

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2011**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order on Tuesday, December 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall by Vice-Chair Craig Gondeck. Also present were Clerk Pat Spence, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann. Audience members were Bob Raveling and Paul Jacobs. Announcements by Supervisor Gondeck included special thanks to Craig Harden for saving the lives of the mother and child, whose car went into Little Rock Lake on County Rd 2. He also noted that he and his wife Jana have had a campaign for many years to encourage people not to drink and drive during the holidays. Treasurer Eileen Saldana was also wished a Happy Birthday, and she was thanked for her dedication to the township.

The meeting agenda was approved with the addition of a resolution of support for the gravel tax ordinance at Benton County: motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

The minutes of the November 1 meeting were approved with a change to #10 under Old Business; it should state that the county has completed the street address signs, rather than 911 signs; there were no changes to the November 29th minutes: motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann. The Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Eileen Saldana and approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; the Clerk and Treasurer were thanked by Supervisor Erdmann for their good work with the township finances.

The monthly bills were approved for payment of claims 4729 through 4747, including the remaining one-half of the 2011 Rice Fire Department Contract in the amount of \$18,645.14 (invoice not received): motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann.

Old Business included:

1. Supervisor Gondeck met with Jim Rau and the Sauk Rapids Fire Department regarding the plat, Sandy Acres. The fire chief would like a 15-foot turn around for fire trucks; Jim has agreed to include this, and is willing for the stipulation to be included in a letter of understanding, along with the understanding that the township will not take over the roads in the plat until they are improved at his expense up to township road standards. Clerk Spence was asked to write a letter of agreement including these two stipulations. This must be signed before any new homes are built in Sandy Acres. Motion to approve the above was made through motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann.
2. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his research regarding the heating issue at the town hall; he reported that Jim Petron will put propylene glycol in the in-floor heating pipes. Jim recommends shutting down the in-floor heating system after the mix is put in. The quote for installation of a gas boiler is \$2,800; the board agreed to do nothing at this time regarding purchase of a boiler. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to set the thermostat for the in-floor heat furnace at 40 degree as a safety backup; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck. At this time Supervisor Ed Kacures Jr. arrived, and he took over chairmanship of the meeting.

3. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has marked all the township culverts and also five stop signs now have reflective markers. He said there has been positive feedback.
4. Supervisor Gondeck reported that a public meeting was held at the county on the gravel pit operating without a permit: the pit owner and contractor did not show for the meeting. The commissioners agreed that there should have been a permit; in the future the county engineer will need to check with the Department of Development to make sure there is a permit on file.
5. Jon Bogart, township engineer consultant, was present to report on the railroad crossing quiet zone. He has talked with the county and assistant engineers. The plan for County Road 79 is altered to meet their desires; the board read an e-mail from Maureen Graber regarding the quiet zones. There was discussion regarding her message, and it is placed on file. The board is waiting for response from the railroad. Jon's crew is currently working on a survey on the Lakewood Shores Crossing. He will bring the survey and projected costs to next month's meeting. Maureen Graber questioned if we can spend money on a county road in her e-mail; the Clerk reported that the township cannot spend money on county road improvements, so it will need to be a county expense or paid by the citizens who will benefit.
6. Knife River Retainage Update: There is no response from Knife River on their final bill; they have not paid their sub-contractors. Jon Bogart has contacted them six to eight times and sent two or three letters; now this issue is up to them. The Clerk was asked to call the MAT office on the statute of limitations regarding payment.

New Business included:

1. The board discussed doing a 2012 annual newsletter and decided to do one with the following articles:
 - a. Railroad crossing quiet zones update info: Lloyd Erdmann
 - b. Snow Plowing Notice: Pat Spence
 - c. Craig Gondeck: Clean Up Day & Adopt a Highway Update; STS Crew Update Work; Culvert and sign marking
 - d. Summer Road Work: Ed Kacures
 - e. How to rent hall: Pat Spence
 - f. Financial Report: Pat & Eileen
 - g. Dog Control: Board
 - h. Fire Contracts and Potential for Fire Districts: Ed Kacures
 - i. New County Policy on Sand bagging for potential flooding: Craig GondeckAll articles should be to Ed by the January meeting. Clerk should bring camera to next meeting to take a board photo. Clerk Spence has sent letters to township vendors asking for sponsorship of the newsletter.
2. Resolution on Homestead Credit: the board will ask the legislature to reinstate the homestead credit. Clerk Spence was asked to draft a resolution for next meeting; she should ask MAT about who is introducing the bill; the letters should be sent to all area legislators and the letters should be signed by all the Supervisors.

3. Clerk Spence and Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann's terms of office are ending in March; the Clerk has filed the notice of filing for office; affidavits of application may be filed between January 3 and 17 with the Town Clerk.
 4. Graham Meeting Update: Supervisor Erdmann reported on his attendance, along with Supervisor Gondeck, at the Graham Town Board meeting for discussion about their future Rice Fire Contract. Mayor Fiedler offered Graham Township a contract that is 2.35% of their net tax capacity. This would make Graham's bill one half the amount of the previous contract. However, there would be billing for each call in the amount of \$325 for the first hour and \$250 for each additional hour of all calls, including false alarms. Graham's share of what Rice needs for their fire truck fund is 17% of \$55,000; Graham is going to negotiate further; they are also seriously considering having part of their township east of Highway 25 and south of Silver Corners served by the City of Foley.
 5. Adopt a Highway Update: Supervisor Gondeck reported that several more township roads have been adopted and stated that he donates his time to put up the signs
 6. Emergency Management: Jim McDermott recommends the township sign up for a program called Active Shooters; he will send the township the paper work; you can touch a button to contact the sheriff's office if you are threatened. Supervisor Gondeck will bring this back to the board. He also reported that Benton County will not provide sand bags or labor to residents for future flooding; this information should be included in the annual newsletter.
 7. Resolution on Gravel Tax: There is a county meeting scheduled for December 13th at 9am at the courthouse. The Clerk was asked to draft a letter supporting the new county ordinance. All board members should attend the meeting, if possible.
 8. Clerk Spence read the monthly correspondence.
 - a. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Benton County Economic Development Board meeting; Bill Tower reported on work to get an airline at the St. Cloud Airport. They would like to get into the air freight business. There is good cooperation from groups on trying to get business into the area.
 9. Complaints: Rose Deters was very upset about the snow plowing on Lakewood Shores Road and Circle Pines after the November storm. Her complaint report was read to the board. Also, Supervisor Kacures brought up a phone call he made to Nancy Scott regarding someone in his neighborhood who did work without a building permit for re-shingling. Nancy will send a letter trying to collect the fee.
 10. Upcoming Month's Work: December 13th Gravel Meeting; Economic Development Board; Rice City Council Meeting on December 19th at 7pm to request a meeting at the town hall to discuss a future fire contract with Rice; Supervisor Kacures will attend and present six copies of our draft contract. STS Crew will come in to work on Lakewood Shores and possibly one other area; Supervisor Gondeck will coordinate this.
 11. Citizen's Issues: Bob Raveling complained about the snow plowing; he also asked the board to look at overhanging trees on Frost Road and Shoestring Loop.
- The meeting adjourned at 9pm through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.

Submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk