

## Minutes of Special Board Meeting on December 11, 2012

A special town board meeting was held on December 11, 2012. All board members were present: Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr, Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Kevin Reiter was also present.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Supervisor Kacures updated the board on a stray cat issue he had been working on. The board all felt that the homeowner should deal with the problem. Supervisor Erdmann had also spoken with the homeowner.

The main purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Rice Fire Contract. Following are main points of the discussion:

1. Supervisor Gondeck said that Troy Heck, Chief Deputy in Benton County Sheriff's Department, said that they use fire department members on death scenes. All Central Minnesota fire departments are members of mutual aid, so there should not be extra charges to the township when mutual aid is used. Currently, mutual aid fire calls by Rice are included in the billing formula.
2. Tony Hommerding, Sauk Rapids Fire Chief, and Ross Olson, Sauk Rapids City Administrator, have both stated that they will take care of Watab Township if we cannot achieve an agreement with Rice that is acceptable to the residents. The board believes that what they are currently offering is cost prohibitive and would need an increase tax levy.
3. The board reviewed the fire calls for the past five years. A copy is attached to the minutes. The board asked Clerk Spence to bill Benton County for the fire at Bend in the River Park.
4. The board reviewed the City of Rice budget for the fire department in 2013. There is nothing budgeted for city tax revenues for the department. Are the townships totally funding the operation of the fire department?
5. Clerk Spence was asked to set up a meeting for Chair Kacures and her to meet with the Mayor Elect of Rice to discuss the history of Watab negotiations and the Watab proposal.
6. Chair Kacures will attend the Monday Rice City Council meeting to inquire about the city response to our written request for a 60-day extension of the current contract. At this time, there has not been a response.
7. The proposed contract with Rice will be for the 1.74% of Net Tax Capacity and \$330 per first hour and \$250 for second and additional hours as included in the contract with Sauk Rapids. The Clerk should also include the language in the current contract addendum that outlines the information that should be provided for billing purposes.
8. If this cannot be achieved, the board will send out a mailing to all township residents with information on the contract and invite them to a public meeting in January.
9. Prior to that meeting, the board will meet with the Sheriff, Sauk Rapids fire chief, Gold Cross, and other emergency personnel for their input.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence