

## **Watab Town Board Meeting September 6, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order by Chair Ed Kacures at 7pm on Tuesday, September 6, 2011 at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, Supervisor Craig Gondeck, and Supervisor Ed Kacures Jr. Others present included: Traci Balder, Duane Cekalla, Paul Jacobs, Kevin Reiter, Peter Weitch, Steve Schirmers, Troy Johnson, and Pete Otterness. Following the Pledge to the Flag, Supervisor Craig Gondeck expressed sympathy to Doug and Kathy Harden following the death of their 8 year old grand-daughter.

The agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

The 2010 Assessor's Report was given by Traci Balder. She presented a written report which is on file in the clerk's office. Seven new homes were built in Watab Township last year. She reported that economic activity is increasing with more homes being built in Benton County this year than the past year. 23% of the building permits in Watab were for new homes. There were 11 qualified sales that didn't fall within the 90-95% acceptable range, so she will be looking into that. Traci's contract is ending, and she offered both a 3-year and 4-year contract at no increase in cost. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to sign a 4-year contract extension for the assessment years of 2012-2016); motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed unanimously.

The minutes of the August meeting were approved with the addition of attendance of Supervisor Erdmann. Motion was approved by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Treasurer's Report was given: \$261,651.24 at Bremer Bank. She was thanked for a good job; motion made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed for approval of the Treasurer's Report.

Monthly bills were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to transfer \$125,000 (\$100,000 road & bridge & \$25,000 revenue) from Bremer Bank to Falcon National Bank checking accounts.

Supervisor Erdmann reported that Jon Bogart is nearly ready with the surveying and preliminary design of the railroad crossing on County Rd 79 to create a quiet zone; he will send them to Clerk Spence for distribution to the board. Lakewood Shore Rd NW will be surveyed when the leaves are off the trees. Supervisor Gondeck requested that there be written commitments from residents near the County Road 79 crossing before the township expends any further dollars on that project. The board decided that before that step the township first needs the cost of the project. Then commitments will be sought.

The final plat for Ruck's Addition was signed during the past week by Chair Ed Kacures and Clerk Pat Spence. Easement was obtained from East Central Electric for the power line. Supervisor Gondeck reported that there is a 10-ton road going into the property and that Allen Saldana filled the pothole. Supervisor Erdmann noted that we need to sign the road that it is a 9-ton road. Also, Fifth Avenue should be posted as 9-ton. A motion was made by Supervisor

Gondeck to post the two roads as soon as possible: one sign on 7 ½ Ave NW and two signs on Fifth Avenue; motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

Supervisor Gondeck reported that everything is done for new signage west of Hwy 10 and he'll complete the east side this month. Supervisor Kacures asked about the "no dumping" sign on his road. Supervisor Gondeck has started marking the culverts in the township with stakes. He will complete this during the month. This is for the MS4 reporting. It was to have been completed two years ago. Pothole repairs and tree trimming reports were also given by Supervisor Gondeck. Sentence to Serve crews were very helpful with the tree trimming. He requested another day of work from Sentence to Serve to trim trees by the trailer court: Gondeck/Kacures/approved.

Chuck Ertl was present and said he would do the second ditch cutting about September 20<sup>th</sup>. If the board wants brush cut, he has a new brush cutter that will take up to a 4-inch tree.

Watab Clean Up Day is September 17<sup>th</sup>. Supervisor Gondeck is distributing posters. Clerk Spence reported on certifying the assessments for unpaid emergency calls to both Benton and Morrison Counties.

Clerk Spence reported on the gravel tax; a mistake was made at Benton County with the amount listed for the gravel tax on the Beer License line rather than gravel tax line of the settlement reports. Supervisor Gondeck went to the county board meeting regarding changes in the county gravel tax ordinance. It may be amended at the December meeting. Duane Cekalla recommended that the 2<sup>nd</sup> district commissioner should recuse himself from any action on the gravel tax ordinance because he has a conflict of interest with a brother owning the largest pit in the township. The board agreed. The county needs to have an enforcement plan in place.

#### New Business:

1. Clerk Spence reported that the Final Levy Certification was sent to the Benton County Auditor-Treasurer for the \$400,000 set at the annual meeting. Board members were given copies of the certification paper work.
2. \$290 was received from Falcon National Bank for the purpose of buying a chain saw for the township. Clerk Spence will send a letter of appreciation to John Herges, Bank President. The quotes for the chain saws were for the same amount, so Supervisor Gondeck was asked to purchase it locally at Arnie's Log and Lawn in Rice. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to accept the donation, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, motion passed. Motion was made to authorize Supervisor Gondeck to purchase oil, extra chain, file and file holder, and mixing oil, and to accept his donation of a gas can; seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.
3. September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm is the Benton County Association of Townships meeting at Mr. Jim's in Foley. Supervisors Gondeck and Erdmann will attend; Supervisor Kacures may not be able to attend.
4. The District 8 meeting is at Onamia on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. Supervisors cannot attend.
5. Supervisor Reports:
  - a. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton County Economic Development Board meeting. They toured Molitor's new restaurant. The board discussed new businesses

and how the loan payments should be made. Next meeting will be at Twin Pines Restaurant.

6. Upcoming work during the month for the board will include Clean Up Day, Benton Co. Economic Development Board, STS crew, signs, culverts, assisting Chuck Ertl, working with Jon Bogart if design is completed, Benton Co. Association of Townships and District 8 Meeting.
7. Citizen complaints: two plumbing companies are giving bids on switching to gas boilers at the town hall. Ellsworth Boe called about his driveway, which is a minimum maintenance road. It needs blading and trees trimmed back. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to have Rice Contracting and Development grade the road; seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Barb Kirchner reported that her daughter was bit by a neighbor's dog. Joe Gibbons asked to have the speed limit lowered on West Lake Road through a speed limit study. It's currently 55mph. Supervisor Gondeck asked that he be authorized to contact the county to do a speed limit study on West Lake Road, Doeden Road, and Burton Court. Clerk should send a letter to Bob Kozel asking for the speed study with a copy of the minutes. He reviewed several other complaints. Supervisor Kacures asked about getting the Helland mailbox removed and asked Supervisor Gondeck to handle it.
8. Duane Cekalla said that he has attended various meetings at the town hall and commended the board for building such a beautiful building. He reviewed history of the old town hall building. A large truck load of wood was needed to heat it during elections. The board now is dealing with similar issues that the board did when he was on the board in the 70's. Woody Anderson drew up specifications for many of the town roads because he worked for MNDoT; Watab was the first township to have all tarred roads.
9. Jay Saldana appeared before the board; he is going to ask the county for a conditional use permit for a home-based business on Indian Road. He has three lots and wants to put up a 30 x 60' building. He was thanked for cleaning up the area.

The clerk read an e-mail from Ed Gnifkowski regarding conditions on River Road; the board stated that this is a county issue; and Clerk Spence it was for their information. Motion to adjourn was made at 9pm by Chair Ed Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk