

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes January 3, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr., Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present include: Mike Flannery, Maureen Graber, Allen Saldana, and Paul Jacobs. Supervisor Gondeck made the following announcements:

- Deepest sympathy to Merle Long family
- Deepest sympathy to Jerry Stock family
- Deepest sympathy to Harry Scott family
- Well wishes to Chelle Benson on her new job and thanks for her work for Watab Township
- Thanks to Peggy and John Herman for their volunteer work as leaders of the Rice Food Shelf; Supervisor Gondeck also requested that residents remember the Rice Food Shelf as a non-profit which needs our support.

Approval for Agenda was given with the addition of a Benton Co. Economic Development meeting report and Outdoor Warning Siren Grant.

Approval for December meeting minutes was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to accept the report, seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the monthly bills for payment of Claims # 4748-4759 and electronic transfer payments for PERA, MN Revenue, and IRS and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts; motion passed.

Harold Huver appeared at the meeting regarding outdoor wood burners near his property. He said his home has an air exchanger, which was required when he built his home. Two outdoor boilers in his neighborhood have stacks so low to the ground that the smoke gets sucked into his house. He asked what could be done about it. Supervisor Kacures investigated whether or not there is a county ordinance and couldn't find any information. Supervisor Erdmann said he was aware that you couldn't burn anything toxic. Supervisor Gondeck asked for permission to talk to the owners of the wood boilers to see if they can do anything to correct it and also to talk to other cities who are dealing with this same issue, such as Upsala.

There was a plat meeting for Sandy Acres on December 27th at Benton County. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to change the letter of understanding for Jim and Sandy Rau to state: "The letter of agreement must be signed the day of the final plat." A letter should be sent to the owners informing them of this decision. The plat will be reviewed by the Planning Commission on January 12 at 7pm. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures. Another amendment was suggested by Supervisor Erdmann: "add that all roads remain private roads until they are approved to the standards of Watab Township at the developer's expense, at which time the owner may petition to have the road accepted by the township." Motion was passed. The Clerk is to amend the letter of understanding.

The Lakewood Shores Quiet Zone Crossing field work has been completed; plans should be ready by the February board meeting. Co. Rd 79 crossing design has been reviewed by the county and the railroad will be reviewing it. Supervisor Gondeck had two questions: (1) on Lakewood Shores crossing what type of material needs to be used for fill? Could Marty Reker's dirt piles in Paradise Plat be potentially donated and used? He was given permission to ask Marty, and (2) when the Co. Rd 79 project started, Supervisor Erdmann said there was over \$13,500 in donations; we can't spend money as a township on county road improvements, so the county will have to pay for it or those identified by Supervisor Erdmann as donors. Supervisor Kacures asked Jon if he could make a presentation on this at the annual meeting in March. Jon believes he can do so. Maureen Graber asked if the township is paying for the engineering costs on Co. Rd 79. The Clerk responded that Supervisor Erdmann has said there are private contributors to pay for the work; so far, the township has paid for the engineering costs and they are being tracked. Jon Bogart will not be doing any additional work on this project until there are additional private or county funds.

Knife River has not requested their retainage on Fifth Avenue. The board considers this closed since the project was completed more than a year ago. Some articles have been submitted for the annual newsletter. Maureen Graber suggested that an article be included about the township website and what it includes; Pat Spence will write it.

Resolution 2012-1: Requesting Restoration of the Homestead Credit was adopted by motion of Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck said that some people's taxes went up 60 to 70% as a result of the homestead credit being eliminated by the state legislature. The Chair was authorized to sign the resolution, and the Clerk was asked to send it to Senator Michelle Fishbach and Representative Tim O'Driscoll plus other area legislators asking for their support.

Supervisor Kacures attended the Rice City Council meeting on December 19th and presented each council member, the mayor, and the city administrator a copy of the township proposal for a new fire contract and requested a meeting date at the town hall to discuss it. The city will get back to us with a date. He asked for permission to attend both of Rice's City Council meetings in January. Supervisor Erdmann had a phone call from the Sauk Rapids Fire Department; they will be sending a new base contract to Clerk Pat Spence and this should be discussed at the next meeting. Next meeting would be Monday, February 6th - change due to precinct caucuses. January 24th was also called as a special meeting to discuss the Sauk Rapids Fire Contract and to conduct the annual Board of Audit.

Active Shooters: Supervisor Gondeck gave the Clerk information about the program. There is no fee. The Clerk was asked to confirm this and enroll the township.

Benton County Gravel Tax Ordinance Meeting: Supervisor Gondeck reported that there were about 30 people present; everyone present in the audience understood that there was a proposed change in the ordinance and the people attending would have an opportunity to speak. Allen Saldana stated that most of the pit owners present for the meeting would like to have the gravel tax eliminated. However, at the county meeting, audience members were not given the opportunity to testify. There is also a new rule that you must have permission from your county commissioner to be on the agenda at a county meeting.

Gravel Pit Final Report: Cory Tretter paid a fine to Benton County and got an after-the-fact permit from the Planning Commission. Supervisor Gondeck was told that the county would

keep doing business with Cory because he provides the lowest bid; and he was told that it is a dead issue.

The STS Crew was in the township and did work on 56th and the Plaziak Road ditch; Supervisor Gondeck donated his time for supervision and did the wood chipping.

Results of the township road speed study on Doeden Road and Burton Place were provided by MNDOT. Doeden Road was recommended for no change, because "it is a local traffic, low volume roadway with a surrounding environment of agricultural and wooded property." Burton Place was recommended for a 25mph speed limit. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to accept the MNDOT report on the roads and to order the 25mph signs. It is likely that MNDOT will recommend 30mph speed limit for West Lake Road, so those signs should also be ordered. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed accepting the recommendations and authorizing Supervisor Gondeck to purchase the signs.

Adopt a Highway Update: Geno Beniek adopted Sanbur Trail; Supervisor Gondeck is continuing to ask people to adopt remaining town roads. This will be advertised in the newsletter.

New Business:

1. Supervisor Gondeck said there have been several complaints of speeders on West Lake Road and residents are pleased that the speed limit will likely be 30mph in the future.
2. Completion of Final Tax Levy to County was completed by Clerk Spence with the amounts authorized at the annual meeting.
3. Board of Review has been set by the County Assessor for Thursday, April 5th at 2:30pm at the town hall. The township will include a notice in the annual newsletter that residents are requested to phone the county assessor to get an appointment; those persons will be heard first at the board of equalization meeting.
4. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed to renew the contract for monthly cleaning of the town hall with Wacosa; Chair Kacures signed the contract.
5. MPCA request a Watab sub-watershed delineation for the Mississippi River; the report was submitted by Clerk Spence to MPCA by the December 21 deadline. In the future we will be asked to have plans on reducing bacteria input to the Mississippi River. The Clerk thanked Katie Winkelman from the Benton County Soil and Water Conservation District for her assistance with the report.
6. The SCORE Grant report was submitted by Clerk Spence; the grant, if approved, will cover all the township costs for clean up day.
7. The board set the 2012 Budget Work Session for February 21st at 7pm.
8. Annual Election Information: It will be held on March 13 from 11am to 8pm. Resolution 2012-2 to set election judges and Resolution 2012-3 to establish an Absentee Ballot Board were adopted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.
9. Emergency Management Report: the Clerk received a letter from Jim McDermott regarding Federal grants available for outdoor sirens. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to apply to Benton County Emergency Management for one good quality outdoor siren ; the township would cover the 25% match. Supervisor Gondeck will contact Jim McDermott; motion was seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.

10. Board reports: Benton County Economic Development meeting: Supervisor Gondeck reported that Todd Schultz provided an update on Walgreens in Sauk Rapids: they are open and doing well. The City Hall construction is on time. There are a number of businesses in the industrial park that are expanding. Many are internal expansion including Wiman, CSI, Rice Building, and Schaffer Fan. Prospects are also looking at the Crystal Cabinet and Komo buildings. HDL will be expanding its building. Supervisor Gondeck also reported that Minden Township is interested in doing joint bidding on seal-coating road projects. Both KJohnson and Dillenburg Financial are expanding in Watab. Supervisor Gondeck completed his report by inviting everyone to a web site development workshop at Sauk Rapids High School; cost is \$10 and will be reimbursed.
11. Monthly correspondence: Clerk Spence informed the board about an election meeting she will attend in January with the county auditor
12. Chair Kacures reported that Jay Gunderson's plat for Frosty Acres was signed by Chair Kacures and Clerk Spence since the last meeting.
13. Supervisor Kacures had a phone call from a resident in Circle Pines who wanted to know if we have rules about parking semi-trailers in residential areas. Supervisor Kacures will let him know that he needs to talk to his neighbors and deal with safety issues. The trailer cannot be parked in the road right-of-way.
14. Citizen's Issues: Allen Saldana informed the board about some of the issues with wood boilers. People are now putting them in garages, and the smoke problem is the same.
15. Supervisor Gondeck said that there was a complaint on the snow plowing: Ron Burski took care of the problem areas immediately.
16. Motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:30pm by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence