

2020 Watab Township Annual Meeting Minutes Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The 2020 Watab township annual meeting was called to order by Deputy Clerk Sandra Saldana at 8:15 p.m. Meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were Deb Okeefe, Julie Johnson, Steve Wollak, Todd Waytashek, Steve Johnson, Jeff Wollak, Jeff and Julie Fandal, Robin Wollak, Delroy Shane, Dothan Aleshire, John Polcher, Renee Polcher, Debra Poirier, Mike Burton, Dale Dirks, Doug Harden, George Taylor, Eugene Beniek, Wayne Larson, Vickie Waytashek, Ray Thompson, Natasha Barber, Terry Okeefe, Ed Kacures, Josh Wright, Bill Little, Kevin Reiter, Ben Dockendorf, Paul Wippler, Michael Barringer, Bob Raveling, David Johnson, Jessica Storkamp, and Lloyd Erdmann.

Julie Fandal nominated Jeff Wollak to be moderator. Second by Jack Polcher. There were no other nominations. All were in favor of Jeff Wollak to moderate.

There were no additions to the Agenda. Motion by Ben Dockendorf to approve agenda, second by Julie Fandal. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Eugene Beniek to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes, 2nd by Jack Polcher. Motion carried.

Chairperson Julie Johnson gave the financial report along with road and bridge report.

Road and Bridge: We will be completing the road project this year on 105th Street but not the quiet zone crossing as BNSF did not approve the quiet zone crossing. That will be completed at a later date. We have eight years left to pay on 5th Avenue project. We hired out the pothole repairs so it will last longer versus 2018 when the supervisors completed this. We also hired out some tree trimming in Lakewood Shores. Future road project will be West Lake Road which will be costly. We will be putting excess money into the road/bridge fund to prepare for this in hopes that we will not need to borrow money to complete this project.

Fire District 1: More residents paid their rescue/fire bills in 2019 compared to prior years. This was a significant improvement over the past years. Better education to the residents has helped. We collected a little over 50% of what the township was billed by the Rice Fire Department.

Fire District 2: We only see the fire bills as there are no medical calls. The Fire contract between Watab Township and Sauk Rapids Fire Department was signed for the next two years. We will be invoicing the residents for fire calls from this point forward as the Sauk Rapids Fire Department was invoicing in the past. Year-end balance for Fire District 2 is a little low. This amount needs to be increased as we need to pay the contract out prior to receiving the tax payments from Benton County.

Cost savings for Supervisors had a \$17,000 decrease in supervisors pay in the past two years. This is a significant savings from prior years.

Donation Requests:

Rice Recreation. Julie Fandal, Rice City Clerk presented a request for Rice Recreation. Julie stated that the new director is doing a great job. They are requesting a donation of \$3000. They did not do a donation request last year. Motion was made by Lloyd Erdmann to donate \$3000, 2nd by Jack Polcher. Motion passed.

Benton County Agricultural Society. Laura Faulkner, executive secretary of the Benton County Agricultural Society presented a request. They are requesting a donation of \$1000. Motion was made by Brian Erdmann to donate \$1000, 2nd by Lloyd Erdmann. Motion carried.

Benton Economic Partnership. Moderator Jeff Wollak read a request letter from John Uphoff requesting continued support to Benton Economic Partnership. Deputy Clerk Sandra Saldana further explained Benton Economic Partnership to the residents as she is Vice Chair of the board. Motion was made by Paul Wippler to donate \$2500, 2nd by Jack Polcher. Motion carried.

Setting the 2020 Township Levy:

General Fund. Motion was made by Ray Thompson to approve \$80,000, 2nd by Eugene Beniek. Motion carried. That is a \$0.00 increase from last year.

Road & Bridge Fund. Motion was made by Lloyd Erdmann to approve \$525,000, 2nd by Todd Waytashek. Motion carried. This is a \$30,000 increase from last year.

Fire District I – Rice. Motion was made by Paul Wippler to approve \$45,000, 2nd by Mike Burton. Motion carried. This is a \$10,000 decrease from last year.

Fire District 2 – Sauk Rapids. Motion was made by Mike Burton to approve \$55,000, 2nd by Dale Dirks. Motion carried. This is a \$7500 decrease from last year.

Road Debt Service: Motion was made by Mike Burton to approve \$60,000, 2nd by Julie Fandal. Motioned carried. This is a \$2500 decrease from last year.

Total: \$755,000 This is a \$10,000 increase from last year.

John Uphoff, Executive Director of Benton Economic Partnership gave a summary of the activities of BEP in the past year.

Preliminary Results of the Annual Election:

Three-year supervisor term:

Todd Waytashek had 74 votes, William (Bill) Little had 186 votes.

Two-year Township Clerk:

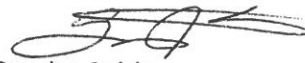
Write-Ins: Kathy Sauer had 42 votes, Pat Spence had 5 votes, Sandy Saldana had 3 votes, Lloyd Erdmann had 1 vote, Jon Hull had 1 vote, Sharon Sauer had 1 vote, and Karen Sauer had 1 vote.

Ballot Question regarding the Clerk being an appointed position. There were 124 Yes votes and 121 No votes.

Motion was made by Lloyd Erdmann to set the next annual meeting for Tuesday March 9, 2021 at 8:15 p.m. Motion also included that the Township election polls to be open from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Meeting to be held at the Township Hall, 2nd by Julie Fandal. Motion carried.

Motion made by Mike Burton to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Julie Fandal. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:



Sandra Saldana
Deputy Clerk