

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. All board members were in attendance: Supervisor Kacures, Craig Gondeck, and Lloyd Erdmann; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Paul Jacobs and Bob Raveling. Following the Pledge to the Flag the agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed with the addition of a West Lake Road township property clarification for Scott Zwick, Benton County Department of Development. Minutes of the July regular meeting were approved through motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. The Treasurer's Report gave a cash balance of \$483,915.99 on August 4th. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to accept the Treasurer's Report. Approval to pay the monthly claims #5813 through 5835 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$10,364.37 was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. There were no Citizen's Issues presented.

Old Business included:

- A. Outdoor Warning Siren: Supervisor Gondeck reported that it will be installed in the next two weeks; staking is already completed to mark the gas line; Supervisors Gondeck and Erdmann will review the location for the siren. Supervisor Kacures requested that the installer also inspect the current siren to make sure that it is not leaning. The board authorized Supervisor Gondeck to have signs made for both sirens that thank the donors. They will be ordered from Newman Signs.
- B. Quiet Zone: Clerk Spence reported that an additional copy of the Notice of Establishment had been sent to the Federal Railroad Authority to a new officer that hadn't been on the previous list. BNSF had completed the inspection and the township needed to move the "No Train Horn" sign for better visibility. The board discussed the need to take down the silt fencing on Lakewood Shore and County Road 79. Supervisor Gondeck will do so. Supervisor Erdmann reported that there had been a washout on the northeast quadrant of the Frost Road crossing; he had called Bill Lemke at Hardrives and the company repaired it. The Quiet Zone establishment date was July 30.
- C. Crack Filling and Seal Coating: Crack filling is finished in Golf Haven and Oak Hill Estates; Supervisor Gondeck said that the new material being used is better. The board decided to use the half pallet of remaining material on Riverview Loop and Iten Court. Supervisor Erdmann will provide board oversight for the seal coating by ASTECH.
- D. Sanbur Trail: Supervisor Gondeck met with a resident and the ditch request is resolved.
- E. Revisions to Administrative Policy were presented by the Clerk. Citizens will now have two minutes to comment on any agenda item. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to approve the amended policy.
- F. Supervisor Gondeck reported that the three new tables were purchased and the unsafe table removed.
- G. The Lakewood Shore erosion problem has been corrected by Saldana Excavating.
- H. Property Insurance: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to continue with replacement cost coverage with a \$250 deductible for the town hall. The annual

premium will be \$1,225 for replacement coverage at \$422,275, which was recommended by the Minnesota Association of Township Insurance Trust. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed.

- I. Report on Conciliation Court: Eileen Saldana and Pat Spence were present in 7th District Conciliation Court on July 27 for collection of four unpaid emergency calls. None of the defendants were present, and the Judge ruled on all four cases in favor of the township. Total of the four calls is \$2,940.96. Supervisor Gondeck said that there used to be a state law that owners of mobile home courts were responsible for these bills, and that he would like to talk to Kent Sulem, MAT Attorney about having the law reinstated. He also asked for permission to invite an attorney from the firm of Couri and Ruppe to a township meeting to review other options for ways to collect these unpaid bills. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to table this for one month.
- J. Park Dedication Fees: nothing has been reported back to the township from our county commissioner regarding a meeting with the county board on using park dedication fees from Watab for development playgrounds. The board decided to meet with owners and residents of the developments where these funds initiated and see what they would like.

The board took a short recess to share refreshments with the audience in celebration of Supervisor Erdmann's birthday.

New Business included:

- A. The District 8 Meeting will be at Henry's in Foley on August 19th. Benton County townships are hosting the event. All board members will attend, and Clerk Spence will RSVP for the board.
- B. Scott Zwick, Benton County Department of Developments, is cleaning up problems in the Beacon GIS mapping. He requested information on the 66 feet road right of way through lots in Section 2, Government Lots 5-7 on West Lake Road. After discussion regarding the history of land donations to the township from the paper mill, the board concurred that the township owns the 66 foot right of way. It is not simply an easement.
- C. The board discussed changing the town hall rental policy to allow non-residents to rent the hall; however, they will be charged a higher rate at \$75. Deposits and kitchen rental rates will remain the same. Preference will be given to Watab residents for holidays and priority times, such as graduation parties. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the change to the policy.
- D. MS4 inspections are going well. There is less construction this summer.
- E. Clerk Spence reported that she has spoken to the City Clerk and the Cable Franchise Fee will be forthcoming this week from the City of Rice. The check will be for the past six months.
- F. The board reviewed the monthly correspondence. There was an email of appreciation from Lynn Waytashek for the warning siren. She heard it during the recent storm. Other mailings were advertisements.
- G. Supervisor Gondeck said that the Kivi's thank the board for support of their variance request. At the Economic Development meeting, he learned there is a high demand for

welders and nurses; the airport officials have met with Benton County regarding requested support for a regional airport; and the Sartell dam has been sold to a business from Wisconsin. The board believes that Watab should establish a contact with them, since they have a large impact on township residents. Supervisor Gondeck met with Foley CARE Center and they need more drivers, especially for people needing rides to the doctor. The STS Crew is adopting a township road. The board also discussed the purchase of the 20 used chairs and authorized Supervisor Gondeck to purchase thirty additional ones at the cost of \$8/chair. Also, the STS Crew will be coming to brush road edges. There were no Citizen's Issues.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence