

Watab Town Board Special Meeting Minutes
November 29, 2011

A special meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm on Tuesday, November 29th by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All town board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr., Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck, and Clerk Pat Spence. Guests present were Allen and Sandra Saldana and Chuck Popp.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss proposals for the new Rice fire contract and a proposed amendment to the road right of way ordinance regarding placement of snow in town road right of ways.

Chair Kacures explained that there is one year remaining on Watab's fire contract with the City of Rice. Langola Township has already signed a new agreement; Chuck Popp said that Graham Township has approached many residents about their insurance costs if they split the township and have Foley serve part of the township or the entire township. The Graham Board has listened to Rice Mayor Fiedler and Steve Janski from the Fire Department and has taken a future contract under advisement; they have not made a proposal to the City of Rice for a new contract. Chuck said the Graham Board questions how the City of Rice can now offer a lower cost-per-year contract for the next two years and that there is not a trust level that this lower cost would continue into the future years.

The board discussed Watab's drafted contract, which utilizes the standard template from the Minnesota Association of Townships and follows the terms of the township's contract with the City of Sauk Rapids for the southern 2/3 sections: 1.55% of the total net tax capacity, same hourly billing rate, and the City of Sauk Rapids does the billing to the residents for all calls. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, to approve the fire contract as discussed. Motion passed. Clerk Spence was asked to request that the township be placed on the City of Rice's next council agenda to formally request a meeting date for negotiations of a new contract; negotiations meeting is to be held at the town hall.

The board discussed adding an amendment to the Road Right of Way Ordinance to address the problem of residents placing snow from driveways over culverts, which has caused township cost for thawing the culverts and correcting resulting damages to the adjacent township road. Placement of snow from private property to public road right of ways is governed by Minnesota State Statute. After considerable discussion, the board decided to have the Clerk send a notice to residents on Fifth Avenue who have driveways with culverts explaining that future infractions to the statute will result in the resident paying for the remediation instead of the township picking up the cost. The following language will be added to the township's notice: "If a violation of this statute is brought to the attention of the town board, the property owner will be notified by registered letter that the practice must be discontinued. If it continues and consequential damages result, the property owner will be assessed the cost of correcting and/or remediating the problem." In addition to a letter to Fifth Avenue residents, the Clerk was also requested to post this notice on the town website and on Channel 3 and send letters to all Lakewood Shores Road residents. The board will ask Ron Burski to advise them of problems on other roads where residents are plowing their snow across the township road and making ridges. A copy of the notice should also be emailed to Supervisor Gondeck, who will post it at the Twin Pines posting board. This action will be taken rather than a formal amendment to the Right of Way Ordinance.

Supervisor Erdmann made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the permit request from Qwest to place a telephone utility at 7 ½ Ave NW for the Lanners project and to authorize the Clerk to sign it. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk