

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Vice Chair Craig Gondeck. He made announcements as follows: sympathy to the Jim Durkin family and James Ludwig family, and wishes for Dick & Lynn Sakry's son who is not doing well. Keep all these in your prayers. Board members present were Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Maureen Graber, Brian Erdmann, Kevin Reiter, and Allen Saldana.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved on a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann. Motion passed. The minutes of the February meetings were approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. The Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana and was approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. Motion passed.

Supervisor Kacures arrived and took over as Chair of the meeting. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the payment of all claims and electronic transfers and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Old Business included the following:

1. Town Hall Exterior Lighting: Supervisor Gondeck contacted two companies about improvement to our exterior lighting outside the front door. Jesok Electric and Little Rock Electric gave quotes for lighting for both the front entrance and rear of the building. The board decided to table this until they can look at the light that is installed at a Rice business.
2. The Benton County Commissioners unanimously approved the township's application for outdoor warning sirens at their meeting today. Supervisor Gondeck spoke to the state director who oversees funding of these grants; he believes that Watab has a good chance to get funded. Jim McDermott will send the Clerk a draft of the application. DNR also needs to review the application. Preliminary sites have been selected with GIS locations for each of the three outdoor warning sirens. The grant will be submitted within the next two weeks. Supervisor Gondeck has worked with several companies to obtain the preliminary quotes that are needed before the grant is submitted.
3. County Road 79 Railroad Crossing Update: Supervisor Gondeck feels that we should approach the county to see if they will give Watab the road. Supervisor Erdmann thought it was a good idea to look into this; many times the county will upgrade the road before it is turned over. Supervisor Kacures disagrees, because he said that if it is ever to be turned into an interchange, the township would be responsible for the entire cost. Brian Erdmann asked why we would want to take over a county road. Supervisor Gondeck said that there are many residents who want a quiet zone there. No decision was made at this time.
4. Lakewood Shore & Plaziak Road Railroad Crossing proposals were submitted by Engineer Jon Bogart this afternoon. All the modifications requested by the board have not yet been included in these documents. Supervisor Erdmann will contact Jon tomorrow and hopefully there will be a revised report for the annual meeting.

Bituminous milling should be changed to reclaiming and salvaging. Wear course would also be eliminated.

5. Circle Pines Semi-Trailer Issue: Supervisor Gondeck said the resident is looking at removing the trailer house and building a rambler home on the site. He did not discuss the issue of parking a semi-trailer on the lot.
6. Unpaid Emergency Call Bills: Clerk Spence asked if the board would recommend a collection agency to pursue payment of the remaining unpaid claims. Supervisor Gondeck brought the company name of Tucker, Albin & Associates. Clerk Spence will inquire about local companies.
7. Annual Newsletter: Supervisor Kacures discussed the editing process. Supervisor Gondeck thanked Supervisor Kacures and Clerk Spence for their good work on putting the newsletter together. The newsletter will be mailed prior to this weekend.

New Business included:

1. Annual Meeting Agenda: Clerk Spence prepared a draft agenda for the board. It was approved by the board.
2. Town Hall Maintenance Update: Xcel Energy will be asked to replace the light on the power pole by the road.
3. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve Resolution 2012-4: Establishing Precincts and Polling Places. Copy must be forwarded to the Benton County Auditor and the State Auditor.
4. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the 2012 budget for Watab. Motion passed.
5. The board decided to table the soil boring testing for Lakewood Shore Road until a later date. Clerk Spence noted that there are two upheavals in the center of the road on the east side of the crossing.
6. Board of Appeal and Equalization: Supervisor Erdmann will go to the training.
7. The Board of Canvass for the Annual Election was set for immediately following the Annual Meeting.
8. The township received the Annual Report and Request for the township to give over funds collected from park dedication fees to any county park in the county. The board requested that a letter be sent to the county board asking for the park plan to be re-done to put trails into the Golf Haven and Oak Hill Estates Developments. The chair is not authorized to sign the resolution requested by the county board. This was done through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Clerk Spence was asked to prepare letter for all board members to sign..
9. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the letter from Nancy Hoffman, Benton County Economic Development Director, requesting a township contribution toward planning for a railroad spur in Rice to serve potential businesses. This was tabled for further information
10. Board of Equalization will be held on April 5th at 2:30pm.
11. Town Hall Rentals: two 4-H Clubs will be using the town hall for their monthly meetings.
12. Monthly Correspondence: (1) two items need to be added to the Sauk Rapids contract before it is signed to include items agreed to verbally. Supervisor Gondeck will contact

Sauk Rapids about amending the contract. (2) The Township Short Course is March 26th at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn beginning at 9am. The entire board is encouraged to attend.

13. Supervisor Reports:

- a. Supervisor Gondeck said that there will be a meeting tomorrow of the Benton County Economic Development Board Meeting. He also reported on the sign updating process. He is optimistic about a new business developing in Watab.
- b. Supervisor Kacures reported on the Benton County Association of Townships meeting. County department heads spoke on what they are doing.
- c. Fire Board Reports: There haven't been meetings with Rice for over a year.

14. Citizen's Feedback and Concerns: Kevin Reiter asked if he can bring a sound system in for the annual meeting, and his recommendation was approved.

15. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the snow plowing this winter and thought it was an excellent job.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence