

Minutes of July 5, 2017 Watab Town Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Craig Gondeck. All board members were present: Treasurer Maureen Graber, Clerk Pat Spence, Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, and Supervisor Todd Waytashek. Audience members were Jason Krueger, Sandra Saldana, Kevin Reiter, and Anna Saldana. Following the Pledge to the Flag, Chair Gondeck called for approval of the agenda with the addition of 66th Street Maintenance and Junkman Services. Motion was made by Supervisor Waytashek, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve the agenda.

The minutes of the June meetings were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Maureen Graber gave the Treasurer's Report; there is a cash balance of \$797,108.47 in the Bremer and Falcon checking accounts. Payment was received today from Benton County for the first half property tax settlement.

Approval was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to pay the claims #6423 – 6449 and two electronic transfers totaling \$76,717.63.

Citizen's Issues: Bob Raveling reported a pothole on Shoestring Loop near his home and more starting by the Shoestring Loop intersection with County Road 55.

Old Business:

- A. Fred Segler has been removing the dead pine trees on Plaziak Road as a volunteer. Many of these trees were ready to or have fallen across the road. Supervisor Waytashek made a motion to pay Fred fifty dollars for repair to his chain saw; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.
- B. The board discussed the Public Hearing for August 1st at 7:00 p.m. on Alterations to 95th Street. The Hankes have been personally served at their residence in Minneapolis after multiple attempts in Minneapolis, Moose Lake, and Florida. Town Attorney, Mike Couri will attend the meeting. The board determined that the engineer does not need to attend. Supervisor Gondeck said that DNR would like a meeting with the engineer to review the drainage issue. Supervisor Waytashek will also participate in that meeting at the site.
- C. Clerk Spence stated that the board should schedule another public input meeting with the residents of Golf Haven and Oak Hill Estates now that the township has the plans from Jon Bogart and has had time to review them. Supervisor Gondeck said that he has been speaking with some of the residents, and they want to have another opportunity for input. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to have the public input at 7:00 p.m. at the regular town board meeting on September 5th. A letter will be sent to the residents and the electronic plans will be on the township website.
- D. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he and Clerk Spence met with Jeff Bertram, owner of West Central Sanitation, regarding the pros and cons of having a single hauler for garbage collection. The board discussed the desire to cut down on wear and tear on the

roads versus people losing their choice of a garbage hauler and eliminating competition. Jeff explained that it is customary for a large, national garbage company to come in and under-bid smaller companies to get a contract, and then the next year they raise the rate \$1 per household per month. In the meantime, they may have run the smaller company out of business. She feels that we should be fostering more competition to reduce the prices and invite a smaller, regional company to participate. Both Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck talked about the potential for the township to develop an ordinance that would allow a limited number of licenses for garbage haulers to do business in the township and control the collection day to the same day each week. This would eliminate the eyesore of garbage cans sitting out every day of the week and the difficulty of snow plowing in the winter. Supervisor Gondeck said that he would like to table the issue for more research. Sandy Saldana said she favors keeping individual choice. Kevin Reiter asked the board if there would be a public hearing if they proceeded; the response was that it would be required. Jason Krueger submitted an email explaining many reasons for his opposition to a single garbage hauler.

- E. Clerk Spence thanked Supervisor Gondeck for taking care of the citizen issues regarding the car parked in the lane of traffic on Circle Pines.
- F. The board reviewed the letter drafted by Clerk Spence to send to township farmers regarding compliance with state law on not farming road ditches. Supervisor Waytashek made the motion to send the letter, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Kevin Reiter added that when the farmers are farming the ditch, they also turn on the township road and cause road damage.
- G. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he had identified a township posting place at the Rockwood Estates School Bus Shelter. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to make it an official posting place.
- H. The treasurer and clerk thanked the board for allowing Computer Dynamics to upgrade technology security at the town hall. There is now a separate, secure network for the office use with the addition of another router; the treasurer's computer can connect to the main office printer; both the clerk and treasurer's computers have all work backed up through Carbonite; and the clerk will have a new docking station.
- I. Supervisor Erdmann talked about the site visit to Chuck Feia's property on Ivy Place along with Nathan Sanoski of Benton County Soil and Water and three water engineers. Basically, the engineers could not find a cost-effective, environmentally sound solution for the large amount of stormwater runoff from uphill properties and the road. A permanent, costly solution is to put curb and gutter with retention ponds along the entire road. The only solution Supervisor Erdmann sees is an underground pipe, which would be very expensive. The board tabled this until the road is improved in the future.
- J. Chair Gondeck toured the township with Marson's to review the snow plowing damage; it has all been repaired. The township has not been billed for the retainage.

New Business:

1. Quarterly Budget Review: Treasurer Graber led the board through a discussion of receipts and disbursements for each fund. Currently, the township is under budget on the cost of assessing about \$2,400. Areas of concern are that there seems to be more

delinquent tax receipts with the General Fund short by \$4,500 in the first tax payment, and Road and Bridge under by \$7,483. Engineering costs are \$30,000 over what was budgeted due to changes in the 95th Street NW and 85th Street projects. The Sucker Creek Bridge repairs totaled \$9,950; these were emergency repairs that weren't budgeted. The Rice Fire District is \$3,876 short in revenue; and the Sauk Rapids Fire District is short \$4,170. Less is being collected from users of the services than anticipated.

2. Emergency Services Committee: The board set the next committee meeting for Tuesday, July 18th at 7:00 p.m. Treasurer Graber explained the levy recommendations and the worksheet developed by her and Clerk Spence. Kevin Reiter asked about board salaries; Maureen explained that it is a budgeted amount to cover her time in doing the billings and meetings for the entire board. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to recommend a levy of \$59,000 for Fire District I and \$40,000 for Fire District II. These amounts will be brought to the Recessed Annual Meeting.
3. Clerk Spence discussed her contacts to get quotes on weed spraying: Riverside LLC of Foley and Central Applicators of Foley. Ted Fernholz of Riverside LLC toured the township and submitted a written quote to do all the weeds on the list for between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Central Applicators gave a verbal quote of \$79 per hour for labor plus time and material. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to hire Riverside LLC for the quoted amount. Supervisor Gondeck voted against the motion. When asked for a reason, he stated that he was opposed to spraying anything because it hurts bees and people.
4. Planting Trees on Township Site: Three dead pine trees have been removed due to a blight. Supervisor Gondeck recommended transplanting pine trees from the township road right of ways. Supervisor Erdmann had talked to a nursery man and recommends planting an Autumn Blaze Maple or hackberry. Because of drought resistance. After looking at the site and discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to table further discussion on replacement trees for late fall or early spring, hire Jason Zwilling to remove the pine tree stumps, and have Supervisor Erdmann bring in black dirt and grass seed after the stumps are removed. Clerk Spence asked the board to get Jason's proof of insurance.
5. Report on Legal Seminar: Clerk Spence gave a report on all the topics covered at the seminar. Concerns that need to be addressed in the future are additions to the Road Right of Way Ordinance on field approaches, snowmobiles, and all-terrain vehicles.
6. Report on Summer Short Course: The three supervisors attended Board of Equalization training. The Treasurer attended beginner and intermediate CTAS Training; the Clerk attended the Clerk and Treasurer Training.
7. Mailbox at town hall: Clerk Spence reported that she and Supervisor Erdmann had been working on correcting the Google Map location for the town hall; Google will only confirm the change by mailing a post card to the physical address of the town hall. The Clerk also noted that some residents mistakenly send mail to the town hall address, and it is returned to them. They recommended getting a mailbox at the town hall, and the Clerk has spoken with the Sauk Rapids Postmaster for the location. Supervisor Erdmann

said that he had a mailbox to use. Supervisor Gondeck said that he wanted to handle it to install a post office recommended, swing arm post that could be used as an example for residents. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck to install the swing arm pole with a new mailbox; motion passed.

8. Concrete dumping in township: Supervisor Gondeck reported two violations of dumping of concrete wash out in the township during the past month. The board reviewed the MPCA guidelines.
9. MS4 inspections: Supervisor Gondeck terminated five permits during the past month; currently there are twenty-nine active sites that he is inspecting.
10. Driveway Permits: Supervisor Gondeck said that one is pending, and one was recently issued.
11. Benton Economic Partnership Quarterly Meeting is July 13th at 7:30 a.m. Supervisor Gondeck will attend.
12. Communications: The board discussed the Benton County Planning Commission notice for the July 13th Public Hearing and determined no action, since it is in Langola Township. After considerable discussion, the board endorsed Derrick Nelson's request to add on to a garage in Sharon Place as it complies with the neighborhood. Further discussion ensued on the request that will be brought before the Board of Adjustment for a variance to place four residential rental dwellings 57 feet from the right of way of Highway 10 (116 feet required) in the R-2 residential district. The board determined that they are opposed to this project since it is dangerously close to Highway 10, will create undue hardship for the township by adding more density to rental properties, and the wish to maintain this area for single-family residential use to better fit the neighborhood. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to have the Clerk send a letter stating the board's views on both the above requests. Supervisor Waytashek will attend the Board of Adjustment meeting, and Supervisor Gondeck will attend the Planning Commission Meeting. Clerk Spence reviewed correspondence on Haehn's and Lee Hanson's requests. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to record the original document on file at the Benton County Historical Society that show the award of damages to nine properties for the establishment of a road that extends through the sections 13, 14, 23, and 24 of the township. The township also has a letter dated March 2006 from Marilyn Novak listing the owners of the property. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Waytashek and passed. Clerk Spence will record the documents with the Benton County Recorder.
13. Board members reports: Supervisor Gondeck discussed the trend of foreign companies buying out local ones and not honoring original agreements with the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation. He summarized the Rice Park Board meeting; they are seeking a \$5.1 million grant to connect all the parks with trails. He also attended the Benton County Hazardous Mitigation meeting and said that FEMA officials were impressed with what Watab has in place. Craig reported that Benton County cut some of our requested Clean Up Day funding; he will get a quote from Junkman for appliance recycling. Clean Up Day is scheduled for September 16th.
14. Citizen's Input: Kevin Reiter asked when the minimum maintenance road would be mowed. Craig will check. Jason Krueger asked about gopher feet being turned in;

Supervisor Erdmann has eighteen to twenty. Kevin also reported that trees on Sucker Creek Road are leaning over the road. Supervisor Gondeck will survey the township for tree trimming.

15. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion for Mike Couri to draw up the paperwork on fine collection and work with Benton County Attorney; second was made by Supervisor Waytashek and passed. The Clerk will contact Mike Couri.
16. Supervisor Waytashek asked the board to keep in mind the big projects for next year: 85th Street, 95th Street, and planning for the emergency services.

A motion was made by Supervisor Waytashek, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence