

Minutes of January 2, 2018 Town Board Meeting

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order by Chair Craig Gondeck at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at the town hall. Board members present were Supervisors Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, Todd Waytashek; Treasurer Maureen Graber; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were: R. W. Berger, William Novak, Ed Kacures Jr., Mike Barringer, Diane Barringer, John Schram, Jessica Storkamp, Jerry Kostreba, Steve Wollak, Robin Wollak, Phillip Nelson, DJ Janski, Steve Janski, David Johnson, Doug Harden, Debra Harden, Paul Wannigman, Janet Maleska, Kevin Maleska, Lisa Wannigman, Maryan Saldana, Mitch Cottew, Elaine Watts, Sandra Saldana, Allen Saldana, Paul Wippler, Tom Kubat, Dale Dirks, Linda Dirks, Jason Krueger, John Olson, Kevin Reiter, Ray Thompson, Paul Jacobs, John Johnstone, and Dayce Tenney.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved with the addition of approval of the Wacosa Contract for 2018, requesting quotes for a PA system, changing the February regular meeting date due to a statutory conflict with precinct causes, and approval to add two claims to approval of payment. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the agenda with the above additions. The minutes of the regular December meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. The Treasurer's Report was accepted through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed. The current balance is \$890,153.82; \$400,000 was invested today in a Falcon National Bank Money Market account from the Road and Bridge Fund for 2018 projects per past board action. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to authorize payment of claims #6594-6614 and electron transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$84,069.60 and to withdraw funds from the appropriate accounts.

Citizens' Issues:

Steve Wollak presented a Petition of Town Electors Calling for a Special Town Meeting (Minn. Stat. Sec. 365.15; 365.21; and 365.52). It states: "We, the undersigned town electors of Watab Township, Benton County, Minnesota, which constitute at least twenty percent (20%) of the number of voters at the last general election, declare that the interests of the town require a special town meeting to be held because: the electors at a Town meeting may direct the Town Board whether to establish town fire protection services. Therefore, we hereby call a special town meeting, to be held as soon as practicable, to consider and determine the following questions and for the following purpose(s): (1) Shall the Town Board be allowed to provide for fire protection and apparatus? (2) Shall the Town establish its own fire protection department or service? (3) Shall the Town levy taxes to establish a fire protection department or service?; (4) Shall the Town continue to contract for municipal fire protection services? This petition shall be filed in the office of the town clerk. Once filed, a date for the meeting shall be set and the clerk shall publish notice for ten days in a qualified newspaper having general circulation in the town, of the time, place and purpose of the meeting. Dated this 21st day of December, 2017." Signators that are legible are: Linda Zylla, Paul Wannigman, Lisa Wannigman, Maryan Saldana, John Johnstone, Lori Johnstone, Jerome D. Nelson, Dorothy C. Nelson, Jeff Wollak, Ty Wollak, Derrick Nelson, Rebecca Brzezinski, illegible, Gloria Nelson, Shirley Linder,

Diane Zoglauer, Julie P.C. Johnson, Ray Schlichting, Ken Motl, Cheryl Motl, Austin Motl, Blake Motl, Ann Kruger, Ernie Kruger, Junsica Kephake, John Tholen, Patty Tholen, Keith Hurle, Julie Popp, Roger Burton, Gloria Hendrickson, Mike Burton, Roger Burton (duplicate), Kevin Maleska, Janet Maleska, Debra Poirier, Marion Berger, Ralph W. Berger, Jerry Kostreba, D. Happe, Linda Dirks, Peggy Feia, Ken Feia, Mark Saldana (non-elect), Mary Dirks, Ronald Dirks, Cliff Poirier, Gerald Paggen, Gary Krueger, John Waseka, Jack Duray, Christopher D. Nelson, Robin Wollak, Steven Wollak, Julie Fandel, Ron Burski, Rick Burski, Ross Hamann, Molly Johnson, Jordan Johnson, Megan Bemboom, Marie Knapek, Elaine Watts, Paul Wippler. Steve suggested the date of January 16th at 7:00 p.m. for the Special Meeting. The board responded that they would get a ruling from the township attorney on the legal status of the petition and get a response as quickly as possible. There were no other Citizens' Issues.

Old Business

- A. Township Assessing: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann and passed to accept the resignation of Tina Von Eschen due to personal reasons. Clerk Spence reported that the County Assessor, Brian Koester, reports that Tina has completed more than half of the 2018 Assessment, which justifies the payments made to date. The December check will be voided.
- B. Garbage on Roseanna Beach Road: Supervisor Gondeck reported that the house went into foreclosure; Fannie Mae took over and will relocate the owner. Realtor guarantees that garbage will be cleaned up next week; there are two offers on the house. Gondeck apologized for the length of time it has taken to get the garbage removed.
- C. Real Estate Signs in the Road Right of Way: this issue was brought up last month by a resident. The City of Sartell does not allow realty signs in the road right of way and limits the size of the signs to 10 x 10 inch. He will check with other units of government to get further information on their policies. Comments were made that this size seems too small.
- D. Supervisor Gondeck attended the Langola Township board meeting. They will send \$950 for their residents' participation in Clean Up Day. They thanked Watab for leading it. Next year Gondeck recommends that the township count the and the goal to get more funding in 2018. Langola is noticing that Clean Up Day is making a difference in the appearance of their township.

New Business:

- A. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve a contract with Brian Koester for the completion of the 2018 Assessment and the 2019 Assessment. Clerk Spence said that he has three assessors completing the remainder of the 2018 Assessment for Watab due to Tina Von Eschen's resignation.
- B. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to have Supervisor Waytashek serve as the administrator for the MS4 permit in Watab Township.
- C. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to have Supervisor Todd Waytashek serve as the new MS4 Administrator. The information is needed for the application for the 2018 Permit to be mailed with the \$400 application fee.

- D. Clerk Spence reviewed the Annual Ehler's Financial Disclosure Form in the board packets.
- E. The Benton County Association of Township Meeting will be held at the Watab Town Hall on February 15 at 7:30 p.m.
- F. Resolution 2018-1: Acceptance of Donation of \$50 Manea Gift Card from Falcon National Bank was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. It will be used for the Annual Meeting in March.
- G. Resolution 2018-2: Rejection of \$300 Cash Donation for Puppy Rescue was approved through a motion by Supervisor Waytashek, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Reason given is that animal control is not part of the contractual agreement with Rice, and no billing information was provided.
- H. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to authorize the attendance of both Supervisors Waytashek and Gondeck at the Drainage and Water Conference on February 15 in St. Cloud sponsored by Rinke Noonan Law Firm. Clerk Spence is to send in registration materials.
- I. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to approve the date and time for the Local Board of Review for Tuesday, April 10 at 2:30 p.m.
- J. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to apply for a \$12,000 SCORE Grant for Clean Up Day. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to apply for a \$2,500 SCORE Grant for Adopt a Highway.
- K. Supervisor Gondeck requested approval to attend the Legislative Meeting held by the St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to approve his attendance to lobby for (1) cities not being allowed to put fire contract money from townships into their General Fund; (2) approval to have rural residential road's speed limits set at 30mph rather than 35mph; (3) restore funding for township aid; and (4) maintain current Open Meeting Laws.
- L. Clerk Spence said that the February meeting date needs to be changed, since no public meetings can be held on February 6th, Precinct Caucus Night in Minnesota. Motion was made by Supervisor Waytashek, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to set the regular meeting date for Wednesday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m.
- M. The 2018 Wacosa Contract for cleaning the town hall twice per month was renewed through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed.
- N. Since residents have been asking for a public-address system to be installed in the town hall, Supervisor Gondeck was asked to get quotes on a sound system and recording system.
- O. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to adopt Resolution 2018-3: Authorization to Write Off Certain Unpaid Emergency Calls. They total \$4,500 for calls that are uncollectible between April and November of 2017. Calls include five cancelled medical calls, two false alarms, and three medical calls to rental property, one Highway 10 medical call, and one Highway 10 rescue. Treasurer Graber said that \$22,452.43 in calls have been written off for the past twelve months.

- P. Ray Thompson said that he spoke with the Rice Fire Department, and if the wheels don't turn on the truck the township does not get a bill. DJ Janski affirmed what Ray said. Treasurer Graber said that in reviewing the incident reports it appears that one call was cancelled in eleven seconds and another in twenty-two seconds. Supervisor Erdmann suggested that someone contact Rice about the billing. Supervisor Gondeck and Ray Thompson will make the inquiry. Ray then asked if Bemboom's paid their bill; Treasurer Graber explained that the bill isn't paid. They are refusing to pay Watab, since they live in Mayhew Lake Township. Treasurer Graber will continue to work on Sauk Rapids refunding the call to Watab and having them send the bill to Mayhew Lake Township. Bemboom's had not paid the City of Sauk Rapids for the call. Sandy Saldana voiced that Watab should not be paying 25% of Bemboom's bill.
- Q. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Waytashek, and passed to order 250 ballots for the Annual Election. This year the township is required to use the purchased ballots for a new uniformity law. Previously, the township ordered 25 of these ballots and photocopied them to save on cost. Each ballot costs fifty cents, and there is a \$55 setup charge.
- R. John Schram questioned why his abstract doesn't show a road.
- S. Communications: (1) Supervisor Gondeck brought up trails in Oak Hill Estates and using Park Dedication funds; (2) Supervisor Waytashek has not had a response from Mike Couri on the 5th Avenue Extension, and he had a complaint from the postal delivery that people need to clean up better around their mailboxes on Jasmine Loop; (3) Supervisor Gondeck said that there have been no complaints on snow plowing.
- T. Work Plan: Get newsletter articles completed by mid-February. Each board member is to coordinate their articles with the Clerk. Supervisor Gondeck will work with the Clerk on the SCORE Grant applications and will get quotes for the sound system. Supervisors Waytashek and Erdmann will do more tree trimming in road right of ways. Supervisor Waytashek asked if the town board wants to have any input at the January 11th Benton County Development Hearing. He said that the Board of Adjustment approves all the requests that come before it, so it makes the ordinances meaningless. He also summarized the status of the Grace Apartments project for Roseanna Beach Road and the complaints about notifications from the county to the neighbors. Clerk Spence said that Commissioner Popp was helpful in questioning Roxanne Achman by asking at her evaluation meeting if there would have been four mobile homes on the lot if Watab Township hadn't interceded. She did not respond to his question. Supervisor Waytashek is working on plans for the next Emergency Services Committee Meeting. Clerk Spence said that the rentals of the town hall are covered. Supervisor Waytashek will shovel the sidewalks.

Citizen's Issues:

- Paul Wippler 15th asked if the board is following Robert's Rules of Order and said that he couldn't find that information on the township website. He asked the board to act at this meeting on a response to the petition, stated that taxpayers need to understand that while writing off \$22,000 is wrong, it is the cost of doing business, and took offense that the minutes stated that he attacked Claudia Dumont. He said that what he said was that the board should be ashamed for thinking of her as an expert. Then he questioned

why the board would quibble about paying \$300 for a puppy rescue (bill to township was for \$350). “We waste more money in this township on you having meetings and going to conferences.”

- Paul Jacobs how much the board is planning on spending on roads and how they are going to be paid for.
- Sandy Saldana said that she wanted to make sure the board knows that the petition presented tonight was prepared by a township attorney. Supervisor Waytashek stated that the question that needs clarification is if the statutes referenced are the correct ones, since Watab is an Urban Township.
- Ray Thompson said that his township taxes went up \$20, while all the other taxes went down.
- Jerry Kostreba asked when the 105th Street railroad crossing project would be completed. Supervisor Erdmann said that it couldn't happen this year due to 95th Street being delayed. It would be planned for a future year and as soon as possible.
- Jason Krueger said that he regularly comes to town board meetings, attending ten to eleven meetings each year. He added that a lot has come up lately, and I want to give credit to the board, because they are trying to solve a problem. “I credit them for looking at solutions. There has been a bad relationship with Rice for a long time. I want to come to the board's defense. It is easy to find fault.”
- Pat Spence announced that she would not be seeking re-election as Clerk after nearly twenty years of service to the township. She thanked Supervisor Erdmann for asking her two times to fill unexpired terms of previous Clerks and stated that the job has grown a great deal as the township has grown. There are more statutory requirements as well as expectations from the residents. With a population of over 3,200 people, she works about fifteen to twenty hours a week and described some of the duties. Her reasons for retiring were to have more personal time and to live a more peaceful life as the recent township meetings have been lacking in civility and respect. She encouraged residents to step forward to file for the Clerk's position by the filing deadline on January 16th. She thanked the board and citizens who have supported her work. Supervisor Gondeck said that she has done an outstanding job and led the audience in a round of applause.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence