

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes January 4, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, and Supervisors: Lloyd Erdmann, Craig Gondeck, and Ed Kacures Jr. Audience members present were: James Richards, Kevin Reiter, Allen Saldana, Bob Raveling, and Paul Jacobs.

Following the pledge to the flag, Supervisor Gondeck extended sympathy to the Ralph Berger family for the death of his mother, and he thanked everyone for safe driving during the holidays. The agenda was approved on motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Correction of a typo on item 1 in minutes was noted changing tax paper to tax payer. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve the minutes as printed with the change.

Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana. She was thanked for doing a good job. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed approving the report.

Authorization was given to pay the monthly bills from the proper funds through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. Supervisor Gondeck abstained because one bill was payment for reimbursement for supplies to a family member.

Katie Winkelman came to promote the TMDL meetings being held tomorrow, Wednesday, January 5, 2011 about Little Rock Lake. She went over some very basic results. Bruce Wilson from MPCA will speak tomorrow. The study by MPCA began in 2008. Monitoring began in 2001. The amount of phosphorous coming into the lake needs to be reduced by about 75%. The goal is to get rid of the algae blooms. She stressed that there will need to be interim goals to keep people focused. Everything that will be implemented will be voluntary. Support, therefore, will be very important. The lake has a high reactivity level, which means that it will respond well to best management practices. Implementation includes a Little Rock Lake Stakeholders group –Watab's representative is Diane Wojtanowicz. LRLA is doing a great job with buffer strips. Supervisor Gondeck commended Katie for the job she is doing. He asked if future meetings could be held at the Watab Hall. She said that she will have input on location for future meetings.

Old Business:

1. Change in road name for 10th Ave NW on west side of railroad tracks to Plaziak Road: Residents who live on the road were invited by letter to the meeting to give comment. The only resident present was James Richards, whose house burned this fall. He spoke in favor of changing the address from 10th Avenue NW to Plaziak Road. The board has not received any other calls. The next step is to send a written request to Chelle Benson letting her know we notified all the residents and that we held a public hearing with one person speaking in favor and no one opposed. Also, include a map and ask her to change it to Plaziak Road. The Clerk was asked to send the letter through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures. Motion passed.
2. SCORE Grant payment was received from Benton County in the amount of \$10,052.45. The board decided to apply for a 2011 grant in the same amount as our past grant.
3. A meeting was set for January 18 at 7:00 p.m. as a budget planning session. Past year's spending will be reviewed as well as projections for current year spending and levy recommendations for 2012.
4. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has completed the sign project.

5. The board discussed articles for the 2011 Newsletter to include snow plowing guidelines, financial report, election information, history day report, road projects, and railroad approaches. Supervisor Gondeck offered to make a list of businesses to request financial support for the newsletter; deadline for articles is January 18th.
6. Paul Schwinghammer is working on the MS4 permit with MPCA.
7. City of Rice Fire recently sent a fire contract bill with an interest charge of \$809.27 on payments that they believe the township owes. This amount is contested, because the town is being billed on the budgeted amount for service rather than for the actual cost, which is what the contract allows. The township attorney is currently drafting a letter to explain our position. Also, the letter is dated December 27th and does not acknowledge receipt of the township payment of \$17,408.75, which was mailed on December 8th; the check was cashed by the City of Rice and was credited on December 22 according to our bank statement.
8. Supervisor Gondeck was given authority to purchase 100 driveway permit application forms at a cost of 35 cents a copy through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Kacures.

New Business:

1. The Clerk read a letter from Nancy Scott requesting copies of any complaints on file with the township. Supervisor Gondeck will give her a copy of the complaints, which he said she has totally resolved. Clerk Spence was asked to send her an invitation to the annual meeting to give a report on the process for getting permits. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to keep complaints on file at the town hall.
2. Final Levy Document was reviewed by the board for the 2011 tax levy.
3. Brian Koester has requested that Wednesday, April 6 at 2:30pm be the time for the Watab Board of Equalization. The Clerk was asked to inquire if we can change it to April 7th at 6:30pm.
4. Wacosa annual contract to clean the town hall at the cost of \$37.28 per crew hour for 1 to 1 ½ hours per month was submitted. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, to authorize the board chair to sign the contract for the coming year. Motion passed.
5. Nancy Hoffman asked for appointment of a representative to the Benton Co. Economic Development Board from Watab Township for another two-year term. Supervisor Gondeck asked to be allowed to continue to serve. He outlined the work he has done. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to reappoint him, seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. The Clerk will need to inform Nancy of this action.
6. Supervisor Erdmann said that he will meet with the new County Auditor regarding unpaid gravel tax. Supervisor Gondeck added further comments and the board agreed that he should pursue this.
7. Correspondence: the board will propose to meet with Jessica Schwie regarding contracts on February 4th at 10am. The Clerk was also asked to respond to the Tri-County Humane Society with an invitation to the annual meeting. The board does not wish to enter into a contract.
8. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion that payment for work on the three summer road projects done before the loan was approved, the final payment to Knife River, and the \$7,437.50 in board time be charged against the loan at a later time if the board wishes to do so. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. This can be discussed at the annual meeting.
9. Supervisor Issues: Supervisor Gondeck requested authorization to research the cost of adding a posting board outside the town hall similar to the one at Pines Edge. It was given. Supervisor Erdmann said that Burski's should use more sand on the icy roads. Any Supervisor can give a call if it's needed. There were no complaint forms.

10. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton Co. Economic Development Board meeting, which included discussion of the new interchange at Co.Rd. 2; Clerk Spence discussed potential safety issues on Highway 10 through Watab Township when there are no longer traffic lights in Rice, since there are not frontage roads.
11. The township will get a donation from Benton Co. Emergency Management for barricades.
12. Supervisor Kacures reported that no dates have been scheduled for a Rice Fire Board meeting, and he does not believe the Mayor intends to call a meeting. There has been no communication other than the letter requesting interest payments.
13. There is \$495 left to spend from the emergency management grant from Benton Telecommunications Foundation; the board decided to wait until flooding season to spend the remaining funds. Supervisor Gondeck was also asked to purchase extra bulbs and batteries for the flashers.
14. Citizen Issues: James Richards spoke about the loss of his home to fire, the difficulty in emergency services finding his home, and said that the City of Sauk Rapids would be sending the township a bill for services, which he will pay.
15. Motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence