

**Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting
November 11, 2008**

The regular monthly meeting of Watab Township was held on Tuesday, November 11, 2008 at the Watab Town Hall. Chair Craig Gondeck called the meeting to order at 7pm. All board members were present: Supervisors Ed Kacures, Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present included: Maureen Graber, Al Schlein, Bob Erickson, Jon Bogart, Bob Raveling, Paul Jacobs and Jim Laudenschick.

The Chair announced that since today is Veterans Day the board will recognize all the veterans for their service and the freedom that they have granted us. He then commended Pat Spence and Eileen Saldana for their part in the general election. The Clerk noted one addition to the agenda: appointment of Craig Gondeck to the Benton Co. Economic Development Committee. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to amend the agenda. Motion passed.

A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed. Following the Treasurer's Report, a motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the financial reports. Motion passed.

There were no citizen complaints. Clerk Spence asked if the bill to Astech could be paid. This check was held last month. Jon Bogart and Bob Erickson reported that the work was well done following their road inspections. The board reviewed the monthly bills. Chair Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to pay all bills as presented and to release the check to Astech. Motion passed.

Jon Bogart brought a packet from WRM Services for the wetland delineation on 5th Avenue. They have been reviewed by the county. The utilities have all been located. A number of shots have been taken to determine the profile of the road. Next month he will present the feasibility study with the costs. Supervisor Erdmann asked about the center lines. The township owns the right of way and the road needs to be centered on the right of way. Jon asked for direction on placement of the road. The board wants it on the center of the right of way. Jon asked if the board wants it upgraded to 24 foot wide pavement. Supervisor Erdmann said that the road has the potential to be a collector road and he recommends it being 24-foot wide pavement with three-foot shoulders. Also, Supervisor Erdmann said that Lake Andrew needs turn lanes; they are responsible for the cost. Supervisor Gondeck will check to see if 5th Avenue was ever recorded. Supervisor Erdmann said that if it was recorded at the township, we shouldn't have any problems. If we follow the correct procedures, there will be no additional cost to the township for the wetland delineation. Supervisor Erdmann asked if all the delineations are in the computer program, the new center line, and all coordinates are marked. Everything should be able to be scaled off the plan, so no steel stakes are needed. Supervisor Kacures feels we should move forward. Next month Jon will bring the feasibility study. Then the board can look at the projected costs and decide if they want to go ahead with the project. Soil borings are completed but results are not back yet. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion for Jon to proceed with the formal feasibility study and projected costs; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; Supervisor Kacures asked if there would be a benefit to having two lifts of asphalt. Jon Bogart said there are significant advantages. Motion passed.

Cost Projections for Rice Fire Budget Proposed Increase: Our share of the cost will depend on our percentage of use. There is no further information to report.

Chair Gondeck reported on the 55 plats that the township has currently. He has collected them all into a binder and would like larger copies made of them. The County will redo the plats that are not clear; there will not be a charge for this. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to reproduce the plats for a larger size; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed.

Annual Storm water Report by Maureen Graber: We are about a year to two behind on our five-year plan, but so are most of the other jurisdictions. She will work on the ordinance this winter. The 2008 annual report is not due until June 2009. She is visiting other cities' websites to see how they are proceeding. There was discussion about Annie Felix's request for a contribution for the newsletter she is doing for the Soil and Water Conservation District; no action was taken because she was not present to make the request. Supervisor Gondeck will get further information. Maureen was thanked for her work on the Storm Water Plan. Supervisor Gondeck asked about the new septic plan. The Benton County Planning Commission has reviewed it and is forwarding it to the Benton County Board. We will request that the most current copy of the proposed septic ordinance be on the website.

Clerk Spence gave a report on the General Election. We now have 2,168 registered voters in Watab Township; 325 registered on Election Day. 93 absentee ballots were accepted. A total of 1759 people voted on Election Day. She noted that several regular absentee ballots were rejected, because there were not signatures on the ballot envelopes. This is required for the ballot to be accepted. We had one incident: a man had a heart attack. She thanked Supervisor Gondeck for his help and reported that the Election Judges did a good job. The Chair and Supervisor Erdmann thanked the Clerk for a good job. The Clerk was asked about the training issues with the County Auditor-Treasurer. She said that when she brought one concern to the attention of Joan Neyssen at the Benton County Township Officers meeting, Joan blamed Rod Bunting for the problem. The Clerk has not yet had a response to her letter to the Secretary of State.

Jim Laudenschlager was present to give an estimate about off-peak heating and about the lighting for the meeting room. We have enough power coming to the building, but we need a separate metering system to go to off-peak. There also needs to be a new panel for the off peak meter. Jim will calculate the savings based on our past year's usage. We could save at least \$200 per month. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to go to dual fuel, off-peak heating. Motion passed. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to remove the dimmer switches because they are inefficient and purchase fluorescent light bulbs. He also authorized the Chair to purchase a step ladder for changing bulbs. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck. Motion passed.

Building Code Ordinance: Chair Gondeck said that we did not have the perpetual ordinance in effect. The board will call for a public hearing to adopt the perpetual building code at the December meeting. The motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to call the hearing.

Nancy Scott's contract as Building Inspector will need to be revisited to add inspecting the septic system pipe outside the home; she says that she will want an extra fee. We should see what percentages other jurisdictions retain, what they charge for the septic pipe inspection, Craig will check on this.

Supervisor Kacures made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, for Craig Gondeck to be appointed for a two year term on the Benton County Economic Development Committee. Motion passed.

Clerk Pat Spence was authorized to purchase a video screen for the meeting room on a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. Motion passed. Chair Gondeck reported on citizen complaints and action taken.

Don Zieglmeier and Alisha Voigt have not paid their bills to the township. Supervisor Gondeck asked for permission to proceed to small claims court with both unpaid bills. Supervisor Kacures made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to proceed. Motion passed.

Supervisor Erdmann asked if everything was set up for snow plowing. Supervisor Gondeck said that it is. Supervisor Kacures asked if there should be a road tour to check on items in the road right of way. The other two supervisors said that each supervisor could individually make notice of things that need to be removed such as timbers around mailboxes, decorative rocks, etc. They will make a list to give to the Clerk and she will send a letter.

Supervisor Kacures is drafting a letter in response to Bill Mayland regarding the goats next to his home and a wood cutting business, junk on property. Supervisor Gondeck encouraged him to put all complaints in writing. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence