

**July 5, 2011 Meeting Minutes  
Watab Town Board**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Other board members present were Supervisors Craig Gondeck and Lloyd Erdmann, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Those in the audience were Jon Bogart, Nancy Scott, Benton County Commissioner Joe Wollak, Bob Lanners, Phil Saldana, Bob Raveling, Allen Saldana, Brian Erdmann, Nancy Scott, and Kevin Reiter. Meeting opened with the Pledge to the Flag. Supervisor Gondeck extended appreciation to all who sent condolences for his mother's death during the past month.

Approval for tonight's agenda was given with the addition of accepting Joan Spiczka's resignation and cancellation for her contract as website manager through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed.

Bob Lanners appeared regarding his proposed truck shop; the Preliminary Plat has been presented to Benton County. The conditional use permit will be reviewed on July 14<sup>th</sup>. He asked to be on the next agenda for the final plat approval. The board itemized the permits needed for the project.

Jon Bogart appeared regarding the railroad crossings. He presented a written proposal for engineering for the Plaziak and Lakewood Shore Rd NW crossings. Jon estimates pre-design surveying would be six days total. Jon will revise his proposal to give the board an estimate. Survey will cost \$5,400. Action was tabled until next month through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann. Jon will send the Clerk the estimate.

Commissioner Joe Wollak said that the county is seeking input on the collection of gravel tax. There will be a work session of the county board next month to discuss elimination of the gravel tax. Supervisor Erdmann will research the state statute regarding collection of the gravel tax. He made a motion that the town board recommends retention of the gravel tax, with reporting mandatory, and permit renewal based on honest reporting. Supervisor Gondeck does not feel the gravel tax should be retained if it isn't going to be collected. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures with input to the Benton County board. Motion passed. Joe added that Benton County sent layoff notices to the custodial staff as they are moving to contract cleaning. Savings should be \$150,000 per year. The county is using reserve funds to cushion the blow of the state shutdown.

Nancy Scott made a request for increased mechanical and plumbing permit fees from \$30 to \$35.00 and an increase per fixture of \$1.00. All of her other jurisdictions have already approved this increase. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to approve the increase as presented. Supervisor Kacures asked about inspections for reroofing; Nancy responded that if physical inspections were to be made of each step the permit fees would have to be increased; she is trying to keep the fees as low as possible for the homeowners. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures. Supervisor Erdmann added that Nancy e-mail Pat the fee schedule with a resolution for approval and addition of the fees to the website. Fee increase should be effective July 1, 2011. Second was also amended. Motion passed with Supervisor Gondeck voting nay.

Public Hearing on the MS4 was called to order. Pat Spence presented the annual report. The contract has been renewed for inspections with Red Barn Ridge LLC. She added that the MPCA will be contacting the township regarding a new five-year plan. Also, the township should consider the TMDL study results for Little Rock Lake. Brian Erdmann objected to the fee for inspections and said that the

township doesn't have to do this. The board gave information regarding the state mandate for this program. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has been mapping the culverts and stormwater drainage and manholes. Maps will be in a permanent binder kept at the town hall. Also, runoff to ponds is now marked. Next year all the culverts should be cleaned out. Future plats should have all culverts and storm drains marked. Motion was made to approve the annual report by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Public hearing was closed.

June 7, 2011 meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report: \$129,396.06 at Edward Jones; checking account balance \$96,523.41. There was discussion about customer service at the Bremer Bank, which now fingerprints her to cash a personal check. She was commended for a good job.

Approval was given to approve payment of the monthly bills for claims 4631 through 4639 plus PERA, Federal Tax withholding, and State withholding to be paid electronically by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

Summer Road Project Progress: Supervisor Gondeck has been working on the sign installation and will complete it this month. Supervisor Erdmann reported on the Astech road projects. Crack filling is completed; he feels work looks good. Supervisor Kacures said there needs to be more fill on the cracks on the newer section of Plaziak Road. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to check on them. Seal coating will be done in July. Clerk Spence was asked to prepare a form letter for the residents on the roads to warn them of the upcoming project; Supervisor Gondeck will distribute them. He also reported on the tree cutting and trimming and chipping. Supervisor Gondeck contacted Jeff Hanson and he fixed the potholes at Oak Hill. Allen Saldana will get the hot mix this week or next week to repair all potholes. Supervisor Erdmann made the request to fix the potholes at intersections of the township roads and Highway 10. Also, Supervisor Kacures asked to have Lakewood Shore/Plaziak Road intersection fixed. Minimum maintenance culverts are replaced; Corrigan driveway repaired and homeowner is very pleased. Gary Aschenbrenner's culvert needs attention. Supervisor Erdmann will review it. Silt fencing needs to be removed on Fifth Avenue. Supervisor Erdmann met with Lynn Liebfrig and reviewed the Lakewood Shore crossing. He will pass on the recommendations to Jon Bogart. She said it would be an easy crossing to install a no-whistle system. The next step will be to send her the engineering design.

Clerk Pat Spence met with Adam Ripple, township attorney, regarding billing the property owners of mobile home parks for unpaid emergency calls of their residents. He advised the township that it does not have authority to bill the owner of the mobile home park for unpaid **medical** emergency calls by residents due to landlord rights legislation. He recommends turning the unpaid bills over to a collection agency.

Phil Saldana appeared before the board with pictures of driveway washouts on Roseanna Beach Road. Supervisor Gondeck informed him that a resident filled the washouts at no charge to the township.

Tree trimming on township right of ways will get finished this month. Residents have presented concerns about dogs at large. Supervisor Gondeck said that at the MAT conference the attorneys said townships can have their own ordinance; but he would advise us not to have one because they are very difficult and costly to enforce. We need to educate citizens on being good neighbors by keeping their dogs on their own property or on a leash.

Supervisor Erdmann informed the board of huge holes by catch basins in Lake Andrew development. It is a safety issue. Supervisor Gondeck has made Scott Jarnot aware of it. Clerk Spence was asked to send him a letter advising him that he has been contacted about the problems in the Lake Andrew Development as soon as possible. She is to include a list of issues from the Supervisors.

Bill Novak request for craft fair in township: Supervisor Gondeck met with him and advised him that we would need to have open fire lanes; he learned that the property owner will require a million dollar liability policy from Mr. Novak. Mr. Novak is drawing up a site plan, which would be shown to the fire department. The township's concern is traffic control and public safety. The property owner would set a limit of 20 vendors.

New Business:

1. Plat Review Process: Supervisor Gondeck recommended that we follow the process in our manual for all future plats, even with one lot, so that the checklist is used.
2. Update on MAT seminar: Supervisor Gondeck attended and learned about noxious weeds and dog ordinances.
3. The Clerk presented all correspondence received during the past month.
4. Two-year contract with Joan Spiczka for website maintenance: accept termination with regret and letter of appreciation to Joan Spiczka through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Clerk Spence agreed to update the website.

Supervisor Repts:

1. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton Co. Economic Development Board meeting. They met at Mimbach Fleet and learned about many of that company's innovations. The executive board is looking at financing two businesses in Watab Township.
2. Rice Fire Board report: we received the bill for the first half of Rice's fire contract; figures were not correct as adopted by the Rice Fire Board. Supervisor Kacures sent out the final distribution costs according to what was accepted at the Fire Board Meeting. A check was written for the first half based on the Fire Board numbers versus the billing from Rice: Invoice was for \$19,922.60 and payment will be \$18,645.14. The largest discrepancy is in what is reported for the actual cost: \$124,810.00 is correct amount (what Fire Board voted on and approved). Supervisor Gondeck was asked to attend the next Rice City Council meeting and ask about accounts being used for building repair. He will request being on their meeting agenda.
3. September 18<sup>th</sup> is Watab Clean Up Day. Grant is approved for same amount as last year and will be located south of Pine's Edge Restaurant.
4. Kevin Reiter was asked to try the PA system. It seemed to work well and further discussion on this will be added to next month's agenda. Kevin said that he could bring in a system from work to see how it works. He will let us try it for the next meeting.
5. We should apply for a grant to purchase 3 chain saws for the township. Currently board members are using their personal saws.
6. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck met to begin the process of making requests for donations for the annual newsletter. Supervisor Gondeck also asked about the difference in cost for using glossy versus newsprint paper.
7. All citizen complaints were responded to during the month. There were no further citizen issues brought forward.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence