

Watab Town Meeting
March 7, 2023
Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 7:01 p.m.

Members present were Supervisors Julie Johnson and Steve Wollak; Deputy Clerk Sandra Saldana.

Others in attendance were: Robin Wollak, Paul Wippler, Ray Thompson, Jesse Arndt, Amanda Othoudt

Additions to the agenda:

Item 11: ARPA BNSF

Item 12: Well at Lake Andrew

Item 13: BEP 3 year membership

Item 14: Traut Wells

Supervisor Wollak motioned to approve agenda with added items. Second by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Supervisor Wollak to approve the Consent Agenda. Second by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's report shows a balance in accounts of \$932,210.36. Motion was made by Supervisor Wollak to approve the Treasurer's report. Second by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Supervisors Wollak to approve payment of bills, claims and payroll. Second by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin Kruger, WSB gave an update on the 2023 road construction report. They are working on survey but the amount of snow is slowing the process right now. They will need to work with the MNDOT regarding the water drainage issue of this road.

Benton Economic Partnership Presentation. Amanda Othoudt, Director gave an update on BEP. Housing study is near completion. Working on Broadband Initiative to fill out Benton County with fiber for Broadband in all areas. BEP currently has 118 total members. Since 2020 BEP has assisted in obtaining 2.4 million dollars in public incentives to Benton County Businesses. Amanda thanked Watab Township for continuing to be a member of BEP.

Road Report. Potholes are an issue everywhere due to the winter conditions. Snow and ice remain so will wait until better weather to evaluate the roads.

Treasurer Appointment. Motion was made by Supervisor Wollak to approve the appointment of Mary Shearer for the Treasurer's position. Second by Supervisor Johnson. Motion carried unanimously.

Water Softener quotes for Townhall. Supervisor Wollak requested quotes from three companies. Schultz Soft Water submitted a quote for a refurbished unit of \$3250 and a new unit for \$6495 with a 5-year warranty. Traut Wells submitted a quote for a new unit for \$7895. Finken did not submit a quote. Motion made by Supervisor Johnson to purchase a new unit from Schultz in the amount of \$6495.

ARPA – BNSF. BNSF submitted a bill to Watab township in the amount of \$96,000 for the work completed on the quiet crossing on 105th Street NW. Supervisor Johnson made a motion to pay the bill using APRA funds to make that payment. Second by Supervisor Wollak. Motion carried unanimously.

Lake Andrew Well. Supervisor Johnson was informed that the Lake Andrew Housing Development needs a new well. She received an email requested the well be located in the middle circle of the cul de sac

located at the bottom of the hill. The well would have to go into the road right away by 25 feet. After discussion, it was decided to send an email back stating the Township is not in favor that locating the well at that placement.

Benton Economic Partnership. Supervisor Johnson discussed Watab's membership with BEP. Motion was made by Supervisor Johnson to approve a 3-year membership with BEP. This would be for the years 2024-2026 as Watab is a member through year 2023. Second by Supervisor Wollak. Motion carried unanimously.

Well at the town hall. Traut Wells could fix the pressure switch for minimal cost. Other options would be to do a variable speed in the well at a cost of approximately \$2150. Another option would be to drill an 18' sand point well for the sprinklers.

Supervisor Johnson requested that Supervisor Wollak create a book for the maintenance on the building since Supervisor Wollak oversees the maintenance of the building. This would be very helpful for the future in order for the Township to continue maintenance.

Citizen's Input. Paul Wippler discussed Watab Township Annual Newsletter recent sent out. He commented on the newsletter being excellent with good information for the residents. He also thanked the current board for saving taxpayer money. The current newsletter was approximately \$3000 less than one that was sent out 5-7 years ago. It was also stated that the current board's payroll is very low. Wippler stated current board is doing a great job, being fiscally responsible and are able to put that savings into our township roads.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Saldana
Watab Township Deputy Clerk

Respectfully accepted,

Julie Johnson
Watab Township Chair