

WATAB TOWN BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 6, 2020 – 7:00 pm

The regular monthly Watab Township Supervisor’s Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 7:00 pm in the Watab Township Hall.

1. CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present offered allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Board supervisors present: Julie Johnson, Steve Wollak and Bill Little. Others present in the Town Hall included, Treasurer, Deborah O’Keefe, Clerk, Kathy Sauer, Fred Segler, Kevin Kruger, Ray Thompson, Lloyd Erdmann, Bob Raveling, Sandy Saldana, Butch Murphy, Paul Wippler, Dothan Aleshire, Jeff Wollak, Paul Jacobs, Ed Kacures, Todd Waytashek

Attending via Zoom: Steve Johnson, Natasha Barber

2. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA

- Budget and Wages Report after Treasurer’s Quarterly Report

Additions to Department of Development Requests

- Nate Landwehr (Conditional Use Permit)
- Brian Wood (Variance)

3. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Little moved to approve the agenda; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

4. CONSENT AGENDA – One motion for all items

- a. September 8, 2020, Regular Meeting Minutes
- b. September 1, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes: Engineer Interview
- c. September 14, 2020, Special Meeting Minutes: Engineer Work Session
- d. September 14, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes: Planning Commission Training

Supervisor Wollak moved to approve all meeting minutes; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

Falcon Checking \$284,273.79

Bremer Money Market \$127,083.62
\$411,357.41

Road and Bridge Falcon Money Market \$255,396.43

TOTAL \$666,653.84

BCA Fines \$243.31

Bremer September Interest \$11.37

Falcon Money Market Interest \$83.76

CARES Account (unavailable: Covid Only) \$81,900.00

Escrow \$20,590.00
\$102,490.00

Supervisor Wollak moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

Voided check 7549 All Spec Services—lost in mail.

6. APPROVE LIST OF BILLS, CLAIMS, AND PAYROLL

Supervisor Little moved to accept bills, claims, and payroll; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

Budget reports available; copies on back table and/or can be sent via email.

Supervisor Johnson gave a comprehensive budget review. Budget balances are healthy and on target for the year.

Nancy Scott, All Spec Services, emailed the board and updated construction valuation for 2020. Supervisor Johnson read the report and stated that 5.9 million dollars of construction has been permitted for 2020.

7. BNSF QUIET ZONE—105TH STREET NW/CONTRACT CONSIDERATION FROM BNSF

We were approved by BNSF; waiting on contractual documents. The estimated total to pay BNSF for this crossing is \$96,000. Julie Johnson will contact Dan Peltier, BNSF to try to negotiate that price. Contract should be available at the November meeting.

8. B. MURPHY FIRE BILL APPEAL

Supervisor Johnson met with Mr. Murphy to ascertain origin of fire. Fire was thought to have started in the right-of-way. Supervisor Johnson would like to waive the Fire bill; Supervisor Wollak abstained; Supervisor Little voiced agreement with Supervisor Johnson. As a condition, the Board requested that Mr. Murphy plant grass and remove the wood chips from the right-of-way. Mr. Murphy agreed to this compromise. Supervisor Johnson moved to waive the fire bill; Supervisor Little seconded; Supervisor Wollak abstained. Motion passed.

9. DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

● **Jannew Rezoning Request**

Sandra Saldana is looking to develop her 15 acres on 10th Avenue into lots of 2 or more acres. Would like to rezone to R-2 because property is pie-shaped; biggest lot will be 3 acres at the point of the wedge. If rezoning is approved by Benton County, the subdivision request will be submitted to the Township. Supervisor Wollak moved to approve the rezoning; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

● **Thompson Village Subdivision—Set Planning Commission Site Visit and Public Hearing Date**

Site visit will be conducted by the Planning Commission on October 20 at 10:00 am at the property; public hearing will be at 7:00 at the Town Hall.

● **Nate Landwehr**

Submitted a Conditional Use Permit; Benton County conducted a site visit and looked at three options. A site meeting was held with the MN DNR, Nate Landwehr and Benton County officials and approved a rip rap rock design. Supervisor Wollak recommended following the approval of BC and DNR. Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

● **Brian Wood**

Asking for a variance to build a roof over his deck; needs variance because of lot size. Miscommunication between Building Inspector and Mr. Wood occurred; Supervisor Little moved to allow project to go forward; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

10. STACY SCHRAUT—Ditch Fill-in Request

Request to fill in a ditch on his property on the river side of the road to make the land level with surrounding property. Because the drainage goes back to the road, Supervisor Johnson and Supervisor Little were opposed. Supervisor Johnson made a motion to deny; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

11. TOWNSHIP ROW—Quotes for Tree Removal and Right-of-Way Clearing

Letters have been sent to residents who have property on affected areas: Shoestring Loop, Riverview Loop, Frost Road, 95th Avenue NW and Sanbur Trail notifying them that there will be tree trimming crews on their streets/roads to trim trees that are blocking/overhanging the roads.

Five bids were received; all five have appropriate insurance. Low bid was Jason Zwilling for \$9,700. AAA Holdings for \$18,500; Midwest Tree Experts for \$22,590.00; Arbor Tech for \$32,550; and Custom View Tree and Landscape for \$67,109.38.

Supervisor Wollak moved to award the contract to Jason Zwilling for tree trimming on designated streets. Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

12. CLEAN-UP DAY REPORT—Bill Little

Day went smooth. Great help from the Lake Association; Saldana Excavating, and Republic. Supervisor Little will provide a financial report when invoice is received

13. CARES ACT

- Original Budget: \$81,900.00
- Expenses to Date: \$4,058.86

Clerk Sauer reported on the CARES Act Grant Requests that were submitted from local businesses. Five applications were received: Nelson Sanitation, Kim’s Daycare, K Johnson, Central Marble, and CARE. Grants of \$1,000 were awarded to K Johnson and Central Marble; Kim’s Daycare will receive \$637 upon submission of receipts, and Nelson Sanitation will receive \$283.07 initially which could increase to \$1,000 when additional documentation is received. CARE was denied because they did not meet criteria of a Township-based business.

14. SNOWPLOWING QUOTES

Quotes were received from Marson Contractors and TK Timber in amounts substantially higher than the last 2-year contract. Supervisor Wollak made a motion to reject both quotes and extend the deadline to October 20 at which time a Special Meeting will be called at 6:30 pm to consider additional/revised quotes. Supervisor Johnson seconded; motion carried.

15. RESOLUTION 2020-12—Correction of Minutes of December, 2019

Clerk Sauer found an error of omission in the minutes of the December 2019 Regular Board Meeting in regard to the adoption of Ordinance 9. In checking further, it was found that the Ordinance was recorded with the Benton County, public hearing was held September 23, 2019, and notice was published in summary in the Sauk Rapids Herald. The Sauk Rapids Herald reported the motion and approval of the Subdivision Ordinance and Developers Agreement in their December 7 issue.

The minutes read only that the change is bank mileage from 200 to 100 miles. They omitted the final motion and vote to approve the Developers Agreement and Subdivision Ordinance. Much discussion was held as to how to properly correct the record. It is questionable who originally made the motion to approve the Ordinance and Developer’s Agreement. Both Supervisor Johnson and Supervisor Wollak remember approving these two items but not who made the motion and second. Resolution 2020-12 was rejected.

To correct the record, Supervisor Johnson moved to approve the original Ordinance 9 (Subdivision Ordinance & Developers Agreement); Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

16. RESOLUTION 2020-13—Amendment of Ordinance 9: Subdivision

To comply with new adoptions by the Benton County Department of Development, Mike Couri, Township Attorney, developed updates reflecting changes made by the County to Ordinance 9: Subdivision. This copy was received.

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-13 amending Ordinance 9; Supervisor Johnson seconded; motion carried.

17. GAMBLING PERMIT—Minnesota Fishing Museum

The Little Falls Fishing Museum has submitted a request to put in pull-tabs at the Marathon Station in the Pines Edge complex. Supervisor Little moved to approve the Gambling Permit; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

18. ROAD CERTIFICATION

Completed every October. Total road miles in the Township are 39.57. Supervisor Wollak made a motion to accept total road miles of 39.57 miles; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried. Supervisor Johnson will file with Benton County.

19. TOWNSHIP ENGINEER

Proposals were issued in August. Previous engineer was Bogart and Pederson who did not submit a proposal. A Work Session was held September 1 to conduct an initial interview for three firms who submitted proposals: WSB, Bolton & Menk, and Moore Engineering. The Board decided to reinterview two of the firms: WSB and Bolton & Menk. Interviews took place October 5. Both firms are capable of providing for the needs of the Township. All supervisors agreed that both firms were excellent and impressive. Supervisor Johnson performed reference checks on the final two firms.

All three supervisors came to the conclusion that WSB will best serve our needs.

Supervisor Little moved to accept WSB as the new Township Engineer; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

20. CITIZEN'S INPUT—Time limit 3 minutes

● **Lloyd Erdmann**

How much will new engineering cost over previous firm?

Supervisor Johnson read the rates as quoted from WSB documents. She also responded that it was difficult to determine what the cost was from Bogard & Peterson. WSB creates a budget for each project, per Kevin Kruger, WSB.

How does this affect the 105th Street project?

Supervisor Johnson stated that a work session with the current and new Engineer firms will be scheduled to work out the details.

● **Ed Kacures**

Does not want to duplicate costs between engineering firms

Kevin Kruger, WSB said they will allow previous engineers to complete projects. The firms will meet with the Board to ensure a smooth and efficient transition.

● **Todd Waytashek**

What was special meeting training for?

Planning Commission

Beaver Dam Issue

Supervisor Wollak has checked on this and found the Beaver Dam is on private property. Per the DNR, it is the landowner's responsibility. He will call landowner.

The clerk should take all minutes instead of Supervisor Johnson.

Clerk Sauer responded it is not required that the clerk take all the minutes per MN Statute.

● **Paul Wippler**

Complimented the board on the spreadsheet show the decrease in supervisor wages. Would like to see an historical report of Clerks' and Treasurers' wages. Supervisor Johnson will follow up.

- **Bob Raveling**
Commented that driving a school bus is challenging.
- **Ray Thompson**
Complimented Supervisor Johnson on how meetings are conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to adjourn; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sauer
Township Clerk

Julie Johnson, Board Chairperson

Date

Kathy Sauer, Clerk

Date