

**Watab Town Board Meeting  
May 1, 2012**

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7pm by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Board members present included Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr., Craig Gondeck, and Lloyd Erdmann. Audience members included Roger Peterson, David Schwinghammer, Maureen Graber, Paul Jacobs, Arvo Tanner, Kimberly Thielen Cremers, Chuck Ertl, Bob Raveling, and Jim Hoihjelle Jr., and Bob McGonagle.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the board approved the following Liquor License Renewals:

- Rumors Bar & Grill, Inc: On & off sale, wine & strong beer, intoxicating liquor, and Sunday Sale
- Oak Hill Golf Club Inc.: On sale and Sunday Sale
- Pines Edge Northern League Oil Co. Inc.: Off sale

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann commending the businesses and authorizing the renewal of all three liquor licenses as stipulated above and authorizing signatures for Watab Township's Chair and Clerk. Motion passed.

Annual Public Hearing of the MS4 Storm Water Permit: Chair Kacures called the public hearing to order. Clerk Spence reviewed the 2011 – 2012 happenings under the MS4 permit. Supervisor Craig Gondeck showed the maps of all the culverts and described run off concerns, especially in Oak Hill Estates. There are some plugged culverts there, which need to be addressed. All the man holes in developments are also identified as well as the drainage identified in all the developments and mapped. Some culverts in Oak Hill Estates still need to be addressed. Construction companies so far have followed the MS4 permits. Paul Schwinghammer checked on Bob Lanner's project. Silt fencing was taken down on Fifth Avenue. The township needs to manage all storm water run off. David Schwinghammer said that a landowner has only 24 hours to clean out a storm sewer that is not draining properly. Currently there are four man holes that are plugged in Golf Haven Estates. Minnesota Pollution Control can be contacted if there is a problem getting land owner cooperation. Public comments: Maureen Graber asked if we had any construction sites in the past year that needed a permit. She suggested a work shop for best management practices that would reduce run off. The township could also have a display in the town hall lobby during the fall election. Maureen would be willing to help with the education piece. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to enter a one-year contract with David Schwinghammer, Red Barn Ridge LLC for MS4 inspections and permitting. Motion passed.

Kimberly Thielen-Cremers, Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Mississippi Renaissance Project Director, presented best management practices for controlling storm water run off. These are some of the key points she covered:

- Mississippi River Renaissance was presented here two years ago. It is focused on local collaboration for resource protection. The stretch focused on is 27 miles from the Blanchard Dam to the 10<sup>th</sup> Street Dam in St. Cloud. The goal is to unite the urban, suburban and rural stretches of the river in Stearns and Benton Counties by bringing resources and information to the people whose decisions and actions can help keep the river healthy. There has been a great deal of public input into what people value: scenic beauty and protection of natural resources. Too much development is the number one concern.
- In 2012-13, Kimberly will be focusing on a landowner registry and technical assistance to local units of government. This assistance can also be one-on-one to landowners if desired.
- She is very involved in the St. Cloud Urban Area Mississippi River Corridor Plan: all government units in the urban St. Cloud area have adopted this formal document. Four focus areas are active recreation, ecosystem, tourism, and urban development.
- August 11, 2012 is the "Take a Day Off" Event at Stearns County and Bend in the River Parks. Over 130 volunteers help with this event. Last year there were 1,300 participants.

### Storm Water Best Management Practices:

- Storm water is water that originates during precipitation events or snowmelt. As it flows it picks up sediment, chemicals and other pollutants.
- It affects plants, fish, animals, people, streams, creeks, wetlands, drinking water, and recreational activities.
- Main problems are too much phosphorous, potential contaminants the water is carrying, and because impervious surfaces are increasing due to development.
- She showed photos of developments where the topsoil is removed and large homes are built. Soil gets compacted and will not absorb water. Sub soil is also compacted. This happens by driving on it with heavy, wheeled loaders.
- Every home has a large impact on storm water. A 1,500 square foot house x 1" rain=931 gallons of runoff.
- Storm drains go directly into the rivers and lakes. The first ¼ inch of rain makes the biggest impact.
- One pound of phosphorus = 500 lbs. algae.
- Watab probably has about a 20% runoff. This will only increase with future development.
- How can we fix the problem? Having people become part of the solution by: (1) making small changes in daily habits; (2) identify where storm water runoff is leaving your property; (3) implement low-impact development practices to capture storm water runoff and reduce the volume of water reaching our local waterways. Goal is to keep the rain drop close to where it drops.

How do we decrease amount of storm water runoff (volume)? Small scale projects include: rain gardens and rain barrels. She described rain gardens: generally less than 12 inches in depth, hold water for less than 48 hours, and planted with perennial plants, preferably native plants. Rain gardens collect the first ¼ inch to ½ inch of a rain event. If your total rooftop drainage area is 660 square feet you would need a 6' by 11' rain garden. Rain barrels can also capture the runoff from your roof. They are sold locally through Central MN Water Educational Alliance. There is a link through the Benton County website. Rain gutters should be disconnected and let water flow onto the lawns. Porous pavement is another deterrent to run off. Porous concrete is available at K Johnson Concrete.

Vegetated swales can be both in agricultural and residential neighborhoods. Green roofs and native buffer strips also reduce storm water pollution. Kimberly showed the roots of native prairie plants compared with the two-inch roots of lawn grass. She added that planting trees is extremely significant. Leaves intercept and hold the rain. A tree will reward you with \$3,750 of benefits. For every 5% of tree cover added you reduce runoff by 2%. She also reviewed some agricultural best management practices.

Maureen Graber inquired about the new ordinance in Crow Wing County. Kimberly said they dramatically improved their shoreline protection plan. It is very progressive and basically adopts the guidelines that DNR developed which were not signed into law by Governor Pawlenty. Another audience member asked about requirements for putting in swales. The county would need to review the plan. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to close the public hearing at 8:15pm. The board will act on the 2011 report at the June meeting.

Approval of the Meeting Agenda: May 1<sup>st</sup> date on agenda was a correction made by Supervisor Gondeck. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed approving the agenda.

Approval of the April minutes: a correction should be made to the April minutes stating that the SCORE Grant, which was approved, totals \$17,000; Benton County portion is \$12,725. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, approving the minutes with that correction. Motion passed. Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed approving her report.

Approval to pay the monthly bills and withdraw the funds: Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to pay Claims # 4831-4841 and the electronic payments for PERA and IRS and to withdraw the funds from the appropriate accounts. Motion passed.

Old Business:

- Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann said that Jon Bogart has everyone lined up for the meeting on the railroad crossings except to schedule one person from Chicago. Until then nothing can move forward. Supervisor Gondeck showed photos of crossings with quiet zones and asked if our township's crossings would look like these. Maureen Graber asked the projects can be moved forward more quickly.
- Outdoor warning siren report: the grant has been sent on to FEMA and we are waiting for their decision.
- Township Maintenance and Exterior Lighting: will be moving ahead next week. Maureen asked about doing her Master Gardener internship to plant the flower beds at the town hall. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, and seconded by Supervisor Kacures, to approve of her planting the flower beds and to reimburse her for the expenses. Motion passed.
- The Clerk listed all the donors and amounts for the annual newsletter donations.
- Water Drainage Issue on Oak Hill Estates: there are four storm sewer grates that are plugged. Water is draining into the storm water ponds into the road right of way. Arvo Tanner, a resident in the development, described problems. The board advised him about the projected formation of the homeowner's association. Supervisor Gondeck said that the board should send a letter about the plugged grates, the storm water not going into the storm water system, and running off the streets. Letter should be sent to Lee Hanson. Supervisor Gondeck will work with the Clerk on the letter. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to proceed as stated above. Motion passed.
- Letter of Understanding with Sauk Rapids Fire Contract: Supervisor Gondeck met with Tony Hommerding and the letter sent by the township will be signed by the administrator and mayor. The ISO rating should be improved soon; when this is formally approved this should be added to the website because we will have lower insurance rates than others around us. This will be especially beneficial to businesses. Supervisor Gondeck emphasized that we need to be vigilant about not getting billed when we receive services from a mutual aid agreement. When we negotiate with Rice we should see their mutual aid agreement, so that they don't bill us for the services of those who might come through mutual aid.
- Repair of Wash Out on Rose Anna Beach Road: culvert will be cleaned out, and Allen Saldana will repair it.
- Research on the Leash Law: Supervisor Gondeck talked to our attorney; he is researching it. Foley has a leash law. He will get back to them. Clerk Spence reported that we could have a contract with the Tri-County Humane Society for animal control.

New Business:

- Road Tour Report: written report was submitted by Supervisor Gondeck. 85<sup>th</sup> Street needs to be added as a project. The board reviewed this street on the tour and there was a call from Andrew Burrows about the poor quality of the road. Arvo Tanner also confirmed this at the meeting. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to award the pothole repairs on the road tour report to Saldana Excavating, Inc.; motion seconded by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Allen has coal patch left from last year. Supervisor Erdmann also requested that the potholes on the MNDoT right of ways that intersect with township roads be repaired.
- Corner by 95<sup>th</sup> Street and Highway 10 also needs work by Eileen Saldana's home. Supervisor Gondeck will discuss a proposal with her.

- Crack Filling and Seal Coat Projects: Roads that need to be done now are Frost Road, Deerwood Lane, Roseanna Beach Road north of the new construction; Lakewood Shores to county road 55 from Plaziak Road; and 15<sup>th</sup> Ave NW. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to do the following roads this summer: 15<sup>th</sup> Ave from Pines Edge North; Roseanna Beach Road north of new construction, and Deerwood Road; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed. Clerk will prepare bid documents with Supervisor Erdmann and advertise for bids to be opened at the June board meeting. Motion passed.
- 85<sup>th</sup> Street improvements should be sent out for bids according to Supervisor Erdmann's design. He will give the design to Clerk Pat Spence to send out to other supervisors. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to get this moving and out for bids for the next meeting. Motion passed.
- STS Crew work will be coordinated by Supervisor Gondeck. This was authorized through a motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.
- Sign Work: Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann to spend \$500 on signs this summer. Supervisor Gondeck will take care of getting the new signs. The Clerk should prepare a document that states the township is now tax exempt.

Monthly Correspondence: letter of appreciation from the Benton County Fair Board, newsletter from the Benton County Historical Society, and letters from companies soliciting business.

Chuck Ertl was present. The contract for ditch mowing is coming to an end. Supervisor Gondeck asked if dates should be put in the contract for cutting schedule. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to extend the contract with Chuck Ertl at a rate of \$58 per hour for two years; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Clerk Spence was asked to mail the new contract to him. The first cutting is recommended being complete by July 4<sup>th</sup> if needed.

Snow Plowing Contract: Section A, page 6, add snow and ice control and blading if there is two inches of compacted snow or ice on the road. The board decided to continue with a two-year contract; no surcharge for fuel; total sum bid rather than by the hour. Change resolution language to plowing when there is 2 inches of snow. Sealed bids opened in July. Ask further questions in June. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, to have Clerk Spence prepare the bid documents for review at the June meeting. Motion passed.

#### Board Reports:

City of Rice fire contract: Clerk Pat Spence and Supervisor Ed Kacures received financials from Heather Bondhus at the county auditor's office. Benton County Economic Development Board: a report was given by Supervisor Gondeck. Work on Citizen's Concerns: speed study on Ivy Place requested by MNDOT; Ellsworth Boe would like his road bladed. This was tabled until next month. Tree will be removed on Deerwood Road and County Road 13; agreement signed; gopher project underway; Supervisor Gondeck will get a price on a pamphlet rack for the entry.

Jim McDermott would like to do a tornado exercise at the town hall. Advertise this for Tuesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at the town hall if Jim is available on that date.

Announcements: Supervisor Gondeck thanked Ray Schlichting for qualifying as Citizen of the Year—the township very much appreciates all his volunteer work; sympathy to Mel Bennet family; seminar on PTS and learned how much Ron Bomstad has done for veterans suffering from PTS; and Roxanne and Bill Wilson for the testimony given at the Larry Haws memorial service.

Upcoming monthly work includes: signs, STS crew, road bids, sprinklers, and bid documents. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:15pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence