

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for August 5, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall 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 present were: John Baune, Paul Jacobs, Bob Raveling, Marty Reker, Jim Brownson, and Kevin Reiter. Following the Pledge to the Flag, approval of the agenda was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed with the addition of town hall maintenance, flag pole, sprinkler system, carpet cleaning, use of complaint form, and scope of work for future projects. The Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana with a cash balance of \$373,822.42 in accounts at Bremer Bank and Falcon National Bank. Her report was accepted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. The Edward Jones account has been closed. Approval of the July meeting minutes as printed was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Dialogue with developers on snow plowing and SWPPP plans was tabled until later in the meeting, since none were present at the time. Attendees were asked if they had any input; there was none at this time. Authorization to pay the monthly bills and withdraw the necessary funds for claims #5487 through 5506 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$11,755.05 was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Old Business:

- A. Dry Hydrant System Update was given by Supervisor Gondeck. The township should be receiving a quote from Chuck Prom. Clerk Spence reported that DNR has contacted the township and encourages the board to try to find a contractor. Supervisor Gondeck said that the township specifications may not have had enough flexibility. The board decided to allow the contractors to submit plans as they have done in other local units of government.
- B. Town Roads:
 1. 66th Street NW: the board discussed the project and the learning process from it; in the future there will be a written scope of work for each project and a contract signed. Clerk Spence responded to Supervisor Erdmann's request from last month about the township resolution 2007-2 containing specifications on road right of way; it stipulates that new roads have a 66-foot wide right of way.
 2. Sucker Creek Road Drainage: Supervisor Erdmann drew up specifications to improve the drainage at the intersection of Sucker Creek Road and Little Rock Road. Supervisor Gondeck met with the homeowner and they support the plan as does the complainant. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to put the project out for lump sum quotes; second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. Quotes should be received by September 2nd for award at the meeting. Clerk Spence is to work with Supervisor Erdmann to develop the request for quotes. Supervisor Erdmann should be the contact person for contractors who may have questions.
 3. West Lake Road Frost Heave Repair: Supervisor Erdmann recommends removing 100 feet to 120 feet of blacktop, removing all clay material, sloping the sides, and tapering the area. If poor soils are found, they will need to be removed and refilled with good material. Again, he presented written specifications for the project. Motion was made by Supervisor

Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures and passed to put out the project for quotes to be received by the September meeting. Supervisor Erdmann will make a change for to add the possible need for a flag man and to change the widths. Contractors interested in the two projects will need to submit separate quotes – one for each project.

4. Crack Filling by the STS Crew: Supervisor Gondeck said the STS crew is doing a great job; the township could do additional roads if we purchase additional material crack filling material since the STS Crew is available to do the work. He proposed working on 5th Avenue and Hemlock Road. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to purchase additional material from Benton County, if available, to complete the above roads; second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck is to order the material.
 5. Road Signs: Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has everything completed on the east side of the township except 66th Street (no outlet sign). He is also marking the culverts with an identification number for our SWPPP.
 6. Roadside Brushing/Tree Trimming by STS Crew: Supervisor Gondeck recommends that the STS Crew trim trees on Lakewood Shore, 115th, and Deerwood Lane; he will get permits from residents. Clerk Spence asked to have the trees trimmed on Frost Road that are obstructing a sign. The board authorized the work.
- C. Quiet Zone Update: Clerk Spence reported that the whistles have been sounding even though the date of Quiet Zone Establishment was submitted to be August 4, 2014. Supervisor Erdmann reported that the No Whistle Signs had been installed by the railroad along the tracks, and he said that one train during the meeting had not sounded the whistle. Clerk Spence said that she would be in contact with Tammy Wagner at the Federal Transportation Authority about it. She also reported that Jon Bogard, Town Engineer, would be giving his report on the potential railroad crossing projects at the September meeting; all field work is completed by Bogard, Pederson, and Associates.
- D. City of Rice Future Fire Contract: Clerk Spence was asked to contact the City of Rice regarding the billing process now that we are under a new contract; the invoice recently received is listing calls under the extended, previous contract.
- E. Town Hall Maintenance: Supervisor Gondeck will remove the rust from the sidewalks and work on the stained rocks; Clerk Spence will clean the carpet; Supervisor Erdmann has the sprinkler system repaired; additional weeds will be pulled and the tree removed from the landscaping on the north side of the building. Supervisor Kacures asked for a decision on getting a new flag pole; both Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck were opposed to purchasing a new pole.

Dialogue with Development Owners: Since developers for Paradise and the Cove were now present, the board chair initiated the dialogue with them on the two issues of snow plowing and the new Watab SWPPP.

- A. Snow Plowing of Private Roads: The board chair informed the developers that the township had learned at the Summer Short Course that private roads may not be plowed by the township without payment for the cost. Jim Brownson talked about the township not wanting him to put on the final wear course on streets in the Cove until more of the homes are built to reduce the wear and tear on the roads. He would like to have a rebate of the tax dollars that he and Cove residents are paying toward snow plowing if the township won't provide it, since he is paying taxes for the undeveloped land, and the homeowners are paying taxes on their properties.

Clerk Spence was asked to contact the Short Course presenter and MAT attorney about this discussion and to send a letter to other developers not present: Lake Andrew and Oak Hill Estates.

- B. MS4 Requirement: Marty Reker suggested some changes to the *Land Disturbance Permit Application*: (1) on the "Example Residential SWPPP" eliminate number 5 for residential projects since cement trucks no longer washout on site; and (2) he believes that a 6" deep rock entrance with filter fabric is excessive on Watab's sandy soils and that it would be better to leave grass in place or use 3" of class 5 where that would be effective; language could be changed to make it flexible depending on the site. Marty also asked the board to make a recommendation to Benton County Department of Development about not requiring centralized sewer and water in developments but rather to require larger lots suitable for individual septic systems and wells. He stated that under the current requirements, he will have to request a variance from Benton County for development of lots on the former Harms and Sufka properties. The board will discuss this at a future meeting and have conversation with the Benton County Department of Development.

New Business:

- a. Snow Plowing Contract: The board made several changes to the snow plowing contract that the Clerk is to include in the Request for Quotes. Supervisor Kacures was unable to get support from the other supervisors for changing the policy to begin snow plowing immediately rather than waiting for an accumulation of two inches or more; Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck thought it would increase the costs too much.
- b. Resolution 2014-8: Election Judge Appointments: Clerk Spence presented the resolution asking the board to support the appointment of those named in the resolution and also authorizing an increase in pay from \$10 to \$12 per hour for the judges, since there had been no increase in at least 14 years. The Head Judge would be paid \$15 per hour on election days due to her increased level of responsibility. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve the resolution and authorized the chair to sign it.
- c. Survey of Oak Hill Residents: Patrice Hedlund emailed Supervisor Gondeck a survey about a second exit in the development; the board did not feel that they should give input on the content of the residents' survey.
- d. Karen Underhill Variance Request: Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to support the variance request, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. The request is to place a car port 67 feet from the centerline of the town road and nearer the front line than the house.
- e. Adopt a Highway Update: Supervisor Gondeck reported that several additional township roads have been adopted during the past month. The goal is to have 100% adopted.
- f. There will be a MS4 Permit Workshop on Covering Minimum Control Measures. Attendees will be considered a "Trained Field Staff Member." A session is being offered on October 9th at Stearns County SWCD Office in Waite Park; Both Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence were authorized to attend. Chair Kacures asked for this to be placed on the September Agenda, since it would be desirable for the entire board to attend.
- g. Watab Fire Wardens: Supervisor Gondeck requested that Al and Ben Haniel be added to the website listing.

- h. Construction Site Inspections for MS4: Supervisor Gondeck reported on problems in Lake Andrew; contractors should be sweeping their streets.
- i. District 8 Meeting in Wadena: the board members decided that no one would attend this year's meeting due to the distance and agenda items.
- j. Complaint Form: Supervisor Kacures recommends that all complaints need to be sent in to the town hall or the clerk or the individuals come to a meeting so that the entire board is informed about the complaint; he requested that the Clerk include a notice on the website that complaints should come to the town hall. They will then be assigned to board members.
- k. Supervisor Kacures proposed that the board always use a Scope of Work form when contracting any projects; the Clerk and Supervisor Kacures will work on this.
- l. Correspondence: 1) email from Barbara Petito at Amtrak regarding the Notice of Establishment; 2) email from Tammy Wagner of the Federal Railroad Administration giving a positive inspection report on the crossings at County Road 79 and Lakewood Shores. She noted that train horns may sound for unsafe situations; 3) 2015 Township Aid Notice from Minnesota Revenue that Watab will receive \$636 in 2014 Township Aid; 4) Notice from the Minnesota State Demographer that the 2013 population estimate of Watab is 3,138 and household estimate is 1,173; 5) zoning permit applications from Benton County; 6) an email from Patrice Hedlund regarding her communication with Supervisor Gondeck on an Oak Hill Estates survey; 7) notice from John Bemboom that the Benton County Association of Townships will meet at Mr. Jim's in Foley on Thursday, September 18 at 7:30 p.m.; 8) notice from MPCA regarding resurfacing of Hwy 10 and 15 in St. Cloud, Sauk Rapids, Sartell, and Watab; 9) minutes of Central MN Water Education Alliance Meeting on July 24th and proposed dues for 2015; and 10) information on operation of four-wheelers on township roads and right of ways. The last item was noted for discussion on the next board agenda.

Supervisor Gondeck had requests from a resident for calcium chloride to be applied on 66th Street; the board noted that homeowners would have to do this. Dave Watts has requested an ordinance on barking dogs. The development board had a group come from the State of MN for helping displaced workers and they want input on how to help future displaced workers. Supervisor Gondeck also attended a transportation meeting; they believe we need to put pressure on our legislators to take part of the sales tax for transportation needs. There was no additional input from audience members.

The board discussed the August work plan. Items have already been noted in the minutes. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence