

**Watab Town Board Meeting  
October 4, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall by Chairman Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, and Supervisors: Ed Kacures Jr., Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck. Audience was: Justin Villard from ING, Kevin Reiter, Jon Bogart, Allen Saldana, Chuck Ertl, and Bob Raveling.

Supervisor Gondeck extended sympathy to the Ray Schlichting family on the death of Ray's son David; sympathy to the family of Luke Sobania, a co-worker and frequent customer of Watab businesses, who died recently; and a thank you to Lloyd Erdmann, who called the ambulance after finding someone in ditch who had been riding bicycle. With the addition of Justin Villard to make a proposal for a fishing contest in Watab Township, the agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Justin Villard proposed a fishing contest on Little Rock Lake during February 2012. The contest would be sponsored by ING, and they need exemptions from the county and township before they apply for their gambling permit. They need to partner with a non-profit organization, which will be either Big Brother/Big Sister or Little Rock Lake Association. Supervisor Erdmann made the motion to give approval for the ING fishing contest and authorize the chair to sign the form, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed.

Approval of the September meeting minutes: p. 2, #7 wants it changed to Citizen's Issues; typo on bottom of page 1 "10-ton road." Motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed with these two changes.

Treasurer's Report: balance at meeting date at Falcon Bank is \$136,248.76; balances at Bremer Bank are \$74,477.83 & \$5,476.54. Motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed. Bills were reviewed and approved to pay the monthly bills for claims #4693- 4711 through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed with Supervisor Gondeck abstaining since four of his family members worked during Watab Clean Up Day and presented claims for payment.

Jon Bogart, town engineer, had two items to present: (1) Knife River is asking for their retainage on the Fifth Avenue project. Jon will review the paperwork before authorizing the payment. It was noted that the silt fencing hasn't been removed. MPCA should approve the removal of the silt fencing and terminate the permit. Paul Schwinghammer will be asked to contact MPCA. Supervisor Gondeck will contact Paul and coordinate this process. Then Jon Bogart will contact Knife River when it is appropriate to remove the silt fence. Supervisor Kacures inquired about the dirt pile on Scott Jarnot's property. (2) Jon also reviewed the preliminary design for the quiet zone on Co. Rd 79 railroad crossing. \$33,000 is the estimated cost. Supervisor Erdmann and Jon Bogart should work with the county engineer after the design is refined to review the plan with him. Jon will call Bob Kozel. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to proceed as designated above; motion seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed. Chair Kacures stated that payment from homeowners interested in this project would be requested once there is an estimated cost of the project; Supervisor Erdmann stated that he has verbal commitments to cover the cost of the study.

Sign posts are up on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 7 ½ Avenue, and Supervisor Gondeck is waiting for the signs to arrive. Supervisor Gondeck reported that all the road patching is complete; 80<sup>th</sup> Street NW and West Lake Road runoff spots have been repaired. He reported that Saldana Excavating did a fine job on the repairs.

Supervisor Gondeck spoke with Jim Petron and Scott Kiffmeyer about our heating costs. They will both give quotes on changing the boiler, but they also recommend testing for heat loss. Authorization was given for Jim Petron to test the in floor heat at an estimated cost of \$40 to \$50. This will be completed this month. Supervisor Gondeck will bring quotes as soon as he receives them on boiler costs; board will review potential savings versus costs.

Supervisor Gondeck presented a culvert map that includes the locations and sizes of all the culverts in the township. This will be an important piece of our MS4 report. There are three culverts remaining to be

marked. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck will put the locations on a spreadsheet. Supervisor Erdmann said that the culverts should be cleaned in the fall.

Chuck Ertl reported that he started ditch mowing last Thursday night. He will do two swats on all town roads. He was commended for doing a good job. Kevin Reiter made a request for brush cutting.

Tree trimming report was given by Supervisor Gondeck. STS crew worked on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW by Rockwood Estates. Next, trimming will be at Circle Pines with trimming back the corner, cleaning up on the Lakewood Shores/Saldana Road corner, and removal of the dead tree at the 107<sup>th</sup> St. intersection. Supervisor Kacures asked that 10<sup>th</sup> Ave and Saldana Road corner also be trimmed.

Supervisor Gondeck reported on purchase of the chain saw, tool box, and other supplies that the town board requested. Township cost was \$89 besides what was received from the grant by Falcon Bank. The board decided that the chain saw and supplies will be kept in the town hall storage room.

The board discussed the Benton County Association of Townships Meeting attended by Supervisors Gondeck and Kacures. Commissioners and department heads gave presentations.

Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Clean Up Day results: 264 vehicles came: 72% were from Watab and 28% were from Langola and other jurisdictions. The board agreed that Twin Pines was an excellent location, and Twin Pines was pleased that it was held at their business. Supervisor Gondeck also reported on the appliance recycling. Supervisor Kacures commended Supervisor Erdmann and Don Landwehr for bringing in two 16-foot trailer loads of debris from along the railroad tracks. All three supervisors helped with the project. There were 5 ½ dumpsters of tires and two dumpsters of scrap metal.

The board has requested a speed limit study for West Lake Road, Doeden Road, and Burton Court by MNDoT. Removal of mailbox on Ferry Point is still in progress.

Supervisor Erdmann recommended weed killer and fertilizer be applied to the town hall lawn. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed authorizing fertilizing and weed killer application this fall by Turf Pro.

There is a new public comment period on the TMDL study for Little Rock Lake because MPCA forgot to include the MS4's in the first comment period; new dates are September 12 through October 12, 2011.

Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on the September 14<sup>th</sup> meeting with the MPCA officials at the Twin Pines Restaurant. Also at the meeting were Katie Winkelman, Gerald Hovde, Margaret Leach, and Mike Trojan. A new permit to reduce the Total Maximum Daily Load will be expected with a reduction goal of 55%. We will be asked to list what we are planning as a township to reach this goal, listing all Best Management Practices (BMP's) present and planned for the future, education efforts, and a schedule for attaining the goal. Recommendation was made for our township to look at low impact development technologies; this should be required for all new homes. It was also suggested that the township pass an ordinance to preserve natural areas. MPCA will forward information for the board's review and will also offer training. Watab Clean Up Day can be listed as one of our efforts to reduce pollution.

On September 12<sup>th</sup> Supervisor Gondeck located a new gravel pit in Graham Township that was not permitted; gravel was being hauled for County Road 78. Chelle Benson stated that she was not aware of the pit. On September 13<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Gondeck asked Montey Headly and Commissioner Wollak about it. The Department Head said that he wouldn't do anything about it, because Corey Tretter gives the county a good price. On September 14<sup>th</sup> Bob Kozel said that it isn't his job to see if businesses have permits and that he wouldn't stop the road project. On Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>, he talked with Commissioner Wollak, and he said the county isn't responsible for Corey Tretter since he's a sub-contractor of Knife River. Watab's issue is that the county shut down our Fifth Avenue project because the same contractor was taking gravel from an unauthorized pit, but they don't apply the same standard for county projects.

Upcoming rentals of the town hall were listed. Monthly correspondence included: letter from Bob Kozel about culverts; and a letter from Kelly Velandar regarding sign inventories. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck were asked to complete a spread sheet listing all township signs. The Clerk also received an important e-mail from MPCA with recommendations for MS4. Supervisor Gondeck submitted projections from the county on what we can expect to lose from the changes by the legislature for market credit.

Set up meeting date for the board on the fire contract: Supervisor Kacures reported that Langola Township is waiting for approval from the City of Rice for their new fire agreement. Graham Township may be having their fire coverage from the City of Foley. The meeting that was supposed to happen in August with the city and participating townships was not held, so Supervisor Kacures recommends that we meet for a working session on what we would want in the contract that we could present to the City of Rice for the coming year. Meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the town hall; no action will be taken. The Clerk will bring the formulas for Sauk Rapids Fire Department and the valuations.

The Supervisor Reports included: Benton County Economic Development Committee: Supervisor Gondeck said the board met with John Kramer. He will tour all the colleges and see what jobs people are training for and then try to attract those businesses. Commissioners approved \$35,000 to develop a railroad industrial park between Langola Township and Rice. Snap Fitness is opening Rice, Gourmet Pizza is looking at expanding, Bob Lanners is building, and wind towers are proposed for Alberta Township and Morrison County. Two businesses are in foreclosure who received some financing from Benton County Economic Development: a cabinet shop and strip mall.

Citizen's Issues: Angie Burg e-mailed all board supervisors regarding a driveway permit. Supervisor Gondeck stated that he had four tree removal permit forms signed during the past month. Clerk Spence reported that there was a call from Mike Bauerly regarding stolen mailboxes in his neighborhood. Someone replaced them.

Clerk Spence reported that the Sauk Rapids-Rice school levy election will be at the town hall on Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> from 7am until 8pm. Clerk Spence has scheduled the election judges. Expenses for the election are paid by the school district. Kevin Reiter reported water damage on his neighbor's road. Supervisor Gondeck presented the Clerk with a notice from Benton County Emergency Management with information to be added to the township website. Upcoming meetings; Economic Development Board and work session by the board on the fire contract with Rice. Supervisor Erdmann will meet with Jon Bogart and Bob Kozel regarding the railroad crossing. Supervisor Gondeck will work with the STS crew on the tree trimming.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann , second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk