

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes**  
**July 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. Board members present were Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann, and Supervisor Craig Gondeck. Audience members present were Nancy Scott, Allen Saldana, Bob Raveling, Jim Rau and Jon Bogart. Following the Pledge to the Flag, the following announcements were made by Supervisor Gondeck: sympathy to Taylor Baune family, grandson of residents of Watab, who was killed during military assignment in Afghanistan; sympathy to Ashley Shraut family on his death; sympathy to Andrew Sufka family following his death; and congratulations to Duane and Rosie Johnson as they celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

Approval of the Agenda: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the agenda as printed; motion passed. The minutes of the June meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann with the addition that Supervisor Kacures arrived at 7:05 p.m. and did not chair the meeting; motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Eileen Saldana reported a cash balance in checking on June 5, 2012 of \$217,053.86. Funds are deposited in two banks. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and motion passed to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to pay the bill to Bogart Pederson for the cost of the study for the County Road 79 crossing; motion seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, to pay the monthly bills as presented for claims # 4871-4889 and electronic payments for PERA, State of Minnesota and IRS for tax withholding deposits; motion passed.

Old Business:

1. Final Plat Approval for Sandy Shores: Jim Rau presented the plat for signatures by the Board Chair. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann for the Chair to sign the final plat; motion passed. Chair Kacures signed the plat.
2. Update on the Siren Grant: Chair Gondeck said that the grant may be handled at the state level.
3. Quiet Zone Update: Jon Bogart has drafted a notice of intent and given it to the Clerk; next thing to do is send the notice of intent when Jon ratifies to the Clerk that the address list is complete. Then there will be 60 days of public comment period. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, for the Clerk to send out the Notice of Intent as soon as Jon verifies it; motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck went to the County Commissioner Meeting on June 18<sup>th</sup> regarding the improvements on County Road 79's crossing. They approved a resolution to be the fiduciary for the County Road 79 crossing. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to sign Resolution 2012-25; motion passed; clerk should send the signed copy to the county administrator.
4. Road Projects Update: Jon Bogart responded to the board's request for a projected engineering cost to complete the railroad crossing projects. County Road 79 will be \$4,660 and Lakewood Shore will be \$9,040. Supervisor Erdmann suggested combining the projects to save on cost, especially for the railroad insurance. Jon will check on the possibility of doing this; however, the bills will need to be separated since Benton County will be the fiduciary for the County Road 79 crossing. The bidding process should be authorized at the August meeting. Supervisor Erdmann also reminded Jon that we should not close both crossings at the same time. ASTECH will be here on July 9<sup>th</sup> to do the crack sealing of the three township roads: Deerwood Road, Roseanna Beach Road, and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW; Supervisor Gondeck will pass out fliers to the residents notifying them of the work. Supervisor Gondeck suggested putting a termination date on a new contract for the engineer. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to enter into the contract

- as presented with Bogart Pederson as engineers effective today; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. Supervisor Gondeck thanked Jon for his good work. Contracts were signed.
5. Saldana Road Ditch: Supervisor Gondeck and Allen Saldana met on site today at Eileen Saldana and Philip Saldana's property to discuss the road condition. Allen said he has mixed feelings about the solution and described advantages and disadvantages to creating a swale on the north side of the road at their properties. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to table the issue and recommended that the board review it further.
  6. John Olson has signed the Memorandum of Understanding for his septic system project, which enters the township road right of way. The Clerk is to have this recorded with the County Recorder.
  7. Ellsworth Boe has not called again regarding blading of his road. Supervisor Gondeck recommends putting fill into the low spots. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to have Allen Saldana fill the low spots with crushed concrete and to blade the road ; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed.
  8. Progress on Lake Andrew Signs: letter has been sent; no response at this time.

#### New Business:

1. Contract Revision with Building Inspector: Nancy Scott would like to keep her current contract with the 180-day cancellation clause rather than going to a new two-year contract. Supervisor Gondeck asked how the permit rates were set; Nancy responded that they were bid rates. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to approve a new two-year contract from 2012 through 2014 with 180-day cancellation clause. Supervisor Kacures seconded the motion. Supervisor Erdmann said that this change is totally unnecessary. Motion passed with Supervisor Erdmann voting nay and motion passed. Nancy Scott received a complaint that construction was happening on a West Lake Road foreclosed property without proper land use and building permits. Nancy put a stop work order on the door of the home two times; property owners removed them and continued working. Nancy recommends that the board write a letter to the homeowner stating that we will authorize a building permit for interior work only with no reshingling, residing, or, preferably, that the township seek legal guidance on whether a building permit can be issued. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to authorize a building permit for the remodeling work on the interior of the home. The motion failed for lack of a second. Supervisor Kacures recommended that Clerk Spence contact Adam Ripple or Scott Hamak, township attorneys, to have a written opinion on how to respond to the homeowner's attorney. Then Nancy Scott will send a letter to Mr. Teschke stating that the township is seeking legal opinion. The board agreed to follow his advice and seek legal counsel. Supervisor Gondeck thanked Nancy Scott for her good work with a different, difficult building permit issue during the past month.
2. Snow Plowing Bid Documents: Clerk Spence presented the bid documents that have been legally noticed and the list of contractors that were sent the bid documents. Bid opening will be at the regular monthly August meeting.
3. Reports on MAT Conference: Supervisor Gondeck, Clerk Spence, and Treasurer Saldana attended. Supervisor Gondeck learned that all Memorandums of Understanding should be recorded with the County Recorder. The Clerk will work on this.
4. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to pass Resolution 2012-7 appointing Election Judges. All judges will need to be trained to be eligible to serve.
5. Upper Mississippi River Bacterial TMDL: Clerk Spence attended a stakeholder meeting at Elk River City Hall on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Watab Township is included since we are an MS4. Phil Votruba and Barb Peichel, MPCA gave a project update; Mike Sadowsky, Director of the BioTechnology Institute of the U of M, explained the new tracking process that is being used for determining the sources and sinks of fecal bacteria in the water. Sources currently being tracked are from cattle, swine, humans and pets. Tiffany Determan, Water Resources Specialist from Sherburne SWCD, described the demonstration project with

a farm in Stearns County on Johnson Creek; she is having difficulty getting participation from farmers in Sherburne County. Watab Township will be contacted by MPCA for a fall meeting of MS4 Stakeholders to work on the implementation plans.

6. Monthly Communications: applications for zoning permits to Benton County and letter from MAT regarding the new property valuation program were reviewed by the board.
7. Supervisor Reports:
  - a. Benton Co. Economic Development Meeting: Supervisor Gondeck reported on two companies that will be locating and hiring about 200 people in Benton County; the board toured the new Sauk Rapids City Hall and Police Station; Nancy Hoffman, Benton County Economic Development Director, has taken a job with Chisago County. Some county commissioners would like to abolish the economic development department. Supervisor Gondeck would like to have a resolution passed to have the township support continuing the economic development department and to hire a new full-time director. The resolution would be needed by July 11<sup>th</sup>. Clerk Spence will prepare it for the Chair's signature on Friday. Supervisor Gondeck also discussed the local and state efforts to help the paper mill rebuild. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to adopt the resolution of support for continuation of the economic development department.
  - b. Rice Fire Contract: Supervisor Kacures reported on an agenda that City Clerk Marie Weinand had emailed him about a city council meeting; Marie said that our fire contract would be on the agenda, but it was not listed on the agenda. Supervisor Gondeck attended the meeting. They tabled it to revise their proposal. Supervisor Kacures made a motion to authorize himself to sign and send a letter with the check for the first ½ payment for 2012 to the City of Rice; second by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.
  - c. Letter of Understanding with Sauk Rapids Fire Department: Supervisor Gondeck received a communication from the City of Sauk Rapids Finance Director that he won't sign the memorandum of agreement to accompany the fire contract, because if there is a fire with Burlington Northern property and they don't pay, the township would be responsible to collect it. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion authorizing the chair to sign the new two-year contract for fire protection in the southern 2/3 sections of the township with the City of Sauk Rapids. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. The contract was signed.
  - d. Supervisor Gondeck reported on the plans for controlling and alerting people when flooding is a danger.
8. Citizen's Issues: Jim Rau suggested that this agenda item come at the beginning of the meeting. He is very concerned about the impact on Watab Township of the new interchange being developed at Rice. The board discussed the concerns about safety with no frontage roads for the local traffic in the plans. The town board has expressed these concerns repeatedly in planning meetings during the past 10 years. Also, Supervisor Gondeck talked about a letter he received from Carlton County Transportation Department regarding the threat to residents by people making pop bottle bombs that are left in the ditches; he was given permission to post it. The Clerk will also post the information on the township website: [www.watabtownship.com](http://www.watabtownship.com).
9. Upcoming work assignments: Supervisor Gondeck is to finish the sign project; Clerk Spence also requested that poison ivy and thistles be treated; Supervisor Erdmann is to get all the easements for the railroad crossing project on Lakewood Shore Road.

Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, to adjourn at 10:25pm.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk