

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for February 7, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at the town hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Craig Gondeck. All board members were present: Supervisors Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, Todd Waytashek, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Allen and Sandra Saldana, Anna Saldana, Ed Popp, Ed Kacures Jr., Jon Bogart, Mike Sorenson, and Bob Raveling. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to approve the minutes of the January 3rd Regular Meeting, Budget Meeting, and Board of Audit. Treasurer Eileen Saldana presented the cash balances of the two checking accounts as \$442,720.10. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to accept her report. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to authorize payment of all claims presented and two electronic transfers totaling \$26,334.34.

Old Business included:

- A. Fire Contract Presentation to Rice City Council: Supervisor Gondeck stated that the board will attend the Rice City Council Meeting on February 13th at 7:00 p.m. to present the township's proposed contract. Clerk Spence reviewed the language changes discussed previously by the board & as recommended by the town attorney; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to approve the contract proposal. Clerk Spence was thanked by the board for her work on the contract.
- B. The board discussed the follow up report from Nancy Scott on Building Permit rates in Watab compared with other Local Units of Government. They are in line with what others are charging, and Nancy is using State of MN recommendations. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to accept her report.
- C. The board authorized 1,550 copies of the annual newsletter to be printed at a cost of \$2,287.00 with a design fee of \$315 by Palmer Printing. It will be mailed on March 2nd. Chair Gondeck thanked former supervisor Ed Kacures for initiating the newsletter several years ago and commented on the favorable feedback he has received regarding the newsletter.
- D. Clerk Spence reported on the follow up she had with the owners of Oak Hill Golf Course to assist with their Liquor License. Commissioner Ed Popp added that the commissioners had approved the license at their morning meeting.
- E. Clerk Spence reported that the town attorney is continuing to work with the Benton County Assistant Attorney on the Subdivision Plat Ordinance. There was board dialogue with Commissioner Popp concerning the commissioners' views on the park dedication fees. He stated that the commissioners will be looking for input from the townships on this topic.
- F. Supervisor Gondeck will continue to work with an engineering firm on potential brownfield grants to help clean up three blighted properties in Watab.

New Business:

- A. 95th Street/Saldana Road: Supervisor Erdmann stated that planned drainage off Saldana Road near Allen & Sandra Saldana's property cannot occur because of the location of the Saldana's septic system/drain field. He added that he sees two options: either route the water a different way or let it do what it has always done by running off the road surface into adjacent surfaces. After dialogue among Jon Bogart, Engineer, the Supervisors, and Allen & Sandra Saldana a motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to

authorize the Engineer to revise the plans by removing the curb and gutter & drainage system on the north side of the road by Saldana's. A petition signed by nine property owners within a mile of the road has been received by the Clerk. Permanent Easements from Eileen Saldana and Robert Courneya & Mary Flynn and Temporary Easements from Allen & Sandra Saldana and Ray & Shirley Thompson were accepted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Phillip Saldana's Permanent Easement has been agreed upon and will be mailed soon from Arizona. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck have a meeting with Willard Laab on February 9th. The party in Minneapolis will be served by a service provider company; motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to authorize the expenditure of \$125 to accomplish this by February 17th. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to adopt Resolution 2017-2 setting the Public Hearing for the Alteration of the 95th Street NW/Saldana Road for February 28, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. The board requested that the Clerk mail a letter to all residents near the road inviting them to the Public Hearing. The board also requested that the town attorney be present for the hearing. Finally, a motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to authorize the letting of bids for March 1st if everything is in order. Allen Saldana inquired about the estimate; it is currently at \$321,000.

- B. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Waytashek to accept the 2017 and 2018 budgets. Supervisor Erdmann added that there has been a great deal of board discussion on these budgets and the need to build up better year-end balances in some of the Funds. Supervisor Gondeck asked for discussion on donations that are requested at the Annual Meeting and asked if the board should set a budget for them. Although there are amounts in the budgets for donations, Supervisor Erdmann said that all the groups that have come and asked for donations at the Annual Meeting have been reasonable, and he hopes that will continue. Sandra Saldana added that if the community as a whole wants certain donations, the board would do an injustice to go against their wishes. Clerk Spence said that the Electors can also authorize an additional levy amount to fund donations that aren't in the current budget. Commissioner Ed Popp commented on how much easier it is to set the budget at the township level versus the county level. After further board discussion, the motion passed to approve the budgets.
- C. Supervisor Gondeck received two quotes for acoustical ceiling tiles to improve sound quality in the town hall. Following review of these quotes, a motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to have Boser Construction install 20 panels at 4 x 4 foot in size tight to the ceiling in a row for a cost of \$6,629.00. Ed Kacures asked the board to have the fire rating checked on the panels. The board agreed to do so.
- D. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve the draft agenda for the Annual Meeting.
- E. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to approve Resolution 2017-3 Appointing Election Judges and the Absentee Ballot Board for the Annual Election on March 14th.
- F. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to authorize himself and Clerk Spence to represent the township on the District 8 Bus Trip to the Capitol on March 8th.
- G. The board decided to offer the refreshments for the February 16th Benton County Association of Townships Meeting that will be held at the Watab Town Hall.
- H. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his recent FEMA training meeting and that participants were impressed with what Watab Township has accomplished for public safety preparedness: dry hydrants, two outdoor warning sirens, a command center, road blocks, etc.

- I. Clerk Spence reviewed the communication from Ed Beck, Dept. of Development, to Nancy Scott; the request from the Benton County Agricultural Society for a township donation; and information on the March 28th Short Course for the Board. Supervisor Waytashek reported on an email he received regarding snow plowing on 86th Street. Supervisor Gondeck said he had three phone calls on Saturday regarding sanding and added that Marsons are doing a great job.
- J. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his attendance at the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, CMWEA, and Oak Hill Home Owners Association meetings. Highlights are a Lake George vendors show at Lake George on May 12th in conjunction with the Governor's Fishing Opener. Also, the residents of 85th Street requested a meeting with the town board to offer input on the design of 85th Street. They don't want their access to Highway 10 closed. Supervisor Erdmann said that he will continue to work with Clerk Spence on the frontage roads.

Open Forum: Allen Saldana asked the board for assistance in getting an outhouse back at St. Regis Park for those who go ice fishing near it. Supervisor Gondeck will take care of this. Sandra Saldana said that Jane DeAustin from Central Minnesota Builder's Association believes that 2017 construction will be similar to what occurred in 2016. One of the challenges is that inventory of buildable lots in Sauk Rapids and Sartell is shrinking. Commissioner Ed Popp gave an update on the hiring status for the Director of the Department of Development. Supervisor Gondeck asked him about appointments to the Planning Commission; he responded that there are two members from District 2 appointed by him, and one also has to serve on the Board of Adjustment. He recently appointed Dan Gottwalt. A new comprehensive plan will be developed by the county commissioners, and they will be asking for township input. Finally, Mike Sorenson, who owns a lot by the lake in Lake Andrew Development asked about a home next door to his property that is under construction and may have sewer design issues; the excavator told him that the sewer line is angled towards the house. Supervisor Erdmann suggested that Mike speak to his realtor to get assurance that he has working sewer service. Mike also asked about the status of the roads in Lake Andrew Development; the board told him that they won't accept them as town roads until they are redone and that Mike should talk to the realtor and developer about their plans for the roads in the development.

The board adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence