

November 5, 2013 Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5 2013 by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Supervisors Kacures, Lloyd Erdmann, and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Kevin Reiter, Jeff Hanson, Mark Hanson, and Bob Raveling.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the following announcements were made: Supervisor Gondeck thanked Parking Lot Maintenance for not charging for the sweeping of the town hall parking lot; he extended sympathy to various township residents; and he wished a Happy 90th Birthday to Ed Aschenbrenner.

A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve the agenda with no changes or additions. The minutes of the October 1, 2013 meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's report with a balance of \$284,890.55 in checking accounts. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed accepting her report. The board also received the monthly balance sheet and cash control report. Authorization to pay claims numbered 5271 through 5291 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRA totaling \$47,018.82 and to withdraw the necessary funds was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. This includes payment for the outdoor warning siren. Grants were received to cover \$15,500 of the cost of \$29,940.

Jeff and Mark Hanson were present to discuss the current Snow Plowing Contract. The company will be using the same drivers in the township so roads don't get missed. Jeff commented that they use the same sand/salt mix as Benton County. Supervisor Gondeck will check whether Marson's can get salt/sand at the state price. They were thanked for repairing all damaged right of ways, their response time with any issues, and for their assistance with sanding the roads during the barn fire last winter. Clerk Spence was asked to place a notice on the township website asking residents to check their mailbox posts so that they are in good winter condition and also to highlight the state statute on snow in the road right of way.

Old Business:

- A. Railroad Crossing Update: Supervisor Erdmann reported that Lakewood Shore is completed with the last layer of blacktop and shoulders; signs need to be installed. We need the certificate of completion from the FTA; County Road 79 is not going to be done this fall. Benton County has the contract with Omann Brothers and they can't get the permit of entry from the railroad. We will check if Omann will honor their bid. Supervisor Erdmann will inspect the flaking on the curbs. Four wheelers are cutting up the road edge. Supervisor Gondeck explained Quick Kurb, which he learned about at the maintenance expo in St. Cloud. There are several advantages to these instead of poured concrete curbs. The board will consider this for future crossing quiet zones. The Clerk was asked to check on termination of the MS4 permit with Tim Otremba, Tri-City Paving, and to have Supervisor Erdmann review the bill when it comes.
- B. Dry Hydrant System Update: Supervisor Gondeck met with DNR and all permits are approved and good until 2015; when we start, we need to give DNR a progress report. Supervisor Gondeck will get the shoreline alternation permits from Benton County when needed.
- C. Outdoor Warning Siren System Update: it was installed yesterday. The Clerk will need to do the final grant reports.
- D. Building Maintenance: Flag pole rust is removed and some from the sidewalk; remainder will be completed either this month or next spring. Clerk Spence will call Greg Schultz to give the township an estimate on a Kinetico system for water treatment at the town hall.

- E. Parking Lot Lights: Supervisor Gondeck had two quotes for new, energy-efficient lights for the parking lot since the current ballasts are burning out and the fixtures are poor quality. Starry Electric quote was \$2,970 and Little Rock Electric quote was \$3,120. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to accept the quote from Little Rock Electric due to type of lighting and past experience with the contractor; motion passed.
- F. Road Repairs: Shoestring Loop repairs were completed by Tri-City Paving when they were working on Lakewood Shore Road; Supervisor Gondeck showed the board photos of their work. Potholes on Burton Court and at Pine Stop were filled; there are others that need repair; Supervisor Gondeck was asked to contact Saldana Excavating to do the work. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to have the STS Crew do crack filling in the parking lot, 15th Ave NE, and Hemlock Road.
- G. Tree trimming in the township is continuing with the STS Crew; sign work is done for the year.
- H. A special meeting to work on the MS4 and Plat Process was scheduled for Tuesday, November 26th at the town hall.
- I. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that we use the SCORE Grant that has been approved to purchase a picnic table next spring, since it is so late in the year. The board agreed.
- J. Supervisor Gondeck reported that the new owner of Ferry Point property with a mailbox in violation of the township ordinance wants the township to pay half the cost of removal. The board decided that it cannot set a precedent when the mailbox shouldn't have been placed there by the previous owner.

New Business included:

- A. There will be a special meeting regarding the Fire Contract with the Rice City Council on Wednesday, November 6th at 7pm at the Rice City Hall.
- B. The board adopted Resolution 2013-8: Authorizing Benton County Assessment to Property Taxes for the Purpose of Reimbursing Watab Township for Unpaid Emergency Calls; total to be assessed is \$1,429.63. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.
- C. Monthly Communications: Todd Payne asking for conditional use permit for business district; send county a letter saying that the town board is opposed to any more billboards along Highway 10 for aesthetic reasons. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed with Supervisor Gondeck opposed. Maureen Graber reported damage at the median on the Lakewood Shore crossing; board is aware of the problem. The board reviewed other emails and mail.
- D. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported a quote from Gene Kubat to build a storage rack for signs at a cost of \$350.00. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to order the storage rack. Supervisor Gondeck also reported on the results of Watab Clean Up Day. One of the yards cleaned up by supervisors on West Lake Road has resulted in the sale of the property.
- E. The board discussed the work plan for the month of November: crack filling, tree trimming (include corner of River Road and Frost Road to remove buckthorn); fire meeting, special MS4 meetings; town hall exterior cleaning; contact with Tri-City Paving on MS4 permit closure; work on new NPDES permit; and Standard and Poor Annual Report.
- F. Citizen's Issues: Kevin Reiter discussed a privacy fence that he is installing. Bob Raveling arrived.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence