

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 4, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Other board members present were Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, and Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck. Audience members were Allen Saldana, Paul Jacobs, Bob Raveling, and Chuck Ertl. Supervisor Gondeck requested a moment of silence for the police officer killed in Cold Spring. He reminded those present of his and wife Jana's campaign: "Don't drink and drive during the holidays." He also extended sympathy to the Bill Mousky family.

The agenda was accepted for the meeting with the addition of "setting the location for absentee voting in the annual election." Motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Minutes of the November meeting were approved with a change to the number of years on the fire contract to "10" through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana with \$179,682.47 in checking; motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed approving the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to pay the monthly bills and withdraw the necessary funds for payment. Motion passed. Claims include numbers 5038 through 5057 and electronic transfers to IRS, Minnesota Department of Revenue and PERA. This includes payment of a bill not presented until this day for \$375 payable to Gene Kubat for the literature rack at the town hall.

Old Business included:

1. Railroad Crossing Project: Clerk Spence spoke to Engineer Jon Bogart regarding the timetable for rebidding the projects. This will be published on February 6 and 13 with bid opening the first Tuesday in March. Supervisor Gondeck reported that the agreement that our clerk drafted for Benton County Board is satisfactory. After the long delay for the county attorney to review it, he has said there does not need to be another agreement. The county will do bidding for County Road 79. The board should discuss this again in January.
2. The board discussed next steps to try to get a new Rice Fire Contract. The Clerk contacted Ross Olson, City Administrator of Sauk Rapids. He said that the city would cover the entire township of Watab at 1.74% of total net tax capacity, which is \$45,930. She also reported that after checking with the County Auditor's Office, there is Net Tax Capacity from mobile home parks in Watab for a total of \$1.6 million on the land and buildings. Chair Kacures asked the clerk to draft a letter to the Rice mayor and city council members asking for a 60-day extension to negotiate with the new council. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. The Chair asked for a special work meeting on our contract language on Tuesday, December 11th at 7pm. Clerk is to post the meeting.
3. Indigo Road Extension & Signage: Lloyd's Contracting, Inc. extended Indigo Road with recycled concrete from Saldana Excavating; Rice Contracting and Development did the blading. Supervisor Erdmann also placed treated wood posts at the end of the road; Supervisor Gondeck will put up signs.
4. MS4 report on Tretter Contracting: Supervisor Gondeck said that Scott from MPCA came out and measured a total area disturbed of 9.4 acres and won't pursue further action. Scott stated that this was his boss's decision. Watab spent \$450 for inspections and board time, and the board is disappointed with the MPCA decision because they didn't include the land that was disturbed to create a road, and the area is not stabilized. Scott thought the driveway was an existing one. The Board asked the Clerk to draft a letter and send to Scott Lucas' boss for the entire board to sign. Document this well for our annual MS4 report to MPCA.

5. Burton Place Berm: Supervisor Gondeck met with the renter and the owner and they will remove the berm as soon as possible since it is on the township road right of way.
6. APO membership: this was tabled from last month. Supervisor Gondeck said that the Executive Committee of the APO makes the decisions. After discussion, the board decided to wait until the spring to make a decision on membership.
7. Lakewood Shore Road Signage: Supervisor Gondeck has received the signs and will be installing them in the coming week.
8. Lake Andrew Signage: nothing installed yet. Homeowners and the Benton County Sheriff's Department are upset. Scott has been contacted numerous times.
9. 95th Street Ditch: Allen Saldana completed the project.

New Business included:

1. 115th Street Ditch Work: Phil Nelson hired a contractor to clean out brush in his ditch, and he also cleaned the township brush along the minimum maintenance road. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that he receive some compensation for his work on the town road right of way. After board discussion, the board decided that Phil should not be paid for his work since he did not talk to the board prior to the work being done.
2. Planning for Annual Newsletter Articles: Clerk Spence should draft those that the board has decided to include at previous meetings. Also there will be articles on the 2012 road projects; financial report; new fire contracts; Clean Up Day; and buffer strips in Watab Township. Supervisor Gondeck will work on getting newsletter financial sponsors. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to write the articles about the railroad crossing and road projects.
3. 5 year road project planning will be scheduled for January. Board members will review the notes from the road tour; the Clerk will make a list of 5 years past projects for the board.
4. Review of budget: the board compared the budget to actual income and expenses for each account. There are no issues for concern.
5. Resolution 2012:12—Record Retention: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann to pass the resolution and sign. Motion passed.
6. Approval of the SCORE Grant report: motion was made by Supervisor Kacures to submit the letter for funds to be reimbursed to the township; second by Supervisor Gondeck; passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to apply for another Watab clean up day grant for \$15,000 and prepare grant; second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

Monthly Communications:

1. Letter from humane society was received requesting a contract with the Tri-County Humane Society for animal control; this was tabled for Supervisor Gondeck to get more information

Supervisor's Reports

1. Annual Legislative Conference: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the exhibitors; one recommended that the township bond for our road projects rather than continuing payment on the Falcon Bank loan. Interest would be below 2%. He also met with two of the MAT lobbyists. He also reported that the Mat dues will increase by \$300. Senator Al Franken spoke on Saturday. Clerk Spence reported on the Friday sessions that she attended and noted that the conference was very worthwhile with new information and more in-depth training than available at the short courses. Supervisor Gondeck met with a local business that does MS4 contracting at the conference. They recommend that the township have photographs of where the water is going from our culverts. He also learned that the township needs decals on the back of all road signs

with the installation date. At one of the round table discussions other townships said they charge a flat fee of \$300 or \$500 for emergency calls.

2. Supervisor Gondeck will attend the Greater MN Economic Board meeting in St. Cloud tomorrow and report next month. He said they are a well run operation attracting business to the area.
3. The board discussed two complaints received about snow plowing.

There were no citizen concerns brought to the board's attention. Chair Kacures asked about the status of the township computer. He recommended that we update software and having an external hard-drive. It may be beneficial to have a desktop computer with a docking station for the laptop computer used at board meetings. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed for the Clerk and Supervisor Kacures to research the purchase of a new computer. Motion passed. The board then discussed the work for the upcoming month.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to have absentee voting at the town hall for the annual election in March.

Supervisor Gondeck offered to put snow plowing information on Channel 3. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. He wished everyone Happy Holidays.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence