

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes: September 1, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was held on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at the town hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Craig Gondeck. Other board members present were Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Jason Krueger, Nicole Solarz, Joe Poganski, Bob Raveling, and Anna Saldana. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved with the addition of railroad crossing damage by BNSF, Nichole Solarz and Joe Poganski for information on new plats, 66th Street tree issue, fire wardens, and Johnson Road driveway update. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the agenda with the additions. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the August meeting minutes as written. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a cash balance at two banks of \$452,259.67. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to accept her report. Approval to pay Claims #5838 through 5862 and Electronic Transfers for IRS, Minnesota Department of Revenue, and PERA was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed; total for the claims is \$49,033.36. There were no Citizen's Issues addressed.

Old Business included:

- A. Both Nichole Solarz and Joe Poganski received plat manuals from the township. They are both working on platting land in Watab Township. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to acknowledge that the plat manuals had been received by these two parties.
- B. Outdoor Warning Siren #2 will be installed on September 3rd. The installer will also straighten the current one.
- C. Changes to the town hall rental policy: Clerk Spence reviewed the changes recommended by the board that have been recorded on the township policy and application forms. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to adopt the changes to allow renting to non-residents at a higher rate than residents.
- D. Roseanna Beach Ditch Complaint: the township received a complaint from a resident on the road during the past month wanting the township to mow the portion of the ditch near the culvert in front of their home. Supervisor Gondeck met with the residents to explain that maintaining ditches is at the homeowner's discretion, and that the township could not mow all the ditches on a continuous basis. The board decided that no further action is required.
- E. Road Brush Cleanup: STS Crew will be coming next week. Supervisor Kacures arrived and took over as Chair of the meeting.
- F. Chip Sealing Town Roads: Supervisor Erdmann said that the process went well with work completed by ASTECH. He described the process they followed with all work completed in two days. They chip sealed two miles of 15th Avenue and Hemlock Road, and fog sealed Sanbur Trail (Sanbur Trail had been chip sealed a few years ago but hadn't been fog sealed at that time). Supervisor Gondeck said that a few people had expressed their appreciation for the work.
- G. Rental Property Issues: Supervisor Gondeck said that some local units of government have ordinances where the rental property owner is responsible for unpaid bills of their tenants. It

would be advantageous to the township to have such an ordinance to collect some of the unpaid emergency call bills. The board asked him to research this further for the next meeting.

- H. Johnson Road driveway update: Supervisor Erdmann described how RDO was not willing to allow a frontage road easement in front of their property unless MNDOT extended the frontage road to County Road 33. Since they do not have the funds to do so at this time and only had funds to do the portion in front of KJohnson and RDO, the only recourse is to widen the driveway off Johnson Road onto Highway 10. He plans to work with MNDOT and the contractor to accomplish this when work is done on Highway 10 next summer. Supervisor Gondeck expressed his belief that there is interest from businesses locating on frontage roads. Both he and Supervisor Erdmann said that the board should continue planning for this frontage road. Chair Kacures requested that they work together during the coming month to contact property owners.

New Business included:

- A. L & R resolution on rental properties: Supervisor Gondeck will research.
- B. Benton County Association of Townships will have the fall meeting on September 17th at 7:30 p.m. at Mr. Jim's in Foley. This will be attended by the board.
- C. Town Hall Improvements: a used entry rug was donated by a resident and should serve well through the winter; Supervisor Gondeck was asked to hire an electrician to repair the outdoor flood light for the flag and to install a LED light; Clerk Spence will request a replacement flag from Representative Klobuchar's office.
- D. Supervisor Gondeck asked for authority to order two additional MS4 signs, which are needed for County Road 13. Board gave authority to purchase these through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has completed four MS4 inspections for projects this month and there are no issues. He commended Supervisor Erdmann for his projects. Several Land Disturbance Permits will be terminated in September and October.
- E. Levy Certification to Benton County: A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to certify the following for taxes payable 2016: Revenue Fund \$90,000; Road & Bridge \$210,000; Building Debt Reduction \$20,000; Debt Service for Roads \$56,000; Fire Fund District I \$42,000; Fire Fund District II \$32,000. These are the amounts set by the township residents at the Annual Meeting on March 10, 2015.
- F. The board received a complaint about demolition derby cars on a lot as you enter 85th Street near Golf Haven Estates; the board will send a letter to Benton County Department of Development for them to investigate.
- G. Supervisor Gondeck said that there is interest in having another Fire Warden; Clerk Spence was asked to create a sign for the posting places.
- H. 66th Street has some trees on the road right of way that fell down. STS crew can clean them up this month.
- I. The board gave authority to place an ad in the Sauk Rapids Herald for Cleanup Day, which is September 26th.
- J. The board reviewed the application for the MAT Grassroots Government Award. After discussion and additions to the draft, a motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by

Supervisor Erdmann, and passed for the Clerk to submit the application to the Minnesota Association of Townships.

- K. Monthly Communications: information was received about the Transportation Expo in St. Cloud; Supervisor Gondeck will attend one of the days.
- L. Board Issues: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Economic Development Board meeting. He also said that an owner of property on Sucker Creek Road is trying to force the establishment of a group home (half way house); he is from Little Falls. Supervisor Gondeck has been in communication with Benton County Commissioner Ed Popp stating that the township does not want such a home; that the state has a moratorium; and there is no funding. The board agreed that they will need to monitor this. Supervisor Gondeck also reported that there will be a home-based saw sharpening business starting on 109th and Gannet Road. He showed a design for signs by the outdoor warning sirens. The board authorized the order of larger signs and made changes to the sign information.
- M. District 8 Meeting Update: Supervisor Gondeck said that he felt it was a very good meeting.
- N. Treasurer Saldana remarked how beautiful the flowers have been by the town hall this summer. The board thanked Maureen Graber, resident and Benton County Master Gardener for her work and donations to beautify the town hall. There have been many positive comments.
- O. Supervisor Gondeck said that the board is invited to Anywhere Log Furniture on the 1st Friday in October for an open house catered meal in appreciation for the community support for his new business location near Oak Hill Golf Course.
- P. The board discussed the September work plan which includes the planning for a future service around along the east side of Highway 10 from KJohnson Concrete to County Road 33, STS Crew for brush work, culvert marking, sign installation, erosion near the Lakewood Shore Road railroad crossing, installation of a stop sign in Timberlane Loop, and repair of potholes.
- Q. Supervisor Erdmann described the closing of the railroad crossings in Watab by BNSF as they installed new planks for the east tracks. Without notice, BNSF closed several crossings on the same day which created a potential safety issue and lots of inconvenience for residents. He requested that Clerk Spence take pictures of damage done at the crossings. She showed a slide presentation which depicts the most damage at the Lakewood Shore Crossing and some on the County Road 79 crossing. This includes a bent sign, rough patching, scraping and large gouges and chips in the curbing where equipment drove over them, a rise in the tracks creating a bump, and broken tar at the edge of the road where heavy equipment drove off Lakewood Shore into the ditch. The board discussed the total disrespect for property exhibited during this project and asked Clerk Spence to send letters to David Johnson, BNSF; Amy McBeth, BNSF; and Dustin Karraker, Road Master for BNSF asking for them to meet with the board regarding these complaints.
- R. Jason Krueger reminded the board that Senator David Brown, who represents our district will not be running for re-election and that we should be seeking out good candidates to represent us. Bob Raveling talked to the board about licensing for truck drivers.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence