

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 3, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00pm by Chairman Craig Gondeck on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Supervisors Craig Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, and Ed Kacures Jr.; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Paul Jacobs, Rosie Johnson, and Maureen Graber.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the board approved the agenda with the removal of the Frontage Road Update and the addition of the Annual Meeting. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to approve the agenda with these changes. Motion passed. The minutes were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures, with the change of Norway Pines demolition occurring after February 18 rather than February 16. Motion passed. Treasurer Eileen Saldana gave the cash and investment report; it was approved on motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. There were no citizen issues.

The monthly bills were presented for review. Chair Gondeck noted that he will abstain from voting on approval of the Amber Schoenherr claim for letterhead design, because she is related to him. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve all bills as presented for claims 4041 through 4054 totaling \$4,526.30 and payroll totaling \$3,112.17 and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Chair Gondeck gave an update on the road maps being printed by Mustang Maps. The board added Johnson Road and will have all private roads marked. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the amending township road map. The motion passed.

Chair Gondeck gave a report on the printing of letterhead stationery. After getting three quotes, he is having the printing done by Copy Central. 2,000 copies will be \$385.

Supervisor Kacures showed the township newsletter that will go out this week. It is four-color. The board thanked Supervisor Kacures for his many hours on the newsletter.

Supervisor Gondeck said that the burned out home in Norway Pine Estates was removed today. He then made the motion to advertise the excess personal property that was left on site. This includes a boat with motor, accessories for the boat, weights and a weight stand, and miscellaneous books. The property is currently being held at Supervisor's Erdmann's garage. Sealed quotes will be accepted by the Clerk until March 24, 2009. Then property will be sold to the person submitting the highest quote. Motions was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed.

Supervisor Kacures will be attending the Rice Fire Board meeting on March 4 at 5:30pm. He believes that we will learn our costs for the coming year at that meeting. He noted that Graham Township wants to turn down a 7% increase. Supervisor Kacures has not received response to his request for proof that legal costs that Rice has incurred are not being passed on to the townships. The Clerk said that she has received one month's financial reports; they are not only for the fire fund receipts and reimbursements, but rather the city clerk sent a payroll report and list of receipts and disbursements for all city funds. Clerk Spence said that she would need to spend time to go through and pull out fire receipts and disbursements. Maureen Graber offered her voluntary services to audit the Rice Fire financial information. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to authorize Maureen to go with Supervisor Kacures to the fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed. Supervisor Gondeck asked Supervisor Kacures to ask whether or not the Rice Fire Department has applied for the Homeland Security grants that are available. It does not appear that Rice has applied. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion that Supervisor Kacures only approve a 7% increase in our contract costs for the coming year if the fire department can justify the increase as an emergency need; otherwise it should be no higher than 3% has provided for in the contract. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Supervisor Kacures said that he will emphasize that Rice needs to get their spending lowered. He will ask them for an annual report.

Supervisor Gondeck said that he is looking into a separate control for heating the Clerk's office. She does not want to raise the temperature for the heat in the entire building when she is working in her office. She is currently using a space heater, which he feels might be a fire hazard. He will continue to look into this.

Qwest has inquired if they need permits to dig in township ditches; they have no immediate plans at this time; Supervisor Gondeck will communicate with them. He reported that the township has received approval for a \$10,000 SCORE grant for 2009. He will add the amount we pay for burning permits and Adopt a Highway signs to our match.

Supervisor Erdmann asked whether the board would support having a contract with one garbage hauler to pick up garbage and recycling in the township to save wear and tear on the roads and reduce pollution. Supervisor Gondeck recommended that he ask for citizen input on this at the annual meeting. Treasurer Saldana said that she would be opposed to this.

A special meeting will be called in April for a meeting between the building inspector and contractors regarding septic system inspections. At that meeting, storm water issues will also be discussed if Maureen Graber and Paul Schwinghammer have their work completed at that time.

Bill Mayland wants input on spending the park money sometime in April. He told Supervisor Gondeck that the county board is going to want the townships to do more of the work due to budget costs.

Clerk Spence reviewed the monthly correspondence:

1. E-mail from Vicki Waytashek on snowplowing 5th Avenue. It was delayed since there was a substitute driver and he missed a couple of roads the first day.
2. Letter from Bob Erickson on 5th Avenue; Supervisor Gondeck said there's a lot of interest in the project. Supervisor Erdmann said that Bob is talking about compressing the peat; the board already voted to remove the peat; he said that 2/3 of Bob's letter addresses items that are no longer relevant. This will be discussed at the April meeting
3. Township day at the Capitol is Wednesday, April 1.
4. Spring Short Course for all township officers is Monday, March 23 at the Holiday Inn in St. Cloud.
5. Board of Appeal and Equalization is scheduled for Wednesday, April 29th at 2:30 pm at the town hall.
6. The order, judgment and summary enforcement has been received from Rinke Noonan regarding the case of Watab Township vs. Corey Miller and AmTurst Bank.
7. Community Growth Institute sent a 2009 Training Schedule on planning.

Clerk Spence also reviewed the annual report format; the board approved the information. She noted that absentee voting is Saturday, March 7, 2009 from 10am until noon at the town hall.

Supervisor Issues:

1. Attorney from Rinke Noonan is working for Benton County, looking into whether or not townships can put unpaid calls for fire calls on taxes.
2. The Clerk and Supervisor Gondeck met with John Herges for info on financing Fifth Avenue improvements. Information will be shared at the annual meeting.
3. Supervisor Gondeck filled out a complaint form on Dept of Dev. Regarding changes recommended on signs for Little Rock Road NW and NE. Sucker Creek Road is the dividing point. There has been a long delay in getting action on this request.
4. Snowplowing calls have been resolved.
5. Supervisor Kacures said that Benton County Commissioners are going "on the road" for some of their meetings this year, and some meetings will be held in the evening. Speed limit signs on Plaziak Road have been shot at again and painted. They will have to be replaced. AED's: \$1,700 for the unit he recommends.

Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Supervisor Kacures; the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence