

**Watab Town Board Meeting
February 3, 2009**

The regular monthly meeting of Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 03, 2009 by Chair Craig Gondeck. All board members were present: Supervisors Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, and Ed Kacures Jr.; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were: Rosie Johnson, Paul Schwinghammer, Paul Jacobs, George and Taunya Mastey, Maureen Graber, Jason Chapman, Don and Vicki Landwehr, and Bob Raveling. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann with to approve the agenda with the addition of two items requested by Supervisor Erdmann: Don Landwehr's house fire and construction of a road access on Highway 10.

The minutes of the January 6th regular meeting and January 27th special meeting were approved with a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures. The Treasurer's report was approved with a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. The board requested that the Treasurer report on both the checking and investment balances.

Citizen's Issues: The board discussed whether citizen's issues should be acted on at a meeting if they are not specifically an agenda item. They decided not to restrict decisions on citizen requests, since the board can table action on any item through the motion to table by one supervisor. Maureen Graber asked about how the board wants to proceed with the next steps of MS4; she is working on the ordinance and will meet in the near future with Paul Schwinghammer. The clerk requested that the board give two weeks notice of a meeting of a special MS4 meeting. Maureen questioned when the board should have the annual report to the public and suggested having it on the agenda for the May meeting. She asked permission to have posters and brochures printed. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to allow Maureen to have the necessary printing done; seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to pay all the bills as presented and to withdraw the necessary funds, motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed to pay claims 4022 through 4036 totaling \$22,270.67 and payroll of \$2,241.08.

Supervisor Gondeck presented a design for township stationery. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to approve the design; seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Supervisor Kacures accepted the articles from the board members to prepare the newsletter. He will get copies for proofreading to the board before it goes to print. It will be mailed prior to the annual meeting.

Supervisor Gondeck reported that the annual road levy was completed. There is an increase from 41.9 miles to 43.15 miles of township roads, and all but 2 of those miles are blacktopped. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to approve the road levy update to Benton County; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Supervisor Kacures updated the board on the purchase of the defibrillator. He is getting a list of recommended equipment from St. Cloud Technical College. We will need to submit names of those qualified to use the defibrillator. He will also let us know how much the training would cost for other interested parties.

Allen Voigt has paid the \$719.50 as a result of the small claims court case; this includes the \$250 call fee plus court and attorney costs. Don Zieglmeier's settlement remains unpaid; he will be approached by Supervisor Erdmann to contact the Clerk and establish a payment schedule.

Clerk Pat Spence presented a comparison of costs in the Rice Fire Department formula for the years 2003 to 2008. We have had no response yet from Rice for monthly costs and income for the fire department. The clerk was asked to further evaluate the usage formula, and Supervisor Kacures should continue to seek the information from the city. The clerk was asked to send another letter to the Rice City Clerk stating that we want the income and expenses of the Rice Fire Department monthly. She should copy the letter and mail it to all council members, other township board chairs, Mayor, and Fire Chief. The letter should include that we are following protocol for getting information outlined by the mayor at the Rice Fire Board meeting.

Don Landwehr explained his house fire. The home was a total loss. He said that he and Vicki have moved into a home in the Cove Development for a year. Everything at their home site is frozen. He recommends that the township look into self-insuring. He is also looking into mandatory sprinkler systems in homes. He is not anticipating any zoning or land use problems if they decide to rebuild on their lot.

Supervisor Gondeck asked the board to review the snow plowing contract language to see if it includes ice removal. Jason Chapman, contractor, said that he was out two times last week salt/sanding. He needs to do it again. If he could scrape the roads instead, he wouldn't have to go through so much salt/sand. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to continue the road maintenance as is with no additional blading. Motion passed. Supervisor Erdmann asked to have the contract revisited after one year. It is already in the minutes to have the contract language reviewed after one year in preparation to ask for new quotes for the next two-year contract.

The board reviewed the draft agenda for the annual meeting and made a few additions.

Supervisor Issues: Supervisor Kacures contacted Bonnie Scheel, Rice City Clerk, regarding the two medical calls that we questioned; she said that they will not be part of our contract cost. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Reducing Energy Conference that he attended. Local units of government are looking for all the possible ways to cut costs, especially in light of reduction of local government aid from the State of MN. A hazardous house grant is being handled through the St. Cloud HRA. It will cover this area. He also reviewed proposed future MNDOT road construction projects. County Road 55 is scheduled for reconstruction next year. He reported that there will be a meeting at the town hall on February 24th with the residents and Bob Kozel, Benton County Engineer, regarding the project. Supervisor Gondeck said that the Norway Pines demolition project will proceed after February 16th; if Cory Miller does not respond, the case will go to a court hearing. Henkemeyer will honor the quote he gave for demolition to clear all dead trees and debris. Supervisor Gondeck asked for permission to get quotes to install ceiling fans in the town hall. Supervisor Erdmann discussed extending Shangri La Road. He proposed asking the state to give funds to build the road and then eliminating the road access onto Highway 10 for the road about 550 feet south of the Pirates Cove wells. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kacures giving permission for Supervisor Erdmann to work on this. Motion passed. Supervisor Kacures said there was an article in the MAT newspaper regarding fire department training. He will inform the other townships, the Mayor and Fire Chief in Rice about funding available for training in the future. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck for Ed to send them a letter.

Supervisor Gondeck reviewed concerns and complaints reported during the past month.

Clerk Spence reviewed correspondence received during the month: the Benton County Association of Townships Meeting is February 19th at 7:30pm at Mr. Jim's in Foley. Board members received a letter regarding Benton County Park Dedication Fees, LTAP, and the Community Growth Institute.

Clerk Spence asked for approval of the Election Judges for the Annual Election: Donna Poganski, Head Judge; Lucy Palmer; Clara Knettl; Linda Addicott; Jan Solarz; Sandy Reberg; and Pat Spence. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve hiring of these judges. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to adjourn the meeting at 9:55pm. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk