

Board of Audit Minutes

The Annual Board of Audit for Watab Township was called to order on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 at the new Watab Town Hall. Chair Craig Gondeck called the meeting to order at 5:15pm. All board members were present: Chair Gondeck, Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Brad McIntosh, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence.

The Supervisors compared all checks written for the year's bills with the corresponding claim forms. All were in order. Chair Gondeck made the motion to approve the year-end report; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed. The year-end reports were signed and the meeting adjourned at 6:45pm.

Minutes of March 2007 Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm on Tuesday, March 6, 2007 by Chair Craig Gondeck. The entire board was present as stated in the Board of Audit minutes. Audience members present were: Bill & Jan Middlestadt, Paul Jacobs, Brian & Wendy Erdmann, Walter Jansen, Earl Harden, Rick Kampa, Ed Kacures, Bob Erickson, George and Taunya Mastey, Jim Jovda, Ray Thompson, Allen Saldana, Delroy Rothstein, and Kevin Johnson. Chair Gondeck made a motion to add setting the date for the Board of Canvass to the agenda; the motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh; motion passed.

On a motion by Chair Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann, the minutes of the February 6th meeting were approved as written; motion passed. On a motion by Chair Gondeck and second by Supervisor McIntosh, the Treasurer's report was approved as presented by Treasurer Eileen Saldana. Motion passed.

Citizen's Issues:

1. Rick Kampa discussed a problem in his neighborhood. The board members referred him to Benton County as it was a zoning issue.
2. Bill Middlestadt said that he had reported a problem getting snow plowed out of the cul de sac by his home. He thanked the board for helping get it plowed.

Following the review of the monthly bills, a motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to pay all the bills as presented and to withdraw the necessary funds from the appropriate accounts. The motion was seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed.

A Town Hall Construction Update was given by Construction Manager, Ron Hommerding. He stated that the building has cost \$100.09 per square foot. At the 2005 Annual Meeting he projected the cost at \$140 per square foot. Everything is nearly complete except for the exterior work. The bill hasn't come in yet for flooring and painting. Another draw will be in April and then final one in June. Simmons hasn't billed for stone work on the exterior; the work can be done when temps are over 35 degrees. The board members thanked the building committee and all citizens who had input in the process.

The Chair reported that the Board of Adjustment commended the township for the stance on Paradise Plat sewer system monitoring; Craig is working with Marty Reker on the developer's agreement, and said that he has agreed to all the conditions.

Bob Erickson reported that he completed the annual road tour with Supervisor Gondeck to come up with a 5-year road plan; we want to prepare for the future. Different colors on the map show repairs for each year. He commented that the township is fortunate to have good soils. Fifth Avenue will be a major project and Riverview Loop is scheduled for 2009. Bob and Craig were commended for their work on this.

The Watab 4-H Club has offered to plant flowers by the town hall. A motion was made by Chair Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor McIntosh to approve this project; motion passed.

Preliminary Plat approval for Paradise will be moved to the April meeting agenda.

The board reviewed the revised 2007 Budget as presented by Clerk Spence. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor McIntosh and passed approving the budget. The board then discussed its levy recommendations for 2008 payable taxes. The Clerk presented current fund balances and projected revenues and expenses for 2007. Recommendations were set as follows on a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor McIntosh:

General Fund	\$15,000
Road & Bridge Fund	120,000
Fire Fund	70,000
Building Fund	25,000

The motion passed. Mr. Middlestadt complimented the board on having healthy fund balances.

The board discussed items for the Annual Meeting agenda. Supervisor McIntosh asked for Red Barn Ridge discussing MS4 to be on the agenda.

The Clerk announced that the Annual Election will be held from 11am to 8pm on Tuesday, March 13th, at the new town hall.

The Assessor's Contract will be awarded at the April meeting. The job is being advertised for quotes in the Sauk Rapids Herald.

Chair Craig Gondeck reported that one developer agreement is in place; another one with Pirates Cove is in progress. He recommends having an escrow account so that the developer pays a fee that will cover legal and other costs to inspect the roads to the township; this fee would be paid when the developer brings the preliminary plat. Questions were asked about what the developer's agreements cover, and the board answered their questions.

Chair Gondeck moved that \$5,000 be charged for the escrow account; unspent funds would be repaid to the developer; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

The Chair brought up for discussion establishing a data base of where all the utilities are located in the township. Allen Saldana said that this information is available at the county level; currently the average septic permit is \$150; within lakeshore 1,000 feet it's \$125 additional. Plus, there's a fee that adds about \$800 upfront costs. The suggestion was made by Ray Thompson that the Clerk could request these reports from the county. The board is not interested in issuing excavating permits. Chair Gondeck moved to table the issue and he will meet with Nancy Scott about adding the information to the site plan at no additional cost.

Correspondence:

1. No Rice Fire Calls for the month.
2. Township Officers Training Short Course is Monday, March 26th from 9 to 3:30pm at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud.
3. Traci Balder has submitted a proposal for the Assessor Contract.
4. Lloyd has received a letter from a crack-sealing company; he will invite reps to a future meeting.

Supervisor Issues:

1. Craig negotiated an agreement to cover \$1,110 in legal fees from Pirates Cove. They will pay \$3,000 for the railroad crossing study; if there are any other future major developments (PUD) in the township that benefits from this study, they can collect from that developer if their development benefits. There will be no township involvement. Pirates Cove will give the township \$3,000 and we will then send a letter of support for the study.
2. Craig asked for permission to buy a shelf for the maintenance room for supplies. Motion was made by Supervisor McIntosh, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann giving approval.
3. The St. Cloud Times will do an article tomorrow morning on the new town hall. The Sauk Rapids Herald will also have an article and photo.
4. Supervisor McIntosh said that we are in compliance on MS4; the annual report should be done by the end of June to meet the reporting deadline.
5. Last month we adopted a Supervisor Complaint Form; Chair Gondeck reported that he has 11 complaints this month.
6. The board recommended that Ron Hommerding and George Mastey come to an agreement on the asbestos abatement in the old town hall.
7. Ed Kacures asked about Don Zieglmeier returning town funds. The town does not have a written agreement with Don to get the funds repaid.
8. Chair Gondeck thanked Boser Construction for donating the American flag and flag pole to the township. Everyone applauded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence