

WATAB TOWN BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 8, 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, Todd Waytashek, Jeff Fandel, Julie Fandel, Jerry Kostreba, Bob Raveling, Sandra Saldana, Mike Nielson (WSB), Paul Wippler

Attending via Zoom: Steve Johnson, Scott Janski, Ellary Prentice, Kevin Kruger, Jack Polcher

2. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO AGENDA

- Planning Commission: Cornerstone and Pirate’s Cove (easement release)
- Dave Watts Fire Bill

3. APPROVE THE AGENDA

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

4. CONSENT AGENDA – One motion for all items

- a. November 10, 2020: Regular Meeting Minutes

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

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

Falcon Checking	\$180,983.94
Bremer Money Market	<u>\$47,408.76</u>
	\$228,392.70
Falcon Money Market	<u>\$255,710.10</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$484,102.80</u>
Falcon Checking Interest (October)	42.57
Falcon Money Market Interest (October)	\$83.81
Bremer Interest (October)	\$3.16
BCA Fines	\$226.64

ESCROW(S)

Cornerstone Storage	20,590.00
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Taxes Received (Dec 1) not included in above: 329,429.49

Treasurer requested that fund 301 be deactivated the 301 fund from the debt service identity. Supervisor Wollak moved to deactivate; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

Supervisor Johnson reported a current year-to-date cash balance of \$824,288, not including one check yet to be issued in December to the Rice Fire Department for the 2021-2022 fire contract in the amount of \$12,238.37. There is a current balance of \$255,710 in the Road and Bridge Fund leaving the Township in a good shape for the upcoming year.

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

6. APPROVE LIST OF BILLS, CLAIMS, AND PAYROLL

The invoice for the 2021-2022 Rice Fire Department Contract received today was not included in the claims paid for December but is due December 31 prior to the next Board Meeting in January.

Supervisor Little moved to approve issuance of the payment to the Rice Fire Department in the amount of \$12,238.27 in December; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

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

7. DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT

Nothing to address

8. PIRATE'S COVE EASEMENT REQUEST

Pirate's Cove is requesting to release easements between nine lots to combine them as larger lots. No wetlands involved.

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

9. PLANNING COMMISSION

- Tim Rajkowski submitted an application for a minor subdivision of his property splitting the Tim's Tower lot from the Cornerstone Storage lot. Also requesting that the preliminary and final plat be approved simultaneously since changes will not be made.

Planning Commission meeting will be scheduled upon receipt of the application fee.

10. WSB ENGINEER REPORT

- a. 105th Street NW Plan Review and Bid Date (TBD)
Began to review plan; working on crossing (waiting for contract from BNSF), but the rest of plans look good.
- b. Paver Program (preliminary results)
Rating process has begun. Sucker Creek and Sharon Place are candidates for reconstruction.
- c. Storm Water Permit Renewal/Ordinance Update
Need more info—will update Board when more is known.

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to hire WSB to update the MS4 ordinance; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

Sucker Creek Bridge is failing and on the 5-year plan for replacement. Funding was obtained by the County for the project, but the Township is responsible for engineering services. Benton County has contracted with Widseth, Smith, and Nolting to develop the bridge replacement. Chris Byrd, Benton County, said to plan on completion of the Sucker Creek Bridge project in 2021. This will change the Township's road plan for next year. Since we do not want to close Sucker Creek Road twice, we will need to coordinate the work the County does on the Bridge with the reconstruction of the road.

Mike Nielson from WSB said Township grant funds to Townships have increased from \$750,000 to \$1.25 million. He recommended applying for funding for Sucker Creek Road. Support from neighboring businesses, townships, residents, etc. would help greatly. Applications are due March 3. The cost of pursuing the grant is \$3,500.00. Supervisor Johnson requested that Sharon Place be included in the grant

request because of its poor condition. Kevin Kruger reported Sharon Place rated 20 out of 100—lowest score he has seen.

Wollak made a motion to approve the \$3,500.00 cost of pursuing the grant with WSB; Little seconded; motion carried.

Mike Nielson will keep the Board informed regarding additional grant opportunities.

Kevin Kruger contacted Chris Byrd in regard to tying the two projects together by hiring the same contractor increasing the efficiency of the work. Has not heard back yet.

11. CITY OF RICE—FIRE CONTRACT PRESENTATION

Julie Fandel presented the Rice Fire Department Contract for 2021-2022. Tax capacity base was being used from 2017; will now be more current using 2020 data. Term of contract: January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022.

First year contract will be \$27,571.21; made in two payments, June 30 and December 31.
Second year contract will be \$29,080.71; made in two payments, June 30 and December 31.

In addition to the above annual payments, the Township will be billed as follows:

- Medical calls will be billed by a half-hour rate (previously charged at a full-hour rate).
- Cancelled calls will be charged \$150.00 (previously charged \$300.00).

The Board thanked the Fire Department for the reductions and noted the benefit to residents.

Treasurer O’Keefe requested to receive a run report for each call. The Fire Department will provide that documentation.

Supervisor Little made a motion to approve the contract for January, 2021, through December 31, 2022; Supervisor Johnson seconded; motion carried. Supervisor Wollak abstained as a City of Rice employee.

12. RICE CONTRACTING RETAINAGE REQUEST—105TH STREET NW

Completed.

13. ROW TREE CLEARING QUOTES—107TH STREET

Heavy snow in October caused tree damage and plowing issues on 107th Street NE. Supervisor Johnson requested quotes for trimming and clearing. Three quotes received:

Midwest Tree	\$2,950.00
Jason Zwilling	\$1600.00
Rice Contracting	\$800.00

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve the quote from Rice Contracting in the amount of \$800; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

14. SUCKER CREEK BRIDGE—BENTON COUNTY

(issue addressed in WSB Report above)

15. ROAD REPORT—POTHoles, SNOWPLOWING, TREE CLEARING

Supervisor Johnson reported on brush overtaking the road on Johnson Road. Bid was received from Jason Zwilling for \$450.00. Bids under \$500.00 do not need Board approval, but Supervisors approved.

16. BUDGET PLANNING MEETING

Agreed to schedule Monday, January 25, 2021, at 8:00 am.

17. REPURPOSING SUPERVISOR'S OFFICE AND CONFERENCE ROOM IN THE TOWN HALL

Supervisor's Office is full. Additional file cabinets are needed as well as a fire-proof safe for documents. Considering switching the Supervisor's Office and the Conference Room.

Supervisor Wollak suggested purchasing steel storage containers and using the Mechanical Room. Will check pricing and report at the January meeting.

18. DAVE WATTS FIRE BILL

Asking for fire bill to be waived. He provided a report from the sheriff which stated the fire was not arson. The Board is not willing to pass the cost of the fire bill on to the taxpayers; Mr. Watts will be responsible for the bill.

19. CITIZEN'S INPUT—Time limit 3 minutes

- Jerry Kostreba—obtaining a fire permit I problematic. Julie Fandel directed him to call Steve Janski for burning permit and she will send contact info so we have it on file for residents. The info is also available on the City of Rice website.
- Paul Wippler—wants clarification regarding article that stated the Township paid \$2,000 more than necessary for the snowplowing contract.

First round of bids were not accepted because the Board thought they were too high. When reissued, Marson Contracting quote was \$2,000 less; TK Timber (Todd Waytashek) was \$3,000 more. In addition, it was discovered TK Timber did not have adequate equipment to do the job. Supervisor Wollak contacted both equipment vendors listed in an attempt to confirm the rental agreements for the proper equipment but was unable to confirm.

Snowplowing service was provided to the Township by Marson Contractors in October after the unusually early snowfall before the contract was awarded. Had the contract not been awarded to Marson, the Township would have been billed on an hourly basis. As the contract was awarded to Marson, the October snowplowing is part of the contract and will not be billed separately or additionally. Township roads were plowed before both Highway 10 and County Road 78.

Sandy Saldana stated that the new contract includes Pirates Cove which was not part of the quote previously, accounting for a higher contract.

- Julie Fandel—complimented snow plowing.
- Sandy Saldana—thanks for the easy process with Rice Fire Department contract.

Supervisor Johnson stated that it is due to a good working relationship with the Rice Fire Department.

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to adjourn; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:50.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sauer
Township Clerk

Julie Johnson, Board Chairperson

Date

Kathy Sauer, Clerk

Date