

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
June 5, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Craig Gondeck. Other board members present were Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, and Supervisor Craig Gondeck. Audience members were Jon Bogart, Doug Welk, John Olson, Nicole Severson, Bob Raveling, Kevin Reiter, Allen Saldana, and Chuck Ertl.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, these announcements were made by Supervisor Gondeck: well wishes to the employees of Verso Paper Mill following the explosion and appreciation to everyone who called his house to inquire about the safety of his daughter, who is a Verso employee.

Bid opening for crack filling and seal coating: one bid for each project was received from ASTECH Corporation, represented at the meeting by Doug Welk. The bid for crack filling was \$12,651.00 and for seal coating \$29,530.80. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion authorizing the bids to be awarded to ASTECH Corporation, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed. Supervisor Ed Kacures Jr. arrived and presided through the remainder of the agenda.

Sealed bids were opened for 85th Street NW repairs. Three bids were received: Ray Thompson & Co. for \$12,665.00, Burski Excavating for \$10,840.00, and Rice Contracting and Development for \$9,495.00. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to award the bid to Rice Contracting and Development; seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed with Supervisor Erdmann abstaining due to family relationship with the low bidder.

Approval of the Agenda was made through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. Minutes of the May meeting were approved with the following corrections by Supervisor Gondeck: page 1 - Golf Haven Estates changed to Oak Hill Estates; last page county portion of SCORE grant is \$12,725; and sympathy was extended to the Mel Bennet family. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed.

Treasurer Eileen Saldana gave the financial report with cash balances of \$217,311.84 in the two checking accounts. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the report. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approved payment of the monthly bills including claims #4848 through 4869 and electronic payments to PERA and IRS and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts; motion passed.

Jon Bogart reported on the railroad crossing quiet zones. There was a field diagnostic with all the officials regarding Co. Rd 79 and Lakewood Shore Road railroad crossings. Plans are complete. Jon is ready to go with a notice of intent, which he presented to the board. He asked the board to authorize the notice of intent; there is a 60-day waiting period followed by a notice of establishment. Temporary easements are needed on Lakewood Shore Road; Supervisor Erdmann will speak to the property owners and get signed easements. Estimated cost for the Lakewood Shore Crossing road improvements and to establish the Quiet Zone is \$131,813.55, which includes the construction contingencies. The board wants rip rap and

center poles added to the project design. Every contractor will need to get railroad liability insurance. The Co. Road 79 bid is under \$30,000. An agreement needs to be made with the county before proceeding with county road 79 quiet zone. The county would need to issue the bids for the county road. There is also a review process five years after the project is established. Jon will prepare the easement documents for Supervisor Erdmann. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck for Jon to work with Clerk Spence on the Notice of Intent on Lakewood Shore and with the County on Co. Rd 79; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. Supervisor Kacures asked for the cost of additional engineering. Jon will prepare an estimate for the future engineering costs at the next meeting. Supervisor Gondeck asked Jon Bogart if other townships have contracts with him; he responded that it varies from township to township. Supervisor Gondeck recommends that we have contracts with all our professionals. Jon will email Clerk Spence a sample contract.

The Blading Request from Ellsworth Boe was tabled to the July meeting. The Township Hall Exterior Lighting is completed and is an important safety improvement. Supervisor Gondeck gave the Siren Grant Update: he attended the county board meeting and they signed the memorandum of agreement. The county will mail it to us. The grant is submitted.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to submit the annual MS4 report as presented by Clerk Pat Spence; motion passed and the report will be submitted prior to the June 30 deadline.

Letter of Understanding with the Sauk Rapids Fire Department was tabled for the next meeting due to the City Administrator's work load with moving his offices.

A new two-year contract was signed with Chuck Ertl for ditch mowing through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann.

New Business included the following:

1. Benton County wants to put a weight limit on the Sucker Creek Bridge of 32 tons overall. The board authorized Supervisor Gondeck to put three signs on the road stating the weight limit through a motion by Supervisor Kacures and second by Supervisor Erdmann.
2. Contract Updates: Supervisor Gondeck stated that he believes the Building Inspector should have a contract rewritten in line with the other professionals that work for the township. His intent is not to replace anyone but rather to follow the recommendations of the Minnesota Association of Townships to have contracts in place. Clerk Spence will bring her contract to the next meeting for review. This would place her contract in line with those for snow plowing, assessing, ditch mowing, and engineering.
3. Snow Plowing Contract: Clerk Spence covered the changes made to the request for bids and resolution 2006-2 and to advertise for bids for the July meeting. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.
4. Fire Inspector Update on Oak Hill Estates: Tony Hommerding inspected the fire hydrants in the Oak Hill Estates development and found them satisfactory. He is very pleased that the fire department will have access to these hydrants, which will lower insurance rates for some commercial property owners.
5. Lake Andrew Sign Issue: Benton County Sheriff's office sent a letter that there are no street signs in the development. Township should send a letter to Scott Jarnot

stating that he needs to put in the street signs and traffic control signs that meet DoT regulations within 30 days. If he has any questions, he should contact Supervisor Gondeck.

6. Saldana Road needs a ditch to protect the road edge where it is starting to break up near Phil and Eileen Saldana. Allen Saldana noted that a main gas line comes through that ditch. The main goal is to get the water off the road. Allen will look at it with Supervisor Gondeck before the next meeting to see what is feasible.
7. Ferry Point Right of Way Issue: John Olson 10293 Ferry Point, said that he needs to replace the septic drain field on his property. One of the 25-foot drain trenches would run about three feet into the road right of way. The septic designer and the county is okay with this if the township would give a letter of understanding that authorizes this. Supervisor Gondeck came out to the site and measured. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to approve this with a note added to the road and a letter of understanding with the homeowner to renew the right of way and the owner will be responsible for any damage if there is road construction and something is damaged; seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; motions passed. Clerk Spence was asked to send a letter.
8. Clerk Spence will register herself, Supervisor Gondeck, and Treasurer Eileen Saldana for the summer Minnesota Association of Townships Short Course.
9. Recap on Storm Meeting at the town hall: Supervisor Erdmann said that Jim McDermott reviewed all the procedures that he would follow in case of any emergency. Our town hall would be an incident command center. Supervisor Gondeck feels it is a very good system.
10. Benton County Economic Development Board meeting: Supervisor Gondeck said that a new manufacturing company will be announced for the area; he summarized other activity in the township and applications for funds for Verso. Goal is reached for the railroad spur study in Rice but will have to compete with St. Cloud who will have an advantage because they are part of the Area Planning Organization.
11. City of Rice Fire Contract: We have not received an invoice for the first ½ payment. The city has not responded to Supervisor Kacures' request for a meeting and has not sent a bill; Clerk Spence recommends paying the same amount as the second half payment of 2011, which was \$18,645.14. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, to pay the first half payment of 2012 in the same amount as stated above. Letter should be drafted to them to mayor and city council explaining. Clerk should draft the letter for the Chair's signature. Motion passed.
12. Sprinkler System: Supervisor Erdmann did minor repairs to the system and started it; it appears to be working. Lawn looks great.
13. Monthly communications: Federal Surplus Services eligibility application is due by the end of June; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to authorize the Clerk to submit the application renewal; motion passed. Joan Spiczka e-mailed regarding a pothole on West Lake Road and a tree limb obscuring a sign; Supervisor Gondeck will take care of both issues. A population report was sent from the state demographer with April 2011 estimate population; the number is not to be made public until July 15. Notice of Filing was received from

- the Benton County Auditor-Treasurer. Notice of Public Hearing for the City of Rice on zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, and their zoning map was received. Geno Beniek e-mailed with a request for seal coating Sanbur Trail this summer. The board responded that crack filling was done on that road a few years ago, but the road wasn't seal coated; they will consider it for next summer's projects. The MPCA sent a letter to Supervisor Kacures regarding Oak Hill Estates wastewater treatment facility reissue permit. Public comment period ends June 13th. Current permit has expired in May. Clerk Spence was asked to make copies for each board member. A letter was received noting that the Benton County Planning Commission will meet on June 7th; agenda items include McManus plat, Jay Saldana application for at-home business, and Ernie Wollak asking to renew his gravel permit. The township will request that the county require verification of sand being removed in the new permit, along with better contour maps. Allen Saldana said a concern would be for a hot mix or concrete plant to be added. Supervisor Erdman will attend the county meeting to get information.
14. Supervisor Gondeck brought a \$300 quote for a literature display rack for the town hall entry. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to have it built; second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed.
 15. Oak Hill Estates: David Schwinghammer and Craig reviewed the problem reported at last month's meeting. There is an approved SWWPP plan in place. Supervisor Kacures requested a copy of the SWWPPP.
 16. There are two tree issues on West Lake Road; Supervisor Gondeck will have the work done in July by the Sentence to Serve Crew. County Road 55 and Plaziak Road intersection needs to have brush cut. The township will also need to assess and trim low hanging branches on the town roads before fall.
 17. The board thanked Nicole Severson, representing Michelle Bachman, for attending the meeting. Bob Raveling commented on how the emergency management system doesn't seem to be working as it should because his phone call came after the hail storm was finished and the sun was shining. Supervisor Gondeck said that the problem is due to a lack of cooperation by the sheriff's department; they are not willing to activate the system when Jim McDermott, Emergency Management Director is on vacation.
 18. Motion was made to adjourn at 9:35pm by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; and motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence