

**Minutes of Watab Township Board Meeting
April 7, 2015**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures, Jr. at the Watab Town Hall. Board members present were Chair Kacures, Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, Supervisor Craig Gondeck, and Clerk Pat Spence. Treasurer Eileen Saldana was excused. Audience members were: John Olson, Dr. Jeff Hyytinen, Roger Peterson, Jim Hoihjelle, Bryon Marketon, Sandra Saldana, Kevin Reiter, and Jerry and Char Lage. The meeting began with the Pledge to the Flag. Approval of the Agenda was given with the addition of the liquor license renewals for three businesses through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Seal Coating Proposals were received from two companies and were opened by the Board Chair. The first received was from Caldwell Asphalt of Hawick:

- A. 15th Ave NW: \$41,050
- B. Hemlock Road: \$11,620
- C. Town Hall Parking Lot: \$7,250
- D. All three \$57,220

The second proposal was from ASTECH from St. Cloud:

- A. 15th Ave: \$42,425.67
- B. Hemlock Road: \$10,237.20
- C. Town Hall Parking Lot: \$3,914
- D. Total \$56,576.87

A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to award items A & B to ASTECH for a total of \$52,662.87; this is \$7.13 less than the proposal for these two roads from Caldwell; second was by Supervisor Gondeck, and the motion passed.

Liquor License Renewals: Roger Peterson from Oak Hill Golf Club requested township approval for the renewal of both onsale and Sunday sales. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to grant approval. Request was made by Dr. Jeff Hyytinen for off-sale liquor license renewal at Pine's Edge Liquor. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed granting approval. The chairman and clerk signed the renewal applications.

Reorganization of the Board:

A. Election of the Board Chair: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to re-elect Supervisor Ed Kacures as Board Chair. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to elect Supervisor Craig Gondeck as Vice-Chair. Resolution 2014-4: Setting Board Meeting Dates was adopted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck; second by Supervisor Erdmann; and passed. Resolution 2015-5: Town Board Duties and Affidavits was adopted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Resolution 2015-6: Board Compensation Policy was adopted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed with the amendment that additional time could be billed for opening and closing the town hall due to special requests/emergencies. Resolution 2015-7:

Setting Township Fees was adopted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

The Sauk Rapids Herald was designated as the township's legal newspaper through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to designate the following as official posting places in the township: Public Access Channel 3, the Town Hall, Pine's Edge Grocery, the website, and email list. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to continue to use Bremer Bank and Falcon National Bank as official depositories of town funds.

Approval of the Minutes for March 3 Regular Meeting, March 10 Board of Canvass, and March 24th Special Meeting for Frost Road Quiet Zone was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Clerk Spence gave Eileen Saldana's Treasurer's Report with a balance of \$406,853.19 on March 5, 2014, which is the date of the last bank statement. After receipts and expenses since that time, account balance is \$369,285.13. The board also did the quarterly budget review; there were no areas of concern. Clerk Spence was asked by Supervisor Erdmann to check on the budget item for special police services: Acct, 342.

Supervisor Kacures explained that in the past the board has allowed residents to comment on each agenda item. Due to the length of the meetings, he asked that citizens please keep their comments for the two times listed on the agenda for Citizen's Issues. Jerry Lage, resident on West Lake Road, asked if there is a township plan to control mosquito population during the breeding system. The board responded that this request has never come up before. Jerry cited the health issue. Supervisor Erdmann said there is no money budgeted but he asked Jerry if he would check into the potential cost. Supervisor Gondeck said that he would check at DNR about their land in the township. He added that it is also an education issue to have neighbors eliminate standing, stagnant water. Kevin Reiter asked if the Kwik Curb was looked at for the railroad crossings and why there was a special meeting to open bids for Frost Road. The engineer is looking at the use of Kwik Curb for 105th St. crossing; Tammy Wagner said that the railroad accepts it but it isn't as durable to use the posts that accompany Kwik Curb because they break off and it becomes a maintenance issue. Kevin Johnson, KJ Johnson Construction owner, said that his access off the township road coming onto Highway 10 is really getting beat up, because it is a narrow access. There is a culvert under the road that would need to be extended if it is widened. Large trucks use the road, and the company has thirty-five employees. Supervisor Gondeck said that he believes that the board should work with Kevin to support this with MNDOT. It is an economic development issue. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to have Clerk Spence contact MNDOT about extra dirt for widening the driveway. Kevin added that this is a huge public safety issue, because trucks sometimes have to back up to make the turn. The goal is to get MNDOT to meet with Kevin at the site.

Jim Hoihjelle appeared for his liquor license request for Rumor's Bar; his request was for on-sale, off-sale, and Sunday sale. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve Jim's request.

Approval to pay the monthly bills and withdraw necessary funds for claims # 5705 through 5735 and electronic transfers for IRS and PERA totaling \$27,232.93 was made through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. The motion

included payment of the bill received today from Saldana Excavating for the UPM mix to repair potholes.

Old Business included:

- A. Contract for Frost Road: Notice of Award and the signed Contract has been sent to Hardrives. It has not been returned; Clerk was asked to call regarding this. Clerk Spence recommended soliciting additional donations from residents near Frost Road and across the river; Supervisor Erdmann is willing to solicit the donations. There will be a pre-construction meeting in May.
- B. Park Dedication Funds: Letter went to county about our request for a meeting to discuss changing the county policy so the seventy-five percent of township park dedication funds could be used in the developments where the money originated. Monty Headley acknowledged receipt of the township letter via email and said he would give it to the county board.
- C. Grant inquiry was mailed to Cheryl Scapanski at Benton Telecommunications Foundation for outdoor warning siren; inquire with Cheryl about timeline for review and permission to submit a formal grant request.
- D. Johnson Road: this was covered during Citizen's Input.
- E. Adopt Resolution 2015-8: Request Speed Study on 105th Street. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that the resolution should state that the traffic count on April 2nd was 515 cars a day. Erdmann; Gondeck' passed with the addition of that statement.
- F. Economic Development in the township: Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to table.
- G. AED Repair and Replacement: Supervisor Gondeck will check during the month.
- H. MS4 update: Clerk Spence reported that she attended a meeting with Joe McPherson, Benton County Highway Department, Lonny Wild and Steve Simones from Sauk Rapids and Minden Townships, Joe Janish from the Department of Development, and Gerry Maciej of Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District to dialogue about the TMDL goals and potential areas to work together. Possible joint projects would be a county-wide newsletter, annual water resource meeting during water week, and education efforts at the Benton County Fair. The Central MN Water Education Alliance meeting was with Thelen Advertising representatives to work on the 2015 education campaign. Highlights will be an interactive display booth and a Clean Water Pledge Campaign through KCLD radio. Also, during the past month the board received language from Wayne Cymbaluk for the township's pond assessment procedures and schedule. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adopt this.
- I. Home Based Businesses: Joe Janish requested the board's input on this on whether or not the county should retain the ordinance requirement that all those working in the home-based business reside there. Supervisor Gondeck said that he would recommend no change in the ordinance; the county can grant variances on a case-by-case basis. Supervisor Erdmann said that he would be opposed to closing someone down if they have an extra person working there.
- J. Supervisor Kacures inquired if extra cones have been purchased; Supervisor Gondeck said that he is checking with Benton County to make sure that those he wants to purchase fall within the SCORE grant guidelines.

- K. Chairs: the board authorized Supervisor Gondeck to get more chairs for the town hall.

New Business:

- A. Set Annual Road Tour: Supervisor Kacures said that he won't be able to go until May.
- B. Set MS4 Annual Public Hearing for the May regular meeting: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to hold the annual public meeting at 7pm on May 6.
- C. Authorization for Clerk and Treasurer to go to small claims court for unpaid fire calls: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to proceed with all accounts that have a balance over \$500 and add a posting at the Pines' Edge Grocery. There will be township cost for filing the claims in Conciliation Court.
- D. Approval of the donations authorized at the annual meeting: Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to table the Little Rock Lake Association donation until the township knows what Benton County is doing and the township has the financial report on how past donations have been used by the association; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to donate \$1,200 for the Benton County Agricultural Society with \$600 for military day and \$600 for the youth barn. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to donate \$2,000 to Rice Recreation.
- E. Dust suppression request for 66th Street: Jason Zwilling has been relentless in his requests to Supervisors Kacures and Gondeck. There was discussion about this with options to apply calcium chloride with a cost of \$400 or to apply tar millings on 750 feet of the road at 15 feet wide with a price from Rice Contracting and Development of \$2,100 and Tri City Paving of \$6,000. There is not money budgeted to cover this expense. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to pay half of the \$400 cost for calcium chloride by Tri-City Paving if the residents pay the other half of the cost. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and he was asked to contact Jason Zwilling with the board's decision. Further discussion was that if the residents will pay half, the township will blade the road and then have the calcium chloride applied; motion passed.
- F. Impact from Highway 10 Project: Supervisor Erdmann said that when you drive over the hill coming north on Highway 15 and merge into Highway 10, there is a dangerous yield situation. He suggested using alternative routes.
- G. Lawn Care Proposal: The lawn care company the township has used in the past has merged with Valley Green. They have submitted a proposal for the 2015 lawn care at the town hall to total \$270. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to approve retaining their services, second by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed with Supervisor Gondeck voting against due to the cost.
- H. Feedback from township short course: Supervisor Erdmann reported about funds for safety improvements on roads and wondered if they could be used for frontage roads. He was authorized to look into this during the month.
- I. Communications: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to order Rhonda Fuchs' book on lost MN towns, since it will

contain information about the town of Watab; motion passed. Congratulations were extended by the board to Maureen Graber on being named a Woman Making History by the Benton County Historical Society. Jason Krueger sent an email about the township's membership in CMWEA; he feels the township should withdraw since the organization is not educating on the detriment of fluoridation of water. The township received word from Maureen Graber that the date of May 14th has been set for a workshop at the town hall on buckthorn removal and on buffer strips of native flowers and grasses. Everyone was encouraged to attend. A copy of a zoning permit was sent from the Department of Development for a structure by Saldana Properties; Sandra Saldana will check on what is being built. The township received a complimentary email from Noah Czech, Stormwater Compliance Specialist for the City of St. Cloud, on the township newsletter.

- J. Supervisor Gondeck reported that traffic counts have been completed on four roads in the township during the past month: the following is the average number of cars each day for each road: 250 on Frost Road, 390 on 85th Street, 130 on 95th Street, and 515 on 105th Street. The township can use these counts for Tammy Wagner when we complete the Notice of Establishment for the railroad crossings. Residents on 105th Street believe that there is a large increase in the amount of traffic on 105th, because a lot of people aren't going through Rice because of the overpass. He added that the Economic Development Board promotes the use of Xcel Energy for making recommendations on the way a business can save on energy costs and the Small Business Administration to help them make business loan applications. Finally he said that Mayor Kleis is putting on an aggressive push to make the airport a regional airport.
- K. Citizen's Input: Brian Marketon suggested that the township might contact MNDOT about extra wear and tear on our roads during the Highway 10 work. Sandy Saldana said that she has inquired with MNDOT about acceleration lanes over the past years; they always respond that her input is too late for this project. Bryon Marketon said that he thinks Supervisor Erdmann made a good point about not being reactive to limiting home-based businesses to people living there. Set the limit at a number working for a business instead of people living there. Supervisor Gondeck responded that the county would usually go by how much traffic is generated from the home-based business and they are sensitive to the neighborhood. Jason Krueger said that he will save thirty dollars for living close to the new dry hydrant. Chuck Ertl reported that he cleaned up the brush on Frost Road and will include the billing with his annual work on ditch mowing.
- L. Work plan: Supervisor Gondeck will put up MS4 signs and order Welcome to Watab Signs; STS crew will finish Hemlock Road; he will research getting a storage shelf or blueprint cabinet for township plat maps; adopt a highway added new five people; he will work on the sign inspection; chart outflows; Supervisor Erdmann will talk with the County Engineer on funding available for safety improvements.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence