT Expo: Supervisor Gondeck attended and got advice on new procedures for crack filling using a wand; MNDOT will allow the township to use their equipment. The Expo also covered winter salt usage on the roads, and they are moving to use brine to reduce salt going into the waterways. They recommend that the use of sand should also be eliminated. Supervisor Gondeck will talk with Marson's about this, since they have the township contract for snow plowing.
- H. Business Expo: Supervisor Gondeck was given permission to authorize use of the town hall for any future meetings between Barry Kerkhoff and Watab home-based business owners.
- I. Town Hall Rentals: Every weekend is booked for Christmas parties at the town hall plus several weekday evenings.
- J. Road Certification for Benton County: The board approved signing the Road Certification with the corrections of adding length for Johnson Road and removing Cove Road through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.
- K. Registration for MAT Conference: Watab Township will be awarded the Grassroots Government Award for public safety projects at the annual state conference of the Minnesota Association of Townships. All the board members' registration fees and banquet tickets for the board and their spouses will be paid by MAT. Clerk Spence was asked to reserve motel rooms for the night of November 20th.

- L. Rice Economic Development Committee: The City has asked for a representative from Watab Township and Supervisor Gondeck said that he would like to serve; City of Rice pays the per diem. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to appoint him as the official member and expressed his interest in attending some of the meetings; motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed.
- M. Chuck Ertl has completed the ditch mowing; board discussed his excellent work.
- N. Thank you note from Benton County SWCD was received for using the town hall for the lunch during their tour. The City of Rice sent notification of their wellhead protection plan; no response required.
- O. Supervisor's Reports: Bob Moon, road boss for Langola Township, called Supervisor Gondeck to ask if Watab would consider paying half the cost of a crack filling machine that the two townships would share. However, when Langola had their board meeting, they decided not to have Watab go in on it. Supervisor Gondeck also reported that the Economic Development Board has several new realtors involved who are excited about the school bond election results in St. Cloud; Geringhoff has a 50-employee base and is cited as a good place to work. He also received approval to purchase two updated Plat Books for the township.
- P. November Work Plan: trimming corners of brush as needed prior to snow fall; follow up with BNSF on Lakewood Shore shoulders; Johnson Road widening; and carpet and chair cleaning by Wall to Wall Carpet at the town hall.
- Q. Citizen's Input: Jane Torborg, a resident of Shoestring Loop, expressed her disappointment that all the residents of her street were not notified of Marty Reker putting in a new driveway onto Shoestring Loop. The board members explained the process for getting a driveway permit, that safety is the only consideration for adding a driveway, and that they cannot deprive a property owner access to the township road when building a new home. Also, current residences were never required to get permission from neighbors to build a driveway.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:42 p.m. through a motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence