

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday, February 06, 2012**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, February 06, 2012 by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Board members present were Ed Kacures, Supervisors Craig Gondeck and Lloyd Erdmann; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Don Rudolph, Bellevue Township, & Gene Binkley, Royalton Fire Dept., and Paul Jacobs. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the agenda with the addition of a report on the MNDOT planning meeting. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the minutes of the January 3 and 24 meetings; motion passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the Treasurer's Report; motion passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Kacures to approve the monthly bills as presented for Claims #4764 to 4780 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS. Motion passed.

Jim McDermott, Director of Benton County Emergency Services, presented the opportunity for a grant application for outdoor warning sirens. Jim sent a letter to all units of government in the county letting us know of this opportunity. Applications are reviewed by the State of Minnesota. If the application is submitted in February or early March the township should have a good chance of funding. The cost of a siren is based on the type we choose; best quality costs \$25,000 each. He presented a list of sources for the signals and said that we need to let them know the type of grant we are going for, and ask them what they could do to work with us. He recommended getting quotes from all three companies. He also addressed the potential for flooding, which is not likely because much ice and snow is already gone from the river. A motion was made by Supervisor Kacures to have Supervisor Gondeck file the necessary paperwork and work with Jim McDermott for the grant; second was made by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed.

Active Shooter Training is offered through FEMA; the training can be taken on-line and takes about one hour. If you take the training and pass the test, they send a certificate of training. It would be beneficial in case there is ever a shooter at the town hall. Jim will send a direct link to the Clerk.

Supervisor Gondeck checked into the outside wood burner issue. Upsala, Royalton, and Sauk Rapids all have similar problems, and he discussed it with them. The State of Wisconsin is looking at not allowing wood burners at all. DNR has no restrictions on them. Sauk Rapids is looking at passing an ordinance that restricts them on small lots in developments through planning and zoning. He doesn't think we can do anything in Watab, because if we passed an ordinance it would grandfather in those who already have them. There doesn't appear to be any restrictions through Benton County Planning and Zoning.

The Memorandum of Understanding for Sandy Shores was signed by Supervisor Ed Kacures and the Rau's will sign it at the final plat meeting. The Clerk will send one to Benton County.

Supervisor Gondeck reported on the township's request to Marty Reker to use dirt from the Paradise Development if it is suitable for the Lakewood Shore Rd railroad crossing project. Supervisor Gondeck recommended a letter of understanding be mailed to Marty Reker acknowledging this agreement with the township. Clerk Spence was asked to prepare a letter.

Report on Date for meeting with City of Rice on the fire contract: Supervisor Kacures reported that Marie Weinand, Rice City Clerk, sent an email to him saying that Rice does not want to enter into fire contract negotiations at this time; he then phoned Marie for clarification, and she explained that the city is waiting for information on the new Net Tax Capacity numbers for both Watab and Graham Township. He let Marie know that there haven't been any fire board meetings or budget approvals for this final year of the contract. Supervisor Gondeck asked Supervisor Kacures to document the communications with the city in writing.

Report on Fire Contract Meeting with the City of Sauk Rapids: Supervisor Gondeck met with the representatives of the City of Sauk Rapids on February 1, 2012. Also included at the meeting were other townships served by the Sauk Rapids Fire Department. The City of Sauk Rapids bills Burlington Northern directly for anything in the railroad right of way. The township would not be billed. He also addressed the accidents on the highway. They will bill the people involved in the accidents, but the bills will be forwarded to us if the parties do not pay the bill. The Clerk added that we rarely get a bill for a call for someone served by Sauk Rapids Fire Department. The City of Sauk Rapids will look at installing a bypass water source at Lake Andrew Development for fighting fire; this reduces the cost of homeowner's insurance. They have no intention of going on medical calls; Gold Cross is stationed there at all times. He thanked them for helping with the tornado clean up in 2010. He presented the written report to the Clerk and Chair. Supervisor Gondeck will get us copies of the contract to be signed. He invited Sauk Rapids Fire Department to bring their new fire truck this summer and explain the billing process.

Guests present from Bellevue Township and the Roylton Fire Department asked about how we are billed for township fire protection and how we bill the users.

Supervisor Kacures has tried to communicate with the owner of the property in Circle Pines regarding the potential parking of a Semi-Trailer. He will recommend that the owner use the truck lot at Twin Pines, as they have made it available.

Supervisor Gondeck gave the Adopt a Highway Update: Jeff & Julie Fandel adopted Sharon Place; Timberlane Estates adopted by Craig Gondeck. Others who are interested can contact him.

#### New Business:

1. Status of unpaid emergency call bills: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to authorize the Clerk and Treasurer to prepare a list of names to be referred to a collection agency. Motion passed.
2. Turf Pro's asked advance payment of the contract for township lawn care for a 7% reduction; the board made the decision to pay after the service is provided.
3. Application for SCORE Grant for Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck recommended a request of \$12,725 for the grant. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to forward the grant application to Benton County. Motion passed.
4. Planning for the Annual Meeting: the board reviewed the draft of the agenda. Additions to the agenda will include the report on the grant application for outdoor warning sirens and clean up day. The board also determined recommendations for the 2013 levy: \$75,000 for Revenue, \$205,000 for Road and Bridge, \$70,000 for Fire, and \$25 for Building.
5. Newsletter: Supervisor Kacures has been in contact with Palmer Printing; there is no increase in cost. 1,500 copies would be \$1,500 for printing. List of donors are to be printed on the outside of the newsletter if possible. The Clerk should send Supervisor Kacures the picture of the board and clean up day.
6. MnDOT meeting on 50-year vision: Supervisor Kacures attended a meeting in St. Cloud on their intermodal transportation plan, which includes all modes of transportation, not only the roads. He supplied the board with copies of the vision.
7. Communications: notice from City of Sauk Rapids regarding their Well Head Protection Program; Clerk Spence noted the change in legislation that precinct caucus attendance is no longer a requirement for election judges unless they have a party affiliation.
8. Supervisor Kacures announced that on March 26<sup>th</sup> there will be short-course training for the board; all should attend.
9. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck said an abandoned vehicle was picked up at no cost to the township. Supervisor Erdmann reported that junk was dumped on Doeden Road; Supervisor Gondeck will pick it up.

10. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton County Economic Development Board meeting; a tour was taken of Independent Lifestyle building in Sauk Rapids, which is used by 1200 people each year. The board is working on two businesses in Sauk Rapids; one would employ 100-200 people.
11. February Board Work Plan: Benton County Association of Township meeting on February 16 at 7:30pm at Mr. Jim's in Foley; Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> 7pm Budget Meeting at the Town Hall; Precinct Caucuses Feb 7<sup>th</sup>; and Supervisor Kacures will be gone from the 24<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> of February.
12. No Citizen's Issues

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk