

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 5, 2013**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Jon Bogart, Brian Erdmann-Rice Contracting, Paul Jacobs, Bob Raveling, Kevin Foster-Hardrives, Orrin Albertson-Omann Brothers, and Mike Potylla-Knife River.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the following announcements were made by Supervisor Gondeck: deepest sympathy to the Keith Wolfe family and the Merna Burton family, and prayers of healing for Tony and Joan Saldana.

Approval was given for the agenda with the addition of considering a Channel 3 ad about renting the town hall and an update on the SCORE Grant through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed.

Approval of the February 5 and 12 meeting minutes was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana with a cash balance of \$242,841.09 in Bremer and Falcon Banks. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve her report.

Monthly claims were approved for payment along with the withdrawal of funds from the appropriate accounts through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed for claims # 5092 through 5109 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS. Total for all claims was \$8,979.47.

Old Business included:

1. Supervisor Gondeck identified three to four potential areas for a dry hydrant system: River View Loop, Lakewood Shore Road, and Fifth Avenue. He is still looking into permits needed from DNR and the Department of Development at Benton County and will report back at a future meeting.
2. Review of Drafted Changes for Ordinance 3: Clerk Spence went through the changes in the draft and recommended the public hearing for the April board meeting. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed for a public hearing to be held on Ordinance 3 amendments on Tuesday, April 2.
3. Supervisor Kacures reviewed the barn fire in the township on County Road 4. All three supervisors were called to the site for the purpose of road safety. Water was being hauled over the township roads on a very cold night, which resulted in very slippery, icy roads. Benton County also salt/sanded the county roads in the area. Supervisor Erdmann was supervising the hydrants at The Cove Development. Supervisor Gondeck spoke with Tony Hommerding about a list of contractors from the area who could respond if needed, since a contractor was needed that night to lift the roof.
4. Refinance of the township debt: Clerk Spence recapped the process that is unfolding in preparation for the March 19<sup>th</sup> bond sale. There will be a conference call on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am with Supervisor Kacures and Clerk Spence and two analysts from Standard and Poor for a credit assessment. Supervisor Gondeck asked to participate.
5. Snow Plowing on Ferry Point: all three board members were called to a complaint on snow plowing at the cul-de-sac at the end of Ferry Point. The problem was due to the unusual shape of the cul de sac. The board has communicated with the home owner, and it is settled.
6. Supervisor Kacures also reported that he had sent letters to property owners who are plowing across the township road in violation of the state statute. There was a letter of thanks from a property owner on Ferry Point for receiving this letter, since he wasn't aware of the statute.

7. Opening of Bids on the railroad crossing projects: Co Rd 79 and Lakewood Shore Rd NW. The county project will be awarded by the county, but the township is paying for it through a donation, so the town board will forward its approval to the county board for its meeting on Thursday. Tonight the board will choose the apparent low bidder for the County Road 79 project, and then the bids will be reviewed in depth by the County Engineer. These are the bids for the County Road 79 project:
  - a. Hardrives: \$50,633.60
  - b. Tri-City Paving: 71,745.00
  - c. Knife River: \$60,825.30
  - d. Omann Brothers Paving: \$46,247.17

Omann Brothers is the apparent low bidder, but the figures need to be reviewed by Jon Bogart. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to accept the apparent low bid for recommendation to the county board contingent on Jon's review. If there is a problem with the numbers, Jon will report back to the board, and a special meeting will be called. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed.

Bids for Lakewood Shore Road NW crossing were received from:

- a. Rice Contracting: \$155,961.05
- b. Hardrives: \$162,058.55
- c. Tri-City Paving: \$137,282.50
- d. Knife River: \$153,411.70
- e. Omann Brothers Paving: \$149,917.90

Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to accept the apparent low bid from Tri-City Paving. After review by Jon Bogart, he will make a recommendation to the board; Supervisor Gondeck seconded the motion; motion passed.

Supervisor Kacures will contact Bentley Tomlin tomorrow morning regarding the quote for the crossing planks. Everything else with the railroad is approved, but Jon will request the approval in writing.

8. Annual Newsletter: Supervisor Kacures presented the copy of the 2013 newsletter. After board review, he will call in the changes tomorrow.
9. The new township computer and software has been purchased; the Clerk thanked the board for initiating this. It is an important upgrade.
10. Treasurer Saldana went to computer training on Friday at MRC. She presented her certificate and described the course.
11. The board reviewed draft of the annual meeting agenda and Clerk's Report.
12. Tree Removal: Supervisor Gondeck has a written agreement with the property owner for removal of the trees on the corner of County Road 33 and Fifth Avenue. The STS crew should have it completed today.
13. Benton County Association of Townships Meeting: the board would like to have more time for discussion of township issues on the meeting agendas. Chair Kacures congratulated Clerk Spence on being elected Vice President of the association board.

#### New Business included

1. Set Bid Process and Projects for 2013 Road Work: Clerk Spence was asked to prepare bid documents for the April meeting for a possible bid opening at the May meeting. The board needs to review the possibility of adding fog seal on Sanbur Trail, which was requested by its residents. Also, Brian Erdmann asked the board to consider adding Class 5 material on the road from Steve Bogie's mailbox around the corner on Doeden Road.
2. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck to have the agreement for post-issuance debt compliance policy approved and signed by the Board Chair. Clerk Spence is to send it via e-mail on Wednesday. Motion passed.
3. MAT Conference Short Course: The entire board plans to attend, and the Clerk was asked to prepare a check for the registration fees for the entire board.
4. Letter from Rice City Clerk regarding outstanding balances on 2009 through 2011 contracts for fire service: Supervisor Kacures asked to have the letter included in the board packets. The Clerk explained that the Mayor was not aware that the letter had been sent by the Clerk, and the township will hear back from him later.
5. Certificate of Bridge Inspection was received and filed. Brian Erdmann said that the board may need to consider in the future installing a box culvert at the Sucker Creek bridge.
6. The Board of Equalization is noticed for Thursday, April 4 at 2:30 p.m. at the Town Hall.
7. Transportation Funding: Supervisor Gondeck went to the State Capitol and sat in on a transportation meeting. He explained the process for the funding for transportation in the state. Representative Newberger would like to meet with us on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the need for frontage roads through our township on Highway 10. The board asked the Clerk to also invite Senators Mary Kiffmeyer, David Brown, and John Pederson; Representatives Jim Newberger, Tim O'Driscoll, and Mike Sundin; Claudia Dumont and Terry Humbert from MNDOT, county commissioner, residents, and the St. Cloud Times. Chair Kacures also asked the board to review the letter he is sending to Representative Newberger to summarize the conversation with him on February 21<sup>st</sup>.
8. Upper Mississippi River Bacterial TMDL study group will meet at the Elk River City Hall on March 22 from 9:30 to 12:30am.
9. Supervisor Gondeck suggested promoting the rental of the town hall through an advertisement on Channel 3. The board asked him to work on the idea with the Clerk and bring back suggestions for the next meeting. Concern was expressed by the Clerk of having it promoted for Watab residents, since the policy states that a township resident must be the responsible party with the rental.
10. Supervisor Gondeck reported that the township's SCORE grant was approved for the amount requested. Watab Clean Up Day will be held in September.
11. Supervisor's Reports: Economic Development Board Meeting was reviewed by Supervisor Gondeck.
12. Communications: Supervisor Gondeck received a thank you from Doug Boser for snow plowing. The Clerk summarized the other written correspondence for the past month.
13. Bob Raveling showed the board photos of a pile of three feet deep snow, which was left in the roadway near his home on Shoestring Loop. The issue was resolved with the snow plower.
14. Supervisor Kacures suggested having cookies and coffee for annual meeting. Supervisor Gondeck will get bottle water, and Clerk Spence will order the cookies and coffee.
15. Paul Jacobs had a snow plowing complaint; he requested consideration of having the plowing company open one lane of traffic during the night so that people can get out in the morning to go to work. The board will discuss this further.

16. Supervisor Gondeck asked Clerk Spence to summarize the meeting she attended in Rice on his behalf with Monty Headly, Commissioner Wollak, Miles Seppelt, and Duane Cekalla. The purpose of the meeting was to give input for the new county economic development director's job description. Supervisor Gondeck stated that he is appalled that he's only worth 10 hours a week for an economic development director. He apologized to the board for recommending the \$500 for the rail spur when the county isn't investing enough in economic development.

Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence