

**Watab Town Board Special Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2016 – Budget Planning Meeting**

Chair Kacures called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present; guest was Todd Waytashek. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the board carefully reviewed the 2016 budget that was established during 2015 and made revisions. They also discussed the potential project of safety improvements to the Saldana Road Railroad Crossing and whether or not the township might include other safety improvements to Saldana Road between 110th Street to Highway 10. Board members discussed reducing the slope of the hill coming off Highway 10, removing the curve by Eileen Saldana's property, and raising the road as it approaches the railroad crossing. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to contact Jon Bogart, Township Engineer, for a cost estimate on his services to plan for these improvements and for an updated cost estimate for the railroad crossing improvements. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to call Sauk Rapids regarding a meeting for the 2016 and 17 fire contracts for Fire District II, so that the township knows what amount to budget. After receiving this information, the board will work again on the 2016 and 2017 budgets after the Board of Audit Meeting on January 26th.

The board also reviewed a proposed contract with J.C. Christenson and Associates for collection services for unpaid emergency calls. The company would retain twenty-one percent of any amounts collected. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to have the Chairman sign the contract.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

**Watab Town Board of Audit Minutes
January 26, 2016**

Chair Kacures called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. All board members were present; there were no guests. The board reviewed the changes that had been made to the 2016 budget. The board still doesn't have adequate information to determine if the Saldana Railroad Crossing is feasible this year. BNSF is not going to replace the planks this year due to lack of funds; Supervisor Erdmann will check if the rails on the west side of the crossing have been raised. There is concern about the railroad damaging any improvements the township might make when they come in to do their work if it is after the township project. There may also be cost savings to combine safety improvements to Saldana Road from Highway 10 to 110th Street at the same time as doing the crossing work. Chair Kacures expressed his wish that the project be done in 2016. Supervisor Erdmann will continue to try to get Jon Bogart out to give some cost estimates for further consideration, and it will be discussed at the Annual Meeting to get the residents' input. Other crack filling and sealcoating projects the board would like to do in 2016 include: Riverview Loop, 85th St. W, Ivy Place, Burton Place, and the town hall parking lot.

The board had lengthy discussion and review of the 2017 budget and planning worksheet for levy recommendations. Tentatively the board is looking at recommending a \$20,000 reduction in the levy for the General Fund, an increase of \$4,000 for Fire District I, and small increases in the Debt Levy Funds due to the requirement that governments levy 105% of the annual payment for principal and interest. Fire District II would remain the same. The board will work on a recommendation for the Road and Bridge Fund at the February board meeting and may need to call a special meeting. The board would like to include the amounts in the annual newsletter; deadline is February 8th to have them to the publisher.

The board then reviewed the schematic plans for the Saldana Road railroad crossing project and discussed donation requests for the newsletter.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence