

Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting

June 5, 2007

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm by Chair Craig Gondeck. All board members were present: Supervisors Craig Gondeck, Brad McIntosh, Lloyd Erdmann, Treasurer Eileen Saldana and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Paul Jacobs, George and Taunya Mastey, Rick Mettler, Pat Koch, Kevin Johnson, Marty Reker, Maureen Graber, Paul Schwinghammer, Ron Hommerding, Dustin Vaverke, Ed Kacures, Wayne Brutger, Richard and Mary Staudinger, Ral Westlin, Marge Taylor, and Duane Popp.

A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the minutes of the May 2nd and May 15th board meetings as written. Motion passed. The Treasurer reported a balance of \$455,668.25 and distributed copies of the receipts for the month. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the Treasurer's report as presented. Motion passed.

The Chair entertained additions to the agenda. The first addition was a request by DNR to use the town hall for a special meeting with the Design Team and other state agency representatives for a future development by Marty Reker on Mississippi River frontage property which he has purchased from the Harms and Sufkas. The second addition to the agenda was turn lanes on Zwilling Road.

Citizens' Issues:

1. Paul Jacobs asked about progress on the Norway Pine Estates ditch project. Supervisor Erdmann reported that the work will begin tomorrow.
2. Ral Westlin expressed strong concern about information in the May minutes on the town board investigating the possibility of Sauk Rapids Fire Department covering the entire township. He feels that it would take too long for the Sauk Rapids Department to respond to the northern part of the township. After lengthy discussion with participation from other residents, Ral suggested an impartial arbitrator to try to settle the issues. Bob Erickson asked if there is a paper trail on the issue; the Clerk responded that she has copies of correspondence from the past four years. Supervisor Erdmann asked if there might be interested citizens in serving on a committee. Ral Westlin and Ron Hommerding volunteered. Supervisor Erdmann said that most communities in MN receive the information Watab has requested on a routine basis, and he added that the Attorney General's Office ruled that Rice should give Watab the names and addresses for all calls. Watab's request to amend the fire contract to supply this information has not been fulfilled.

The monthly bills were presented; a motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the bills for payment and to authorize the Treasurer to withdraw the necessary funds for their payment. The motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed.

Old Business:

1. Paradise Developer Agreement Approval & Final Plat Approval: Supervisor McIntosh asked if the park dedication funds for the plat would be paid to the township or the county; they will go to the county, because the township does not want to delay the approval of this plat. Supervisor Erdmann made the motion to approve the developer agreement and the final plat and to give the Chair authorization to sign the hard copies; motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed. Chair Gondeck thanked Marty Reker for his full cooperation with the board on development of the plat.
2. Angela Estates: Wayne Brutger stated that he has been to Benton County and has had a review from the Sauk Rapids Fire Department with their approval. Supervisor Gondeck made the motion for approval of the final plat; motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed.
3. Written Agreement with Lee Hanson on Reimbursement for Road Extension Expenses: Authorization was given to Chair Gondeck to sign the agreement on a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. Motion passed.
4. Discussion on Next Steps for MS4: Paul Schwinghammer of Red Barn Ridge, Inc. explained that MS4 stands for a Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer System. Watab is designated because of our proximity to a large urban center. The township plans to use its website for educational purposes; put an inspection program in place; post-construction management of plats; and pollution prevention for municipal operations. The township needs to submit an annual report on what we have accomplished this year in accordance with the plan. We will also need a stormwater topographical map of the township. Supervisor Gondeck suggested that we should hire someone to complete this by October deadline. We could ask Sartell and Sauk Rapids if parts of the administration could be done jointly. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to hire Paul Schwinghammer as our technical advisor with the assistance of Maureen Graber and Brad McIntosh and to ask if we can work with Sartell or Sauk Rapids. Maureen said that much of the work can be done by her and others in the township such as making the brochure. She suggested a joint toll-free information number. Supervisor McIntosh seconded the motion and it passed. The committee will meet and bring a recommendation to the board at the July meeting. Paul also will recommend revenue sources.

5. Final Approval for Plat Manual: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approved Resolution 2007-2 approving the policy. Motion passed. Bob Erickson was thanked for his great work on this project during the past year.
6. Update on Train Whistle Study: There was no new information
7. Road Mowing Contract: No ditch bottoms or side slopes can be mowed until August 2nd according to the DNR regulations that protect nesting birds. Road right-of-ways for the first eight feet can be mowed; the board decided that mowing will be done later in the summer.
8. Fifth Avenue Signs: Lake Andrew Development wants to purchase two signs advertising their public trails system. The board decided to table this for a future meeting. Duane Popp suggested that signs should only be allowed when they point to something that is utilized by the public.

New Business:

1. Road Tour Report: All town roads are in good shape except Fifth Avenue. Some roads have cracked black top, but the driving condition is good. This year's projects will be building a 30-foot hammerhead turnaround by O'Keefes, repairing the Plaziak Road dip near River Road, and pothole repairs. Bob Erickson reviewed his plan for the Plaziak Road repair. Bob was asked to also design the turnaround. A motion was made by Supervisor McIntosh to go ahead with the projects with Bob's oversight. Bob is to get quotes from contractors. He will be given a list of what the board wants done. Supervisor Gondeck seconded the motion and it passed. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann authorizing Bob to get hourly rates for the patching for the next meeting; this was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed.
2. Set Annual Weed Road Tour: June 26th at 9am at the town hall.
3. Road History: Supervisor Gondeck is working on history of all town roads and showed the board his progress.
4. Purchase of Charcoal Iron Filter for Town Hall; Supervisor Gondeck was given authority to have the water tested.
5. Supervisor Gondeck was authorized to purchase a bulletin board and coat rack. Ron Hommerding offered to donate a coat rack.
6. Old Town Hall Demolition: It will cost \$1,790 to take out the vermiculite in the old hall, and then it can be demolished. George Mastey said that the power needs to be cut off and the outhouse and propane tank moved. The Chair asked when the hall would be demolished and stated that he wanted it complete by the end of June. Ron Hommerding reminded George that everything has to be taken to a MPCA approved demolition site. Supervisor McIntosh reminded George to look at the SCORE grant guidelines to make sure that everything he does can be

covered by the grant. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh for the chair to sign the contract with VEIT for vermiculite removal with the grant attachment. The motion passed. Dustin Vaverek of Boser Construction clarified that the movement of the propane tank is George Mastey's responsibility, and he added that the tank under the outhouse will have to be pumped.

7. Town Hall Parking Lot: Work cannot begin until the old hall is demolished. Ron Hommerding clarified that he is in charge of the project and that it appears it will stay on budget. He added that there will not be any cost over-runs. Supervisor Erdmann inquired about the drainage into the storm pond. Supervisor McIntosh suggested that Ron coordinate it with Paul Schwinghammer. Tom Herkinoff, the design engineer, is liable for the design of the pond & drainage plan.
8. Bob Erickson reported on the Lake Andrew Plat road work. He wrote a letter to Duffy Engineering to talk with the town board before they go ahead with the overlay of the roads in the development.
9. Rollie Anderson, owner of Sauk Rapids Herald, wants to take pictures of the demolition. He will be notified by George Mastey before the hall is demolished.

Supervisor Issues:

1. Supervisor Erdmann asked about Zwilling Road turn lanes at Lake Andrew Development. The Developer's Agreement requires Scott Jarnot to donate the land and pay for the turn lanes at the time Zwilling Road is reconstructed.
2. Chair Gondeck read the Citizen's Complaint Form regarding the east-west road by Sugar Daddy's. There has been a misunderstanding between the Jarnots and Department of Development regarding this road; they have been informed that it is not a township road. Duane Popp added that there is a private 66-foot easement that was not recorded on the title. A public road cannot be constructed there without the owner's permission. A copy of the completed complaint form will be sent to the Jarnot's realtor and the Department of Development.
3. A complaint was read regarding damage to private property by snow plow equipment. The Chair delegated handling it to Supervisor McIntosh.
4. Chair Gondeck reported that there are pit bull dogs on Indian Road that are chained outside a home where no one is living. They are not fed daily. The Chair indicated that since this appears to be a very unsafe situation, he has passed the issue on to Benton County officials.
5. Geno Beniek filed a complaint about the weeds along Sanbur Trail. Supervisor Erdmann said that he does not recommend regarding the ditch. Supervisor Gondeck will review the issue with Geno. George Mastey was given direction to mow the first half of the Sanbur Trail right-of-way.

6. Supervisor Erdmann moved that the Chair be authorized to act on all the Citizen's Complaints except for the snow plowing damage complaint. The motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed.
7. The Chair reported that the \$10,000 SCORE grant for township clean up day has been approved by Benton County.
8. The Chair requested a budget of up to \$60 for hosting the Benton County Economic Development meeting at the town hall. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh giving approval.
9. Supervisor Gondeck has two quotes for putting in a public address system: \$3,218 and \$10,200. He moved to table this until the next meeting as there is nothing in the budget for it.
10. Supervisor Gondeck reported that the township has received a reimbursement check for \$250 from Don Zieglmeier.
11. Clerk Spence reviewed the correspondence. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh for the Clerk to contact Kurt Deter, Rinke Noonan, stating that Watab Township will enter into a retainer in the amount of \$350 for the next year, beginning October 1st, to advise the township on any water-related issues. The motion passed.
12. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh for the Treasurer to bill R & G and Robert Cross for fire calls. The motion passed.

Other business:

1. Maureen Graber suggested that some of the Plaziak bequest money be used to purchase a power point projector. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh for the Clerk and Maureen to purchase a projector; the motion passed.
2. George Mastey asked for \$250 in payment for his time in arranging the asbestos abatement on the old hall. Ron Hommerding said he did not feel that George should receive extra payment, because it was part of his contract and there were no inclusions or exclusions on George's contract. Ron reviewed the history of communication on the asbestos assessment with George Mastey. Supervisor McIntosh made a motion to pay George \$125; it was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; the motion passed with Supervisor Erdmann and McIntosh in favor and Supervisor Gondeck opposed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk