

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 3, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 3, 2011 by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Other board members present were Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were: Paul Jacobs, Kevin Reiter, Brian Erdmann, Allen Saldana, and Bob Raveling.

Supervisor Gondeck extended sympathy to the Ron Hommerding family, loss of mother; to family Al Barthelemy on his death; thanks to Tom Fussy for his volunteer work in the township; thanks to Pat Spence for extra work; and thanks to Henry Fischer, who recently retired and assisted with development issues in Watab.

Approval of the agenda was granted through motion by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. April 5 meeting minutes were approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. The minutes of the April 12<sup>th</sup> special meeting of the town board with Graham and Langola Supervisors regarding the Rice Fire Contract were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, with the following change to a sentence on second page: "The township shares should be based on \$124,810, which is the starting dollar amount for the cost-distribution." Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana: cash balance at Bremer Bank is \$135,285.67. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed approving the report.

Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to pay the monthly bills, claims # 4619-4626 plus electronic transfers for PERA and IRS deposits, as presented, and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Approval of Resolution 2011-3: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to adopt Resolution 2011-3-Authorizing Board Work with the addition of Watab Clean Up Day-Supervisor Gondeck and Weed Control—Supervisor Gondeck. Motion passed and Clerk was asked to prepare the final document for the Chair's signature.

Sign Update: Supervisor Gondeck asked for authority to meet with the owner of a new sign company near Popple Creek, who will make signs at a reasonable price. We would be able to use our blanks, no freight cost, and quick turnaround. Authority was given.

Follow-Up on River Road complaint: Clerk Spence will call the county sheriff and ask about follow up on the complaint by Rocky Spychala.

Township Hall Heating: Supervisor Gondeck met with owner of Kemen Plumbing. Thermostats were not put in the offices at the time of construction, because he was told not to by the architect. To go to zone heating now would be expensive. The plumber suggests that we shut down every other tube in the main meeting room floor. We could switch over to gas instead of an electric boiler for greater cost savings. Putting in thermostats would only save about \$50 per month. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to get a quote on a boiler.

Public Address System Update: Supervisor Gondeck reported two quotes--\$4,500 and \$3,000. It's a very acoustically live building, so it might be best to try a portable system first to see if it will work. Supervisor Gondeck will bring in a portable next month.

**New Business:**

1. Approval of permit form for MS4: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, to approve the permit form used by Red Barn Ridge LLC for MS4 inspections.
2. Report on 2011 Road Tour: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to have Saldana Excavating repair all the potholes identified on the road tour plus 4 new ones that opened in front of Pines Edge. Motion passed.

Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to do crack filling and seal coating on 115<sup>th</sup> Street from West Lake Road to Hwy 10; 105<sup>th</sup> Street from two hundred feet west of the railroad tracks to County Rd 55;

Plaziak Road from County Rd 55 to the new pavement; and Saldana Road from railroad tracks west to River Road. He offered to help Clerk Spence prepare the bid package. Supervisor Gondeck was assigned measurement of the roads; and bids are to be received at the regular June board meeting. Projects will start 200 feet from railroad tracks. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Also, on the road tour the board reviewed condition of Peace Rock Rd; they decided to wait until later for repairs due to small amount of traffic on this road. Silt fencing must be removed on Fifth Avenue—call Knife River; Lake Andrew water valves are sticking up—Scott Jarnot has been notified; Clerk Spence was asked to send a letter to him about this issue. The right turn lane needs striping by Lake Andrew development; Supervisor Kacures will call Jon Bogart about it; Supervisor Gondeck was asked to clean ditch by Gary Aschenbrenner's house & culvert by Finken's; Supervisor Erdmann was asked to clean up brush falling on Lakewood Shore Rd; all sign repairs will be done by Supervisor Gondeck; mailbox issue on Ferry Point will be handled by Supervisor Gondeck; tree trimming at all identified places will be done by Supervisor Erdmann; Indian Road culvert repair will be done by Supervisor Erdmann; Oak Hill Estates culvert and pipes sticking out—Supervisor Gondeck will talk to Jeff Hanson. At 85<sup>th</sup> Street there is a deep dip, an area that needs to be dug out. Supervisor Erdmann will write a description of what needs to be done, so that it can be sent out for quotes. A culvert on the minimum maintenance road has caved in and needs repair or replacement; another 18" culvert is also needed. Brian Erdmann asked to give a quote for this work. Allen Saldana was asked to fix the bump on the cul de sac on Ferry Point Road. Clerk Spence read the e-mail message from Geno Beniek about need for work on Sanbur Trail; Supervisor Gondeck offered to meet with him and give the board a report. Brian Erdmann reported that trees need cutting by Earl Harden's and Sabraski's Supervisor Erdmann was asked to cut them.

3. The board discussed possible changes to the Fire Billing Ordinance: Supervisor Gondeck had information from the City of Foley and Big Lake; both send out invoices like we do; Clerk Spence was asked to draft proposed language, so that property owners in area served by Sauk Rapids Fire Department could be billed for total cost of the fire.
4. Clerk Spence passed out monthly correspondence; Supervisor Gondeck had a letter from DNR about sand bags that are unused. They should be brought back to Saldana pit or disposed upland; they are not to be dumped in the lake.
5. Board Reports:
  - a. Benton Co. Economic Development—KCLD bought speedway; Kent's Kars was sold for trailer business; there is money to loan out for business development.
  - b. Railroad Crossings: email was sent by Supervisor Erdmann to Bob Kozel; Bob will take the township request for a quiet zone crossing before County Board; set of plans was sent back to Supervisor Erdmann about a quiet zone crossing in St. Cloud; Supervisor Erdmann also contacted Lynn Liebfrieg, BN representative, and she'll get back to him about when she'll be in our area for an on-site meeting.
  - c. Emergency Work Update: trailer has been pulled out of town hall lot and Jim McDermott was pleased to use town hall; the county won't fund sand bags next year—homeowners will need to pay for them. Emergency notification system grant runs out this year—costs about \$4,000—Jim recommends the townships come up with some of the funding.
  - d. Rice Fire Board meetings: Supervisor Kacures reviewed the special meeting with the other townships regarding the Rice contract. All town officials present agreed that Rice Fire Department had overspent their budget by about \$20,000. He made a motion at the Fire Board meeting, which was seconded by Chuck Popp, that the budget for the coming year be \$128,554.30. After considerable discussion, the roll call vote was all three township representatives in favor and the Mayor and Fire Chief opposed, so the motion passed. After the Fire Board meeting, the townships had their own meetings, which were publicly noticed. All town officials believed that the City of Rice wouldn't honor the motion that was passed and that all Supervisors should attend the Rice

City Council meeting. The Rice City Administrator reported that their new attorney says that the Rice Fire Board has no official input into the contract and is only advisory and they would use their own figures for determining the township share of cost. Supervisor Erdmann said he spoke at the Fire Board meeting requesting clarification from the Mayor about the overspending of last year's budget and adding 3% to that amount; the Mayor said he wouldn't discuss it, and said, "I'll take it to litigation." Supervisor Gondeck asked about the letter of understanding between the attorneys for Rice and Watab; Mayor Fiedler said he wouldn't discuss it. Supervisor Gondeck read a personal letter concerning the most recent city council meeting that the Watab Board attended. Supervisor Kacures talked about the city auditor's report, which was given at the Rice council meeting; the auditor reported that the fire budget was overspent by \$56,000. Also, the auditor reported that none of the income the city receives in grants for the fire department is reducing the costs to the township. Last year, Langola and Graham Townships were told that they didn't need to pay the 3% increase on the contract because Watab didn't pay it. The Mayor said this was approved by the City Council, but Supervisor Kacures said that there is no record of this in the official minutes of the City Council. To move forward, the board decided to send payment of what we believe our share of the expenses should be based on the contract formula to serve the financial interests of the people in the township. Allen Saldana commented that the issue with the Rice Fire Department makes sense now that all town boards are agreeing. The town board emphasized that this financial issue is no reflection on the Rice Firefighters, who do an excellent job. The township's issue is with the administration of the contract. Clerk Spence was asked to get more information for the next town board meeting.

- e. Citizen's Feedback: Supervisor Gondeck reported on a complaint from Jeanette Kroll on Hemlock Road complaining about junk yards in the neighborhood; Tom Fussy has cleaned up the yard. Clerk was asked to write a letter of thank you to Tom who took 15 loads of junk out of the neighborhood. There was also a complaint about trailer houses on Indigo Road.
- f. Citizen's Issues: Paul Jacobs asked about progress toward having one garbage hauler in the township. Supervisor Erdmann said he feels there is too much opposition to this from residents.

Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed at 9:50pm.

Respectfully submitted Pat Spence