

Watab Township Supervisors' Meeting
July 3, 2018
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

A regular monthly supervisors' meeting was called to order by Chairman Waytashek at seven o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, July 3, 2018, in the Watab Township Hall.

Those present offered allegiance to the United States of America's flag.

ROLL CALL

Supervisors present included Craig Gondeck, Julie Johnson, and Todd Waytashek. Others present were Clerk Jon Hull, Treasurer Deborah O'Keefe, Bogart Pederson & Associates representative Nick Anderson, and guests Mike Burton, Lloyd Erdmann, Chuck Ertl, Mike Flannery, Jocelyn Hicks, Paul Jacobs, David Johnson, Ed Kacures, Ken Molitor, Kris Molitor, Betty Murphy, LeRoy Murphy, Kevin O'Brien, John Olson, Steve Peka, Tamie Peka, Sandra Saldana, Jessica Storkamp, and Paul Wippler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving the proposed agenda with the following additions:

- A. Election Judges
- B. Molitor Estates
- C. Mowing Contract
- D. Flag Donation
- E. Ditch Spraying
- F. Subdivision Ordinance
- G. Communications
- H. Potholes
- I. Conflict of Interest

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving the minutes of June 5, 2018, as printed and amended.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer O'Keefe provided information on the township's current fiscal condition. Documents included a monthly receipts report, net pay account distribution (payroll), a cash control statement, and an interim financial report by account number (YTD). A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried accepting the treasurer's report as presented.

APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY CLAIMS AND WITHDRAW FUNDS

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving monthly claims in the amount of \$106,767.90 and authorizing withdrawal of funds for the same.

CITIZENS' INPUT

There was no public citizens' input at this time.

ACTION ITEMS

Extension of 95th Street Ptroject

Following discussion involving the ponding of water run-off at the Murphy residence, the use of concrete versus steel culverts, and anticipated change order costs, a motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving this extension estimated at \$14,299.19. An easement will be required.

Scheduling of Road Planning Meeting

Supervisor Gondeck reported the traffic tabulation project was not yet complete. A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried scheduling a road planning meeting for Monday, August 27, 2018 beginning at seven o'clock p.m. in the Watab Town Hall. The 95th Street project will also be discussed.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Rice Fire/Emergency Call Billing Procedures

Treasurer O'Keefe provided information on Rice fire/emergency call billing challenges and Supervisors discussed a number of recent situations experienced in the township. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried authorizing the inclusion of an appeals form with the bill for citizens who wish to contest the claim.

Prairie Farm Rezoning Request

Supervisors considered the Prairie Farm, Incorporated, rezoning request to amend the land use plan map of the county's comprehensive plan from rural residential to agricultural. They heard testimony, questions, and suggestions from a number of residents and non-residents interested in this request, including Kevin O'Brien, Jocelyn Schlichting, Diane Wojtanowicz, Steve Pika, Mike Flannery, Lloyd Erdmann, and Sandy Saldana. Public hearings on this issue have been scheduled for July 12 with the Benton County Planning Commission and for July 17 with the Benton County Board of Commissioners. In addition, the Watab Township Supervisors scheduled a public forum for July 16, 2018, at 7:00 p.m in the Watab Town Hall, if necessary. (This public forum was later canceled following the Benton County hearing.)

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Ditch Mowing/Brush Cutting Contract

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried authorizing a two-year ditch mowing/brush cutting contract (2018-2020) with Chuck's Brush & Ditch Cutting, LLC for \$64.00/hour for ditch mowing and \$100 per hour for brush cutting.,

Resolution Appointing Election Judges

A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried adopting the following resolution appointing election judges:

WHEREAS, Watab Township Hall will be a polling place for the voting residents of Watab Township for the primary election on August 14, 2018, and the general election on November 6, 2018;; and

WHEREAS, election judges must be appointed by the Town Board supervisors, and;

WHEREAS, all election judges must be trained and certified as official election judges through the office of the Secretary of State; and

WHEREAS, the following have received election judge training provided by the Benton County Auditor and/or the Minnesota Association of Townships to meet the necessary qualifications for election judge and are willing to serve:

Frank Hard	John Olson
Jon Hull	Lucy Palmer
Clara Knettel	Donna Poganski
Joyce Koshiol	Sandy Rau
Linda Langer	Sheryl Weitgenant
Deborah O'Keefe	

And,

WHEREAS, it may become necessary to appoint qualified non-residents to serve as Watab Town Hall election judges;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE ABOVE NAMED PERSONS BE APPOINTED AS NEEDED FOR THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS IN WATAB TOWNSHIP.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (continued)

Flag Donation

Chairman Waytashek will follow up on the donation of an American flag for the township hall.

Ditch Spraying

This activity does not have the support of township supervisors.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (continued)

Activities with 95th Street Improvements

Supervisors engaged in discussions about the Thompson concern with water, salt, and sand in the yard. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried to proceed with work involving an extra catch basin for the Walker residence in the amount of \$4,000.

Molitor Property Request

Kris and Ken Molitor appeared before the Board and provided information regarding the proposed division of approximately fifty acres in the area of County Road 1 and County Road into three parcels. This project can proceed with Benton County involvement and support of Watab Township.

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

Payment to Knife River Company

A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried authorizing the partial payment of \$49,167.24 for the 95th Street project, contract #16-0098.00 to the contractor, Knife River Company, at this time. The project is on schedule and expected to be completed by August 23, 2018.

Proposed Driveway Permits

A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried approving two driveway permit applications from Joel Saldana and Jason Anderson as presented.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (continued)

Township Demographic Information

Information from the Minnesota State Demographic Center indicates an estimate of population in Watab Township of 3,228, and the household estimate at 1,222. This census is effective as of April 1, 2017.

Benton County Update of the 2006 Comprehensive Plan

County officials have announced several meetings to collect information from residents as they update the county's 2006 comprehensive plan. One of those meetings is scheduled for Wednesday, July 18, at four o'clock p.m. in the Watab Town Hall.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD

Sues Road Repair Project

Supervisor Gondeck reported the job is complete and satisfactory.

Township Road Repair Briefings

The projects are running on time. Briefings are being held every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. as posted.

Sentence-to-Serve Program Report

Supervisor Gondeck reported on recent activities of cleaning ditches and removing brush by program participants.

Outdoor Security System Update

Supervisor Gondeck stated that the recent quote received for surveillance equipment has been withdrawn. A decision by the Board will be delayed until a future date.

MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Update

Supervisor Gondeck reports that five new permits were recently issued with three completed. He suggested the current ordinance could be revised so that a fine for noncompliance language might be included.

CTAS/Other Training

Treasurer O'Keefe and Clerk Hull commented on a recent four-hour inservice they attended in St. Cloud. Training included election administration and financial recordkeeping. This was provided by the Minnesota Association of Townships. Benton County also provided additional mandated election training on July 25-26.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD (continued)

MAT-Sponsored Supervisors' Training

Supervisor Gondeck participated in training that provided insights into aspects of township road maintenance.

Rice Fire Contract Update

Sandy Saldana provided information about a meeting that has been scheduled for July 16, 2018.

Subdivision Ordinance

Supervisor Johnson reported on a recent free legal seminar during which developers' agreements, and subdivision ordinances were discussed. She suggested that an ordinance be prepared for consideration at the township's annual meeting in March of 2019. A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried to commence work with the township's legal advisor, Couri & Ruppe, P.L.L.P., in the development of said proposed subdivision ordinance and that public hearings be scheduled regarding the same.

Communications

Supervisor Johnson expressed dissatisfaction with Clerk Hull's work performance regarding a June 26, 2018 e-mail sent to township officials that addressed proper office protocol as it relates to monetary claims against the township. She also suggested that meeting notices were not being posted according to Minnesota statutes, rules, and regulations.

Conflict of Interest

Supervisor Johnson made known her opposition to the filling of potholes by Chairman Waytashek as that work relates to Minnesota statutes addressing conflict of interest. Chairman Waytashek responded with his interpretation of relevant state statute.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Comments were heard regarding township road signs and the health effects of aerial spraying on homeowners and their property near the acreage of Prairie Farm, Incorporated in Watab Township.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD (continued)

Supervisor Gondeck reported on the following:

- A. "Warning" activation of siren systems (Sheriff Heck)
- B. Issac Road sign ordered
- C. "Quiet Zone" signs are ready
- D. Sauk Rapids Fire Department dry fire hydrant demonstration
- E. Zebra mussel control

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried adjourning the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon L. Hull
Clerk

Respectfully accepted,

Todd Waytashek
Chairman