

## **Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes January 8, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 8, 2013 at the Watab Town Hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Other board members present included Treasurer Eileen Saldana; Clerk Pat Spence; and Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck. Audience members present were Mayor Dale Rogholt, Council Member Chris Scheel, Bob Raveling, JoAnn Baumgart, Kevin Reiter, Dick Raveling, and Allen Saldana.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the Chair extended a special welcome to the new Mayor and Council Member for the City of Rice: Dale Rogholt and Chris Scheel. Supervisor Gondeck made the following announcements: sympathy to Marty Reker's family on the death of his father, sympathy to Alex Langer family, Joe Gibbons still needs used furniture for the needy, special thanks to the Benton County Sheriff's Department for their service to the township, and congratulations on Tina Gondeck's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday today.

Two additions were made to the agenda (consideration of renewal of contract with Wacosa and road projects loan) through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.

Approval of the December 4 and 11<sup>th</sup> minutes was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana and approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. The motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve payment of all presented claims number 5059 through 5071 and electronic transfers to PERA and IRS totaling \$37,178.78; motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

1. Pat Spence reported on her phone conversation with Jon Bogart regarding the status of the railroad crossing quiet zone projects for County Road 79 and Lakewood Shores Road. Bid documents will be advertised on February 6 and 13 and bid opening is scheduled for March 5, 2013. Jon affirms that everything is in order with Burlington Northern; he will speak with Chris Byrd regarding the bidding of the County Road 79 project by Benton County. Supervisor Erdmann stated that temporary stockpile easements are still okay with homeowners per verbal agreements. The board asked Supervisor Erdmann to look into the need for written extensions on the easements.
2. Rice Fire Contract: The Chair asked for approval to attend the next City Council meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup> to present the Watab proposal. Approval was granted, and the Clerk was asked to request the agenda item with the Rice City Clerk. Supervisor Gondeck raised the issue of fire calls occurring when a resident has a burning permit. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to request that our fire wardens remind people to contact the Sheriff's Office at 968-7201 when they are going to burn with a permit; this will prevent the fire department from coming out and resulting in a fire billing.
3. Tri-County Humane Society: Supervisor Gondeck spoke with a member of the Sauk Rapids township board and learned that they dropped their contract with the Tri-County

Humane Society because it became cost prohibitive. He recommends that we do not sign a contract and continue to consider an annual donation at the annual meeting. Clerk Spence should invite the director to the annual meeting.

4. Township Computer: the clerk and chairman will look into this during the coming month. Also the Chair informed the board that he has information on computer training for the Clerk and Treasurer at \$125 per course. Approval was given for them to attend training through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.
5. Annual Newsletter: Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has five donors signed up to sponsor the newsletter; photo of board will be taken at the special meeting. Two articles have been written; the remainder is due at the February meeting.
6. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to look into converting the township road project loan to a general obligation bond. The Clerk is to contact public financial companies for proposals. Motion passed.

#### New Business:

1. A special planning meeting was scheduled for January 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of budget preparation for 2013 and road projects five year plan.
2. Filing period for the annual election ends on January 15 at 5pm. At this time, Eileen Saldana and Craig Gondeck have filed.
3. The Benton County Association of Townships meeting is scheduled for February 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm at Mr. Jim's in Foley. The entire board is encouraged to attend.
4. Clerk Spence reported on the correspondence.
5. Supervisor Reports:
  - a. Greater MN Development Corporation: Jim Brownson and Lee Hanson properties will be reviewed. Supervisor Gondeck will continue attending these meetings. He anticipates more business announcements in the next year.
  - b. Supervisor Gondeck has been in contact about the West Lake Road speed study. It was on a St. Cloud MNDOT office desk for nine months before sending into the state; staff had told him it had been sent several months earlier, so this explains the delay.
  - c. Supervisor Gondeck showed photos of the low area Lakewood Shore Road; this should be discussed further at the special meeting.
  - d. Supervisor Gondeck recapped the cost of the township sign update at slightly over \$2,000.
  - e. Craig asked for permission to look into a grant to clean up blighted areas in the township. This is significantly lower than most townships are spending for reflectivity updates, because the work is being done without consultants.
6. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to sign the annual contract with Wacosa for the cleaning of the town hall for the same hourly rate of \$38.78 per crew hour. Motion passed and Chair Kacures signed the contract.
7. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his meeting with the county auditor about putting liens on personal property. He stated that it is legal to do so.

8. Clerk presented a letter to the board for signatures to Reed Larson at MPCA regarding the board's disappointment of MPCA handling of the Fifth Avenue property where Cory Tretter disturbed more than one acre.
9. Supervisor Gondeck reported that new speed signs have been installed on Lakewood Shores.
10. Citizen Issues:
  - a. Dick Raveling discussed property insurance rates and concerns about fire protection for the northern third of the township. The board agreed with his concern, but also need to be concerned about the tax burden on all residents. Supervisor Gondeck will look into the benefits of installing a dry hydrant system to lower insurance rates.
  - b. Joan Baumgart asked about directional signs. Supervisor Gondeck will talk to DOT about it.
11. The January work plan for the board was covered during the meeting.

Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence