

**Minutes of Watab Town Board Meeting  
Tuesday, February 1, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall on Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Board members present were Chair Ed Kacures Jr., Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Bob Raveling and Kevin Reiter.

Chair Kacures made an announcement that Tony Froelich, a resident of Watab Township, has died and sends condolences to his wife Rosemary and his two daughters. Tony was a co-worker at the paper mill. Supervisor Gondeck thanked Maureen Graber for her service on the Benton Co. Planning Commission, and stated that unfortunately she was not reappointed for another term by Commissioner Joe Wollak. Since there was a resolution on file with Benton County requesting a representative on the Planning Commission from Watab Township because of our large population, the board discussed their disappointment about Maureen not being reappointed for another term. Everyone felt that she did a very good job. The new appointee is from the Gilman area. He thanked Guy Spence for his good leadership with the Little Rock Lake Association; and the Central MN Drug Force for its good work, especially with recent drug busts in the township.

The minutes of the January meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. The Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana and was approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck. She also reported on a recent meeting by the clerk and her with Kenneth Schulte at Edward Jones regarding the township investments. The board decided to keep the funds in the money-market account at Edward Jones. Interest rates are still very low for investments that the township is eligible to use. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to approve payment of the month's bill for claims 4550 through 4466 and to authorize the Treasurer to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Clerk Spence presented the revised 2011 Budget with the board's revisions from the previous meeting. It was approved unanimously through a motion by Supervisor Kacures and second by Supervisor Gondeck.

The board discussed the 2011 Township Newsletter and what still needs to be done. Supervisor Gondeck will write an article on control of dogs in the township neighborhoods. There are several reports of dogs running loose. The Clerk thanked Chair Kacures for organizing the newsletter. Supervisor Gondeck requested that the front page of the newsletter include a photo of the entire board; the Clerk will bring her camera to the Friday meeting. Sponsors for the newsletter will not be sought until next year.

Chair Kacures reported that the Town Attorney had finalized the letter to the City of Rice regarding their incompliance with the fire contract and billing the township interest. The Clerk

sent the letter to the Fire Chief, Fire Board members, Mayor, and Rice City Council members. There has been no response.

Supervisor Gondeck met with Benton County Engineer Bob Kozel regarding the roads that had been renamed in Watab Township without town input. He learned that the Department of Development had used the wrong map and the new signs will be removed and replaced with the correct names this spring.

Supervisor Gondeck is looking into a waterproof posting board for the Town Hall; the current one has been damaged by the lawn sprinklers. He also met with an electrician and lights have been fixed in the parking lot. The electrician does not think that the thermostat is working correctly in the town hall and it will be replaced. He looked into the cost of our electric bill. Since the in-floor heat was not installed with sand layers to store the heat, off-peak rates cannot be utilized.

The Board of Equalization has been scheduled for 2:30pm on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall.

The Clerk reported on preparation for the Annual Meeting & Election, which is Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 11am until 8pm with the annual meeting to follow. The 2012 levy recommendations by the board are \$100,000-Revenue; \$200,000-Road and Bridge; \$70,000-Fire; \$25,000-Building. The only change from the 2011 levy is a reduction of \$5,000 for the Fire Fund. The board reviewed the draft of the agenda for the Annual Meeting and added a report by Traci Balder, Assessor. Finally the board approved Resolution 2011-1: Appointment of Election Judges for the 2011 election through a motion by Supervisor Kacures and second by Supervisor Erdmann. Supervisor Erdmann made the motion to approve Absentee Voting at the town hall from 10am until noon on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed. The Clerk explained the new law requiring an Absentee Ballot Board. Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck will be the township's board. The Board of Canvass date was set for March 8<sup>th</sup> following the annual meeting through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures.

Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on the Rockwood Estates Sewer project; MPCA notified them that they need to spend \$300,000 to update their sewer; they will be doing this and remaining part of the township since it would cost \$1.28 million plus user fees to join the City of Rice's system and be annexed.

Supervisor Reports included:

1. No Fire Board Meetings: Supervisor Kacures
2. Benton Co. Economic Development: Supervisor Gondeck reported some development activity in the area; he talked about the potential economic impact to the City of Foley for the Highway 23 project. High prices are expected for farm commodities; he thanked Senator Amy Klobuchar for help for a resident.
3. TMDL Study Meeting: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the meeting and also about a large problem with manure spread on frozen ground in Sauk Rapids Township, which will drain into our waterways this spring.

The board reviewed the town hall rental rates: Brockway Township charges a \$250 damage deposit; residents are not charged a rental fee for using the hall. Collegeville Township doesn't rent the hall. Livonia Township requires a \$200 deposit and has no charge for rent. LeSauk Township charges \$25 rent. Big Lake Township charges \$300 to rent the hall (\$200 for ½ the building); non-profits have no fee to rent. Palmer Township charges \$75 rent to residents and \$150 for non-residents; nothing for non-profits; and a \$150 deposit. The board decided to get input on rental fees for the town hall at the annual meeting; the board set a maximum rate of \$25 for board members to open and close the hall for an event.

Clerk Spence read the correspondence. She is to invite the Benton County Ag Society to annual meeting to make its request for a donation in person according to current policy.

Upcoming Meetings: Friday, closed meeting at 10am with attorney; Benton Co. Association of Townships on Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at Mr. Jim's in Foley; March 2<sup>nd</sup> the regular meeting; and March 8<sup>th</sup> annual meeting.

Supervisor Kacures reported a road issue near the entrance to Oak Hill Estates. Nothing will be done until the road tour in April. Supervisor Erdmann is working with aerial photographs to calculate how much gravel has been removed from Watab gravel pits and whether the gravel tax has been paid; Supervisor Gondeck commented on Pat Spence's photo in the past issue of the MAT newspaper.

Supervisor Kacures asked if there were any citizen's issues; Kevin Reiter reported problems with glare ice on his road. Supervisor Erdmann added concern about windrows of snow left at intersections; he will talk to Ron Burski about it. The Clerk was also asked about the Absentee Voting process. She said that as soon as the ballots are received, people can contact her for an absentee ballot if they will be out of the precinct on election day. There are also two hours of absentee voting at the town hall on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am until noon.

Supervisor Kacures reminded the board that he will not be at the March meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35pm through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence