

Minutes of October 4, 2016 Watab Town Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. on Tuesday, October 4, 2016 at the Watab Town Hall. All board members were present: Chair Kacures; Supervisor Lloyd Erdmann; Supervisor Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Jason Krueger, Todd Waytashek, Claudia Dumont, MNDOT St. Cloud, Commissioner Ed Popp, Lee Hanson, Jon Bogart, Maureen Graber, Sandy Saldana, Kevin Reiter, Anna Saldana, Chris Byrd, and Doug Harden.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann with these additions: town hall maintenance, Sheriff Troy Heck update, frontage road update, building permit issue, Mel Grile storage issue; motion passed.

Claudia Dumont of MNDOT was present to discuss the Highway 10 corridor in Watab Township. She explained that Representative Newberger had an earmark in the transportation bill for an interchange on County Rd 4 and Highway 10 with frontage roads. She explained that it was part of the Corridors of Commerce program, which dictates the projects, but that there wasn't adequate funding attached; so it did not pass. Claudia said that the St. Cloud MNDOT office would not support an interchange at County Road 4 because of a very low crash rate and a poor return on investment. Representative Newberger told Claudia that County Rd 4 was a high crash site. Claudia refuted this and said it ranks 55th in the six counties. Traffic counts are also low. Highway 10 would need to be elevated because of the proximity to the railroad and the wetlands. None of the preliminary planning had been done with the MNDOT office by Representative Newberger, so his cost estimate of \$12 million was probably not close to actual cost, especially if there needed to be property acquisitions. She added that there is nothing scheduled in the future for Watab Township by MNDOT. The rate of growth has slowed along Highway 10. Todd Waytashek asked how they take into account traffic that has diverted somewhere else due to long wait times to access Highway 10 at times. Claudia stated that their studies cannot take that into consideration. Lee Hanson owns land on the east side of Highway 10 between County Road 4 and 85th Street; he stated that they are having trouble getting people to live in Oak Hill Estates because of the difficulty to get on Highway 10. What would it take to get a frontage road between County Road 4 and 85th Street? Claudia answered that frontage roads would be a local system so the local government would pay for it. The local initiative program could get partial reimbursement for the construction if we closed some accesses. Supervisor Gondeck said that he found a document at the historical society that verifies a town road existed in the past that could be used as the location for a road to take people out of Oak Hill Estates to the east. Lee also spoke on behalf of Pirates Cove. Supervisor Erdmann spoke about the process for getting the frontage roads. Claudia will get further information for the township on the funding potential, and the township can meet with her this winter. She explained reduced conflict intersections. Commissioner Ed Popp asked why Representative Newberger didn't talk with the county officials about the interchange since it would have a financial impact on the county for the local match. Claudia said she could not answer that. Doug Harden asked how potential frontage roads would affect Seeker's property. It wouldn't affect him. The board thanked Claudia very much for attending the meeting.

The board reviewed the Snow Plowing Quotes for the 2016-2018 contract: Supervisor Erdmann said that he is divided in his wishes after reviewing the two quotes: Marson Contractors, Inc. and TK Timber. Marson's quote was for \$36,728; TK Timber's quote was \$36,000. Supervisor Erdmann said

that he believes that we should take the low quote submitted by TK Timber. Supervisor Gondeck said that he thinks the township should stay with Marson Contractors because of all the good work they have done in the past and how demanding residents are on snow plowing. Supervisor Kacures stated that he would be abstaining. Todd Waytashek of TK Timber said that the township would be his primary contract. Sandy Saldana from the audience asked about past practice in decision making on selection of a contractor for snow plowing. Clerk Spence stated that the township has not always taken the low quote. Supervisor Erdmann suggested waiting to make a decision at the November meeting; discussion ensued about potential snow coming during the month of October. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to contract with Marson Contractors for two years at a cost of \$36,728 per year; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Supervisor Kacures abstained.

Approval of the minutes for the September regular and special meeting was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a cash balance of \$484,464.18 in the two checking accounts; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to accept the Treasurer's report. Authorization to pay the monthly claims numbered 6170 through 6185 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$66,994.88 was given through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Citizen's Issues/Feedback: Kevin Reiter talked about the excessive number of unpaid emergency calls, especially those without contact information and false alarms, and said it needs to be addressed in the next contract with Rice. He had reviewed the handouts with the 2015 and 2016 lists of unpaid emergency calls totaling \$14,913 for 2015 and \$8,591 for 2016. Clerk Spence said that many of these would be uncollectable. Sandy Saldana gave an update on the Benton Economic Partnership and the new Executive Director, who started last Monday

New Business:

- A. Jon Bogart, Town Engineer, made a presentation of the revised plans for 95th Street. He said that he still needs to get information about the gas line. The board had consensus on moving forward with the revised plans. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to accept the quote of \$2,275.00 for soil borings by Independent Testing Technologies, Inc. of Waite Park for 85th and 95th Streets; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed.
- B. 85th Street was not discussed due to it not being scheduled for work until 2018 or when funds are available.
- C. Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on Crack Filling for 2016: 85th NE, Ivy Place, Burton and the parking lot was completed for a total cost of \$6,500. The township did this at a greatly reduced cost using the STS Crew as labor.
- D. Supervisor Gondeck reported that tree trimming on West Lake Road and Lakewood Shore Rd NW was completed by Burski's; they had four men working with five pieces of equipment and did a great job.
- E. Supervisor Gondeck will do the weed removal in October.
- F. Supervisor Gondeck reported that Burski's will do the seeding of the Lakewood Shore Rd shoulder near the railroad crossing.
- G. Clerk Spence reported that she sent a completion report to MNDOT on the Johnson Road project and sent a letter to Kevin Johnson of KJohnson Concrete requesting reimbursement for half the cost of the project as agreed.

- H. Clerk Spence read the email report from Scott Jarnot regarding progress on the Wastewater Treatment System at Lake Andrew. He stated: "There are three parts of the wastewater that are time sensitive with regards to frost: the building has been purchased and delivered from out of state and working on construction time line; met and meeting with East Central Electric regarding their time line to get the 3 phase dug in and hooked up; and working with the engineers and MPCA regarding the sludge tank sizing and installation. Those are the issues front and center that need to happen first. I hope this helps. I would think all wastewater systems that aren't on-line would be asked or be on the record of their status with regards to all the residents of Watab Township."

Supervisor Erdmann stated that the Sauk Rapids Herald article about the development made it sound like all the issues at Lake Andrew had been resolved, and they have not; the streets are still in bad shape and the wastewater system needs to be completed. Clerk Spence was directed to contact Scott regarding his email and to ask for the monthly report with sales information, how dollars were spent, and the disposal records.

- I. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his attendance at the Minnesota Association of Townships Legislative Resolution Conference in St. Cloud and on the resolutions that were passed. Watab's resolution on having the ability to bill property owners for tenant's unpaid bills had been passed at the District 8 Annual Meeting and was presented by Supervisor Gondeck at this conference. Langola Supervisor Greg Bruestle walked in to Supervisor Gondeck's committee meeting and spoke in angry opposition to Watab billing residents for emergency medical calls. Greg also invited two landlords who don't have licenses to rent their property, and they spoke in opposition of the resolution. The chairman of the committee closed discussion, and that evening the Minnesota Association of Township's Attorney contact Supervisor Gondeck regarding Watab's resolution. He recommends that instead of getting a change in state law that the township pass its own ordinance to allow the billing. After further discussion, Supervisor Erdmann made a motion for Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck to set up a meeting with the township's attorney to discuss drafting a township ordinance; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed.
- J. Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on the Benton County Association of Township Meeting held earlier this month. All department heads and commissioners present gave good reports, and Pat Spence was elected to represent the townships with the Benton Economic Partnership.
- K. Supervisor Gondeck said that over 280 people came through for Cleanup Day and that he picked up items at twelve remote locations. There were thirty-seven participants from Langola Township, two from Rice, and the remainder from Watab. He thanked Commissioner Popp for the county SCORE grant funding.
- L. Clerk Spence reported that the township attorney has not completed the proposed Park Dedication Ordinance.
- M. Supervisor Erdmann said that the owner of the property on Ivy Place has not contacted him with any plans to proceed with the remedies to the drainage issue adjacent to his property.
- N. Supervisor Gondeck said that there have been water pressure issues at the town hall and that sand is getting into our system. Greg Schultz, Schultz Soft Water, recommends a part that will cost \$300. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to get it fixed as soon as possible.

- O. Sheriff Troy Heck has made an agreement with Jim McDermott, Emergency Services Director, that when Jim is on vacation the sheriff's department dispatchers will be trained to automate our outdoor warning sirens. Clerk Spence offered to send a thank you to Sheriff Heck on behalf of the board and township residents.
- P. Supervisor Gondeck raised an issue that has been raised by Bob Lanners stating that he believes he is being overcharged for his building permit. He will contact Nancy Scott to get clarification.
- Q. Supervisor Gondeck talked about the need for an architect's stamp on Mel Grile's commercial storage project because the building is over 5,000 square feet.

New Business:

- A. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion, seconded by Erdmann to approve Resolutions 2016-9 and 10 to request that the Benton and Morrison County Auditor-Treasurers assess certain real estate properties for unpaid emergency bills. Board members signed the resolutions.
- B. Possible considerations for the 2017-18 Rice Fire Contract: if the billing information is not accurate or complete, the township will not pay for the call; emergency services only for fire and rescue.
- C. Clerk Spence read the monthly communications.
- D. Board member reports: Supervisor Gondeck talked about the St. Cloud Greater Development Corporation meeting with SPARK financed by St. Cloud Times and his concern about repercussions from the legislator not passing the bonding bill. Clerk Spence asked the board to appoint Supervisor Gondeck to attend the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance Meetings so that she can attend the Benton Economic Partnership meetings, which are scheduled at the same time each month. The board concurred.
- E. Work Plan: meeting with township attorney; Supervisor Erdmann work with Jon Bogart on the gas line and soil borings; Supervisor Gondeck authorized to attend the Maintenance Expo in St. Cloud and training for certification on sign installation, do the weed control; set up for Election Day; brushing out some road intersections; and arrange to have irrigation system winterized. Clerk Spence noted the November 1st Election Day machine testing at Rice City Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Citizens' Issues: there were none.

Supervisor Ed Kacures Jr. read a prepared, written statement to the board and township residents regarding his reasons for resigning from the town board effective at the end of this meeting. His statement is placed on file at the town hall. He then made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence