

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes August 2, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Other board members present were Supervisor Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Bob Lanners, Kevin Reiter, Jon Bogart, Bob Raveling, Paul Jacobs, Bob Rucks, Allen Saldana,

Following the Pledge to the Flag, Supervisor Gondeck thanked residents for taking care of the mowing on road of right of ways. The Water Quality Board Report, Falcon Bank proposal, and 5th Avenue Driveway repairs were added to the agenda through motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Approval of the July 5, 2011 Town Board Meeting Minutes was made with change to the date of Watab Clean Up Day; it will be September 17, 2011. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report. Clerk Spence reported that we recently received the tax settlement from Benton County. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed approving the treasurer's report.

Authorization to pay the monthly bills for claims #4666 – 4689 and electronic transfers to IRS and MN PERA was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Bob Rucks came before the board. County Board has given approval to proceed. Bob has contacted East Central Electric because the easement for the power line is not showing on the abstract. The record of the easement is necessary to proceed. He requested permission to have the final plat signed by the board when the paperwork is in place. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck authorizing the signing of the documents by the board chair and clerk when they are completed as long as they are as previously presented. Motion passed. Bob Lanners said that his trucking project is on hold now because the building inspector is classing the building it as commercial, so it will require an architectural design. He also said that there is a washout on the road, a hole about 8 inches in diameter. Supervisor Gondeck said that he will look into it and if needed have Allen Saldana repair it. Supervisor Gondeck will also check on whether the road is a 9-ton road suitable for trucks and let Bob Lanners know its status.
2. Jon Bogart gave a presentation on an engineering proposal for the design of a railroad crossing at CR 79. Supervisor Erdmann said that Benton County has given the go ahead to work with the railroad as long as they have the final say in approval or disapproval of the plan. He said that the railroad feels that it will be an easy crossing to make a quiet zone. There would be curb and gutter on each side of the road. He recommends having the plan drawn up. Engineering proposal is for \$5,100.00. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck with funding that Supervisor Erdmann noted would come from donations by adjacent property owners. The motion passed. The board also discussed improvements to Plaziak Road and the Lakewood Shores crossing. The advantage of combining these projects is that borrow can be used from Plaziak to build up the approaches at the railroad crossing. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to have Jon Bogart do the engineering on this project, seconded by

Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Estimated cost is \$8,400.00 for a feasibility study. Supervisor Erdmann stated that doing this work is in accordance with the wishes of the people at the 2011 Annual Meeting. Supervisor Erdmann asked about Knife River's response to removing the silt fencing on the Fifth Avenue project. He advised us sending a letter to Knife River advising them that we will remove the silt fencing and deduct the cost from their final payment. We should have a letter from Minnesota Pollution Control Agency signing off on the project; Jon Bogart will look into it for us.

3. Supervisor Gondeck reported on installation of township road signs: Lakewood Shore Road sign is done; culvert markers are in, and he asked the board what height they would like. The board recommended four feet above the culvert. He'll be installing signs during the month.
4. The seal coating and fog sealing of the township roads has been completed today by Astech. Supervisor Erdmann said that they did an excellent job. Supervisor Erdmann said that they seal coated the entire way to Hwy 10, but they couldn't fog seal the entire way because of potential car damage.
5. Pothole repairs: Supervisor Gondeck said that Allen Saldana has done an excellent job.
6. The board discussed Fifth Avenue driveway repairs. The Corrigan driveway has continued to wash out due to the road construction project. They are pleased with the repair, and the township will have no further responsibility for this driveway.
7. The board has continued tree trimming. Wood left on the right of way is available free to township residents.
8. Supervisor Gondeck has two quotes for three chain saws: \$865.66 and \$869.61. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kacures for the Clerk to send a letter to Falcon National Bank requesting a donation; motion passed.
9. Public Address System brought in by Kevin Reiter worked well for the meeting..

New Business:

1. Promotion of Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck has given the paperwork to the clerk. It is scheduled for September 17th. Our SCORE grant is for \$17,000.
2. Resolution 2011-4 and 2011-5: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, authorizing approval for the chair to sign. Motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck informed the board that personal property taxes can be used to get renters' unpaid calls collected.
3. Correspondence from the past month was reviewed by Clerk Spence.
4. Water Quality Board: Supervisor Gondeck said that the water plan is in place, so the county will be eligible for state legacy fund grants.
5. Benton County Economic Development Board: Supervisor Gondeck reported. He feels that the Greater MN Partnership will be very successful.
6. Falcon National Bank: John Herges asked if we'd be interested in opening a checking account for the township. They have a remote deposit system; they would install the equipment in the town hall office. Presentation will be made to Clerk and Treasurer and they were given approval to go ahead with opening the account if they feel comfortable with the change.
7. Rice Fire Board: Supervisor Kacures said that the City of Rice will act in September on a proposed budget from the Fire Department. The board discussed issues with the fire contract. They are concerned about uses of fire budget funds to repair the fire hall, so Supervisor Kacures

asked Supervisor Gondeck to attend the city council meeting. Funds from three different funds in the budget should not be used for this purpose. Supervisor Gondeck explained the city council meeting that he attended; he was not allowed to address the board, because he was told that he hadn't sent in the proper paper work requesting to be on the agenda. He had communicated with the city administrator asking to be on the agenda and wasn't told that any paper work was necessary. Orrock Township Supervisors, who were present at the meeting, explained their relationship with the two fire departments that serve them: Big Lake and Zimmerman. They had many questions about Watab operating procedures.

8. Citizen Feedback: Supervisor Gondeck learned that the county policy regarding gravel tax collection is that the Director of the Department of Development is to let the Planning Commission know if the pit is active and if the gravel tax is being accurately reported before the conditional use permit for the pit is renewed. Commissioner Wollak will look into this and learn why it isn't occurring. Supervisor Gondeck will get a copy of the policy. No gravel tax income came from the county tax settlement. Clerk Spence was asked to inquire with the County Auditor asking why there was no gravel tax income even though pits were active. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck for letter to go to commissioners, Monty Headly, county auditor, and Chelle Benson. Motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck reported on citizen issues: an old corn bin was cleaned out in the township and a citizen reported the toxic dust to MPCA and the county officials.
9. Citizen concerns: Kevin Reiter talked about a tree leaning precariously over Sucker Creek Road on Don Kainz's property.
10. Supervisor Gondeck will work on pocket gopher removal in the upcoming month; they are active in town road right of ways and undermine some of the roads. He mapped the signs in the township and this month will map the culverts.
11. The board had positive feedback on the sound system that Kevin Reiter brought to the meeting. He will inquire where the system was purchased.
12. Upcoming meetings: Treasurer Saldana and Clerk Spence will meet with the Falcon Bank reps.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk