

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes  
November 1, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was held on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the town hall. Board members present were Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Supervisor Ed Kacures Jr., Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, and Supervisor Craig Gondeck. The meeting was tape-recorded since Clerk Pat Spence and Deputy Clerk Maureen Graber could not be present. Those present in the audience were: Kevin Reiter, Jay Gunderson, Jim Rau, and Bob Raveling.

Announcements included: (1) sympathy to the family of Vic Saldana, who passed away,: (2) to the Mike Herbrand family, employee of Benton County Highway dept. for 36 years and in charge of maintenance for plowing our highways, who passed away; (3) get well wishes to Andrew Zwach, who is in our prayers following his motorcycle accident; and (4) Verso Paper Mill employees who lost their jobs. Changes to agenda include gravel pit update, acceptance of two donations for equipment, water resource update, and Jim Rau's plat. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed approving the agenda with the above-listed additions. The minutes were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures, and the motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to pay the monthly bills as presented and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Jay Gunderson appeared regarding his plat, Frosty Acres; it was approved with no plat manual procedures because there are no roads in the plat; only boundary lines will be changed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed approving the plat for Frosty Acres. Jim Rau appeared regarding his plat, Sandy Acres Plat. Supervisor Gondeck was assigned to work with him on the plat manual procedures; his preliminary plat was approved on motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Old Business included:

1. Knife River retainage payment: silt fencing has not been removed, and the board has not received a report from Jon Bogart.
2. Update on County Road 79 is tabled, because Jon Bogart has many other projects. Supervisor Erdmann is to follow up on suggestion by Supervisor Gondeck to look into a possible grant for state aid highways.
3. Culvert marking project has been completed by Supervisor Gondeck, and the board authorized Supervisor Gondeck to put up three reflectors on 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Plaziak Road.
4. Sign Project Update has been completed.
5. Ferry Point Mailbox Update: tabled.
6. MS4 permit update: there are two outstanding MS4 storm water permits. George Mastey did not close out the town hall permit; and Jason Chapman didn't close the permit on Roseanna Beach Road; Supervisor Gondeck conferred with Clerk Spence about the permits. Fifth Avenue was closed out by Supervisor Gondeck. Clerk Spence and Supervisors did not know these permits were open until Jon Bogart contacted Supervisor Gondeck about them.
7. Supervisor Gondeck will meet with Benton County Emergency Service Director, Jim McDermott and Clerk Pat Spence on research for a grant for a public address system for the town hall. Supervisor Gondeck stated that all the time he spends on emergency service for the township is supervised by Jim McDermott and is donated time.
8. Supervisor Gondeck reported on what he had learned about our in-floor heating system. He was asked to look into the percentage of concentration of glycol, temperature for protection, and what type of glycol is in the system before the board makes a decision. He is to report his

findings to Clerk Spence. The entire system will need to be purged. Supervisor Gondeck has two quotes for a gas boiler; this is tabled for future consideration.

9. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the MNDoT speed study for three roads: West Lake Road, 100<sup>th</sup> Street, and Burton Court. West Lake Road is recommended for a change in speed limit to 30mph. He said the board should list their concerns about each road in the future. Other recommendations are still pending.
10. County Sign Update was given by Supervisor Gondeck: county has completed 911 signs in Watab Township and installation of other signs that were needed. Additional sign will be placed on Suez Road going south and 108<sup>th</sup> Street going east with an arrow. Arrow signs will be added on West Lake Road, West Lake Court, Roseanna Beach Road. All signs are installed by the county.
11. Ditch Mowing Report: the board feels that the job was excellent. Supervisor Kacures read an e-mail from Geno Beniek, "Sanbur Trail Boss," that stated the ditch mowing was the best cut in the 35 years he has lived in the township. Double cut in the fall should continue.
12. Report on the STS Crew's Work: Supervisor Gondeck reported that the crew did tree trimming on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW on the east and west side; tree removal on 107<sup>th</sup>; West Lake Road trimmed four areas, Circle Pines & 10<sup>th</sup> Ave NW, Frost Road, and Ivy Place. Supervisor Gondeck donated his time for supervising them.
13. Gravel Pit on County Road #78: Supervisor Gondeck spoke with Commissioner Wollak about the issue of the county's contractor taking gravel from an unpermitted pit for this county road project. In the future, the county board has instructed the head of the highway department to communicate with the department of development so that permits are in place before road projects begin. This pit will be permitted "after the fact." There will be further discussion. Commissioner Wollak thanked Supervisor Gondeck for bringing this to the county board's attention. There will be a meeting on December 13 regarding the new ordinance on the gravel tax. The township will receive a notice of the meeting.
14. Donations: Supervisor Gondeck asked for approval of the donation of two pieces of equipment. The first is a post-hole driver and posts from Ray Thompson Jr. Also, Randy Fernholz donated a sign post straightener. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed accepting both donations. It was requested that the Clerk send them letters of appreciation.
15. Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck thanked Pines Edge Gas Station for the use of their parking lot, the dumpster, and porta-potty. Channel 3 put an ad on for us. Pat Spence for the website, businesses who put posters in their windows. It was a great success because of everyone's help. He wants these businesses to know how much their work is appreciated. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the debris that was brought to clean up day. He recommended increasing the cost for tires next year.
16. Water Resource Council: Supervisor Gondeck and Guy Spence are looking for ideas from citizens to protect the water. Please contact either one of them.
17. Town Hall Lawn Treatment: invoice for the Cove was sent to the township clerk. She contacted the contractor to have the invoice redone; it has not been received by meeting date.

#### New Business:

1. Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> is the Sauk Rapids-Rice School District Levy Referendum; hours are 7am to 8pm at the Watab Town Hall.
2. Road Certification to Benton County is due by early December. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to approve the report as presented by the county with 43.15 miles of township roads. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. This is the same mileage as last year. Supervisor Kacures is mailing the report.
3. Correspondence: two items were covered previously during the meeting;

4. Rice Fire Contract: the board has received copies of the proposal that was developed at the planning meeting. Supervisor Kacures said that he didn't know if Clerk Spence had sent it to Scott Hamak. He will talk to the Clerk about it. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to have it forwarded to the city as soon as it's reviewed by the attorney. He added that Graham Township is negotiating at a meeting next Monday at their town board meeting. He recommended that the town board from Watab attend to show them support. Supervisor Gondeck said that our board should only observe. The Chair asked when the board should send Watab's proposal to the City. Supervisor Gondeck will ask the Clerk to advertise the meeting as a Committee of the Whole.
5. Committee Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton County Economic Development Meeting. Some of the area businesses are doing very well. There are also a few businesses that are receiving financing from Benton Co. Economic Development. There was a discussion with Kathy Zapala from Benton – Stearns Unemployment Office regarding Verso's work force. She will assist them in finding other employment. She was supported with a \$50,000 grant to assist in this project. Supervisor Gondeck encouraged everyone to reach out to the displaced workers, because they need our support.
6. Board Work Plan for Upcoming Month: Supervisor Erdmann will do some tree trimming on low lying limbs on Lakewood Shores Rd NW and there is a request for additional brush cutting on Holly Place from Jerry Post; Supervisor Gondeck will take care of that project.
7. Chair Kacures discussed passing a resolution regarding damage to road right of ways by snow plowing onto culverts, which has caused water to back up and cause erosion of the road. It is illegal to plow snow onto the township road right of way. Supervisor Erdmann suggested a fine for those who illegally deposit snow on the road right of way; if the fine isn't paid, it can be assessed on property taxes. This should be approved by the township attorney. Supervisor Gondeck thought that this should be brought to a public hearing. Chair Kacures will bring this to the attention of Clerk Spence and ask her to discuss it with Scott Hamak. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to this affect; Supervisor Gondeck seconded it and suggested having an ad in Sauk Rapids Herald, ad on Channel 3 and Twin Pines and town hall posting board. Supervisor Erdmann said to have the Clerk write it. Supervisor Gondeck asked how the board could prove that the homeowner deposited the snow on the road right of way; it could be deposited by someone else who is plowing snow. The board feels that it isn't fair to the taxpayers to thaw culverts when an individual homeowner covers a culvert with snow from their driveway. Motion passed. The state statute should be cited in the ad and reviewed by the Clerk.
8. Chuck Ertl was present and the board chair read him the complimentary e-mail from Geno Beniek.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence