

**WATAB TOWN BOARD MEETING**  
**Regular Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, November 9, 2021 – 7:00 pm**

**CALL TO ORDER & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The regular monthly Watab Township Supervisor’s Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Johnson at 7:00 pm in the Watab Township Hall. Those present offered allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

**ROLL CALL**

Board supervisors present: Julie Johnson, Steve Wollak, and Bill Little. Others present in the Town Hall included, Treasurer, Deborah O’Keefe, Clerk, Kathy Sauer, Sandra Saldana, Jerry Kostreba, Paul Wippler, Todd Waytashek, Danielle Kirchner, Barb Kirchner, Rachelle Kirchner, Andrew Mauren

Attending via Zoom: Ellarry Prentice

**1. ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

- a. Railroad Signs on 105<sup>th</sup>
- b. Easements for Sucker Creek Road
- c. MS4 update
- d. Kings’ Inn Update
- e. Recycling Grant
- f. Treasurer’s Position

**2. APPROVE THE AGENDA**

Supervisor Wollak moved to approve the agenda; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

**3. CONSENT AGENDA—One motion for all items**

- a. October 8, 2021: Special Meeting: Fall Road Inspection
- b. October 14: Regular Monthly Board Meeting  
Addition: include PID numbers to Molitor Easement Request

Supervisor Little made a motion to approve the minutes with revisions; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

**4. TREASURER’S REPORT (10-31-2021)**

Falcon Checking	\$528,502.19
Bremer Money Market	54,182.11
Falcon Savings (Building Account)	<u>5,010.65</u>
	\$587,694.95
Falcon Money Market	<u>\$256,650.20</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$844,345.15</u>
Falcon Checking Interest	107.81
Falcon Money Market Interest	87.16
Bremer Interest	2.11
Falcon Savings Account (Building)	1.70
BCA Fines	253.30
AG Market Value	1,778.72
Bond Interest	17.95
Bond (Wells Fargo)	3,391,432.35

Voided check 7969; printed inadvertently

Voided check 7970; reissued

Supervisor Wollak moved to approve the Treasurer's Report; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

Treasurer O'Keefe asked for permission to refund John Zwack for overpayment of a fire bill. Supervisor moved to approve reimbursement of \$79.42; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to move all funds from Bremer Money Market to Falcon Money Market; Supervisor Little seconded; motion passed.

**5. APPROVE LIST OF BILLS, CLAIMS, AND PAYROLL**

Supervisor Wollak moved to accept bills, claims, and payroll; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

**6. WSB ENGINEER REPORT--Kevin Kruger**

a. 105<sup>th</sup> Street NW and Quiet Crossing

Project is complete; final invoice is pending. As per BNSF's decision, there will be two hinged signs instead of four.

Application for the Quiet Crossing must be submitted to the Federal Railroad Association. Document is reported to be quite lengthy. WSB could complete the application at a cost per hour. Supervisor Johnson will contact the railroad representative to inquire about the application to determine if the board would be able complete the application.

b. Sharon Place Bus Turnaround

Verbal agreement from owner, Kelly Gallagher, to create a turn around on her property. It was agreed that an easement should be obtained.

c. Lake Andrew Update

Popped all storm sewers to get ready for design.

d. Easements on Sucker Creek Road

Finalizing descriptions. Supervisor Johnson will meet with landowners regarding easements.

e. MS4

The open comment period has closed. A new ordinance will be created to comply with the new standards.

**7. ROAD REPORT**

a. Minimum Maintenance Road Gravel

Need 250 tons of Class 5. Bids will be requested for completion before the end of the year.

b. Culvert List Creation

No record of a list of culverts was found. Todd Waytashek said he may have a list on his computer and will send to the Clerk if he can find it.

**8. RESOLUTION 2021-21: Set Date for Public Hearing of Petition to Vacate 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW**

Supervisor Johnson made a motion to set a public hearing for December 14, at 7:00 pm. Supervisor Little seconded; one opposed; motion carried.

To date, the petition has cost the Township in excess of \$1,500.00. Mr. Waytashek has refused to pay the fees incurred by the Township to act on his petition.

**9. ARPA FUNDS**

a. Broadband Grant Review

Board will submit application for grant.

b. Oak Hill Vacuuming Report

Nelson Sanitation has started the process working with Thompson Excavating to clean out storm sewers in Oak Hill Estates that were partially-to-completely plugged.

c. Culvert 22 Repairs

Nelson Sanitation and Thompson Excavating cleaned out Culvert 22 Oak Hill Estates which had been completely plugged with dirt.

**10. NORTHERN OAKS EVENTS—LIQUOR LICENSE REQUEST**

Requesting liquor license for event center opening early next year.

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve license for Northern Oaks Events; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

**11. HIGHWAY 10/COUNTY ROAD 33 WATER BACKUP**

Water is backing up on Highway 10. Reported to MnDOT and other landowners in the affected area. Beavers are under Frost Road in the culvert and have been found throughout the surrounding area. Landowners are working to remove them. Water is slowly draining.

**12. DUMPING (5<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Hot Tub) Cameras**

Hot tub found; KJohnson removed and transferred to Henkemeyer’s for disposal. Neither KJohnson nor Henkemeyer’s charged the Township for their services. Installing cameras was discussed.

**13. AUDITED FINANCIALS**

Received third quote:

Conway, Deuth, & Schmiesing	\$9,500.00
Bergan KDV:	\$10,000.00
Schlenner & Wenner	\$15,800.00

Supervisor Wollak moved to contract with Conway, Deuth, and Schmiesing in the amount of \$9,500.00 to audit the year 2020. The Township should audit every 10 years thereafter. Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

**14. KINGS INN UPDATE**

Supervisor Johnson attended the Benton County Commissioner’s meeting to get an update on the King’s Inn clean-up. Since it is private property, the County gave notice to the landowner asking for permission to conduct the clean-up. The owner does not have funds to clean up the property. Clean-up is expected to begin in 3-6 months. Bids are being accepted by Benton County who is taking the lead in the project.

**15. RECYCLING GRANT**

There is a \$1 million grant from the state of Minnesota available to out-state Minnesota cities and townships. Grant due date is November 23. Discarded tires are the main problem in the Township. Supervisor Johnson will write the grant. Grant has a 25% match.

**16. TREASURER’S POSITION**

Supervisor Wollak proposed making the Treasurer’s position appointed rather than elected. Supervisor Wollak a motion to include the issue on the ballot for 2022; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried.

**CITIZEN'S INPUT—Time limit 3 minutes**

**Jerry Kostreba**—inquired about free clean up options for yard items.

*Board Response: Clean-up Day is the only option*

**Deb O'Keefe**—there may be a delay in transferring funds from the Bremer account to the Falcon account because of auto-payment adjustments.

**Sandra Saldana**—keep account at Bremer open for transfer options in the future.

**Todd Waytashek**—watch account balances for FDIC limits.

**Paul Wippler**—Does the Township have recourse to recoup the \$1,500 that the Township has incurred with regard to Todd Waytashek's petition?

*Board Response: Mr. Waytashek was given a form to sign indicating that he would provide an escrow and pay all costs associated with the road abandonment. He is not required by state statute to pay for the cost, and he has chosen not to reimburse the Township. The current situation began with a request the Township made to Mr. Waytashek to remove his logs from the right-of-way.*

*Other Township residents are now making similar requests. The Township will now consider an ordinance requiring that petitioners create an escrow fund and pay all costs associated with their request so that the taxpayer dollars are not being used for the sole benefit of an individual.*

**ADJOURNMENT**

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to adjourn; Supervisor Little seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sauer  
Township Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julie Johnson, Board Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Sauer, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date