

Watab Township  
660 NW 75<sup>th</sup> Street  
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

## SPECIAL MEETING

Watab Township Board of Supervisors conducted public hearings on Monday, September 23, 2019 starting at 7 pm at Watab Township Hall located at 660 NE 75<sup>th</sup> Street, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota.

Watab Township supervisors' meeting was called to order by Chairman Julie Johnson at 7 p.m.

## ROLL CALL

Board supervisors present were Julie Johnson, Todd Waytashek, and Steve Wollak. Others present included Clerk Nicole Burski, Roger Burton, Jerry Kostreba, J. Dahl, Jane DeAustin, Gary P., Brian and Tara Walz, Mike and April Burton, Joy Bowe, Ron Olk, Dale and Linda Der., Deb Poirier, Lloyd Erdmann, Sandra Saldana

The Watab Township Board will hear the following:

### **Quiet Crossing, 105<sup>th</sup> street west of the quiet crossing**

The cost for the Ag crossing quad arm (2 on each side) or double long is estimated at \$500,000 – \$1 million. The road budget every year is estimated at \$350,000. Supervisor Steve Wollak was going to call the Schlichting's and Wojtowicz's to see what they use the quiet zone for.

Paul Jacobs- Indigo Road NW Rice, opposes and feels that more roads need to be fixed instead of spending money on the crossing. Stated a previous board said it would not affect our road repairs.

Mike Burton- 105<sup>th</sup> Street NW Rice- Possible 3<sup>rd</sup> option, Wayside Horn that mounts a horn at the intersection and not on the train. Believes this would provide a cheaper option. Stated that the roads are not an assessed cost and said that all the other crossings were done with the promise of this one being done and to take that into consideration. Supervisor Julie Johnson will scan the document and provide a copy to Nick Anderson, engineer, who she stated has a connection with BNSF.

Julie will scan and send to Nick to investigate.

Dale Derks- 115<sup>th</sup> NW Rice – Stated they were told they would be next for and feels that it should be done and that is the cost is price of doing agricultural.

Lloyd Erdmann- Sucker Creek Rd, Rice - talked to Nick Anderson and got some different material made of rubber with a lower curb to deter traffic. Stated the biggest expense would be the moving signals. Supervisor Julie Johnson asked that he provide the name of that type of crossing.

Jerry Kostreba- 105<sup>th</sup> St NW Rice, would like to know how many houses will be affected? States that they should be next and have more traffic and needs to be upgraded. Supervisor Julie Johnson states both the road and crossing will not be done next year and will most likely will not be done in the same year.

Roger Burton- 105<sup>th</sup> St NW – If the width is there why are they not able to just extend the arms? He has a hard time believing the cost would be that much. Lloyd Erdmann said that he was informed that the bearings would not hold the added weight of the longer arms and would need bigger counter weights.

Linda Derks- 115<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, states it is very noisy by them and there is a lot of trains that go by them and blow their horn. They also park by Poirier's at all hours and they are really loud. Not sure why they are there. Supervisor Steve Wollak he was making phone calls about why they are sitting there. He sated not sure what they could do about it, but he is working on it.

Deb Poirier- 105<sup>th</sup> St NW Rice, states it is very noisy and have been promised this quiet zone. Also states they need more speed limit signs showing 35 miles an hour and feels that if the road is wider people will go faster and the traffic is all day long. Discussion was had about how fast the speed limit should be. Supervisor Steve Wollak will check on the speed limit sign and Supervisor Julie Johnson will talk to Sheriff Heck to watch for speeders.

Supervisor Todd Waytashek heard on the news within the week that they are talking about removing quiet zones stating that accidents are much higher.

Supervisor Julie Johnson stated the board will not be making any decisions tonight and will be taking all options into consideration. Supervisor Steve Wollak stated he feels we need to move forward with the quiet zone. A question was asked if it will be brought to a vote and Supervisor Julie Johnson stated that it would not and that the board would decide. She stated that it needed to be petitioned to be put on the ballot for vote at the annual meeting.

### **The Developer's Agreement & Subdivision**

Supervisor Julie Johnson stated we have an outdated Developer's Agreement and do not have a subdivision agreement. The township attorney recommended a 2-step process. What the township would like is to have more of a say in what developer can do and hold them accountable for an accepted agreement. This will not be voted on tonight but will be for October's meeting.

Supervisor Todd Waytashek would like to establish radius for road entrances and exits of developments. Road standards would need to be met and this would be in addition to that. Lloyd Erdmann states current radius standard is 30ft and was insufficient he changed some to 40ft and some 50ft. He also stated the center island entrances should be set back farther.

Jane DeAustin, CMBA representative - developers agreement, she represents over 400 members looking at from a builder's standpoint. Page 2, landscape plan A and B, no plan outlined. What is the township looking for in a landscape plan? Needs clarification. Sherity 125-150% is it different requirements? Who will hold the letter of credit? 100-200 miles lending facility? Should be the same.

Subdivision ordinance, page 5, out lot with no building permit and no development. Wording is confusing. Page 9, hard copies? Can it be electronic copy? Supervisor Julie Johnson stated Government needs hard copies. States a minimum of 10 and not specified if it was electronic or paper, thought it might be a bit excessive. Page 20, escrow at a certain % and should be specified. Section 6, off track improvements needs more specification there is a court case pending regarding this. What is the feeling about park dedication fees? A plan is needed for them. The county must provide 100% of the fees to the township. City's prefer cash donation vs green space. Page 26, the establishment of fees, should be schedule A fees so that it does not need to be updated.

Lloyd Erdmann- Has concerns that the policies do not overlap and owe escrow and letter of credit to both the township and the county so that the builders do not have to have provide this in both places. He wants to make sure that it is not so strict that it scares developers away.

Supervisors Julie Johnson and Steve Wollak are for removing park dedication fees. Supervisor Todd Waytashek is wondering if it is taken out, he does not want to see it being miss used. Residents discussion was; Could it be left in and just say it gets managed by the county with yearly approval of the Watab town board? Supervisor Julie Johnson stated In October's meeting the county will be asking permission to use funds from the park dedication fees.

Supervisor Todd Waytashek made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Supervisor Steve Wollak 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carries 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Nicole Burski  
Watab Township Clerk

Respectfully accepted,



Julie Johnson  
Watab Township Chairman