

Watab Township Supervisors' Meeting
October 2, 2018

REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

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

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

ROLL CALL

Board member supervisors present were Craig Gondeck, Julie Johnson, and Todd Waytashek. Others present included Clerk Jon Hull, Treasurer Deborah O'Keefe, Watab Road Construction Manager Lloyd Erdmann, Bogart, Pederson & Associates representative Nick Anderson; and guests Carolyn Bertsch, Mike Burton, Buzz Cripe, Mary Beth Cripe, Jim Dahl, Sherry Denzer, Dale Dirks, Kate Engebritson, Kira Fowler, Holly Gazett, Doug Harden, Nidine Hill, Terry Hull, O. J. Janski, David Johnson, Mike Keehr, Jason Krueger, Duane Leslie, Gloria Nelson, Jeff Nelson, Phil S. Nelson, Kevin Reiter, John Olson, Steve Peka, Delroy Rothstein, Donna Rothstein, Sandra Saldana, Brian Schoenherr, John Schram, Jessica Storkamp, Paul Wippler, Robin Wollak, and Steve Wollak

PUBLIC COMMENT

Due to other public obligations, independent candidate for state legislature Myron Wilson, distributed flyers and outlined his platform for this office early in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving the proposed meeting agenda with the addition of Shoestring Loop patching as an "Action Item."

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving the minutes of a regular supervisors' meeting on September 4, 2018, as presented.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer O'Keefe presented information reporting Watab Township's September receipts, and a cash control statement indicating a \$616,003.50 balance. A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried accepting these reports.

APPROVAL TO PAY MONTHLY CLAIMS/PAYROLL AND WITHDRAW FUNDS

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried authorizing payment of monthly claims and payroll and withdrawal of funds in the amount of \$23,441.21.

CITIZENS' INPUT

Comments and questions were received concerning the following:

- Mike Burton - BCA direct deposits to the Township
- Michael Keehr - Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD 47 School Board candidate
- Sandy Saldana - City of Rice fire/emergency services contract with the Township
- Ray Thompson - Township road signs
- Lloyd Erdmann - quiet zone signage
- Gloria Nelson - Hemlock Road right-of-way responsibilities
- Lisa Loidolt - Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD 47 School Board candidate

Audience members reminded citizen speakers of the need for respect among us all.

ACTION ITEMS

Renewal of Oak Hill Golf Course Liquor License

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried approving the liquor license renewal as requested by Oak Hill Golf Course. Supervisor Gondeck also expressed his gratitude for the community service and involvement provided by this community business.

85th Street Drainage Issue at First Avenue North

Public comments were heard about mail box sites, the wear course, and supervisor involvement in Township road maintenance. Watab Road Construction Manager Erdmann will contact Kraemer Trucking and Excavating, Incorporated, which provided project materials and labor.

Authorization to Submit "Quiet Zone" Application for 95th Street to the Federal Railroad Administration and the Federal Department of Transportation

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and carried authorizing submission of the "Quiet Zone" application for 95th Street and expressing gratitude to former Watab Township Clerk Pat Spence for her diligence in the preparation of the application.

Little Rock Lake Association Donation

Supervisor Gondeck thanked all those who contributed to the Saturday, September 15, 2018, Watab/Langola Townships Community Clean-Up Day success. He requested a financial statement from the Little Rock Lake Association before proceeding with any financial proceedings/action.

Participation of Supervisor Johnson as a volunteer was questioned as it pertains to "conflict of interest."

Chairman Waytashek emphasized the Township's fiduciary responsibility to all community residents.

Treasurer O'Keefe questioned the intent/meaning of SCORE grant language as it provides financial donation parameters.

Watab resident Paul Wippler announced he will personally provide a \$750 contribution to the Little Rock Lake Association for the drawdown planned for 2019. Those present expressed their appreciation with a round of applause.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

Shoestring Loop Repairs

A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried authorizing Marson Contractors to patch the area of Shoestring Loop in need of such attention. Jeff Hanson suggested the entire area did not require excavating; if his work is not successful, the Township would not be obligated to pay him.

Estimates on Improvements for 85th Street W, Burton Court, and Frost Road

These three projects are part of the Ten-Year Township Road Maintenance Plan. Nick Anderson, representative of Bogart, Pederson, & Associates, Incorporated engineering firm, provided pertinent information regarding repair options, estimated costs, and other details. Soil borings will be completed before November's meeting at which time supervisors will consider all aspects of the projects before a vote is taken.

85th and 95th Streets Improvements Progress

Township Road Construction Manager Erdmann reported that work on 85th Street is nearing completion.

Mail boxes have been situated at preferred locations.

Erosion issues are noted on 95th Street with quantities of sand accumulating in the 10th Avenue culverts.

Proposed Township Road Engineering Standards

Supervisors continue to study and consider proposed township road engineering standards provided by Bogart, Pederson, & Associates. These would upgrade and provide new standards that were approved some years ago as part of the plat process.

Consideration of Ten-Year Transportation Improvement Plan

A revised plan was provided as suggested by Bogart, Pederson, & Associates. Supervisors will proceed with further investigation and discussion before adoption.

Adoption of Mail Box Post Standards

Chairman Waytashek provided information on mail box post standards adopted by the State of Minnesota and Benton County that are expected to positively effect snow plowing procedures, responsibilities, and liability. Supervisors will further examine feasibility of a Township ordinance.

Office Printer Lease

The township currently leases a KONICA MINOLTA bizhub 283 from Marco Business Products. This lease will expire in May of 2019; Watab Township is being offered the opportunity to renew the lease at this time. Clerk Hull offered comments relating to the excellent performance of the equipment in question and the challenges of learning and becoming acquainted with yet another unfamiliar aspect of current job responsibilities for both Treasurer O'Keefe and her. It was the consensus of the Board to take no action at this time.

DISCUSSION TOPICS (continued)

Township Medical/Fire/Emergency Services Levy

Comments were heard on the continued dissatisfaction and concern regarding the Township levy for Fire District I medical/fire/emergency services and the current practice of billing consumers of these services for the attention provided by Rice Fire Department first responders.

Upon hearing the plight of a Rockwood Estates resident, who suffered several instances of requiring attention from the Rice Fire Department, Chairman Waytashek offered to personally cover her expenses for those services.

Chairman Waytashek requested minutes from the meetings of the Watab Township's Fire District I Committee before signatures are affixed to the 2019-2020 contract between the City of Rice and Watab Township.

Additional information will be obtained as the Board examines current contracts, Minnesota statutes, and Township and resident obligations.

Fifth Avenue Extension

Preliminary legal advice has been obtained on the matter of extension to Fifth Avenue NE.

Microphone Updates

There continue to be challenges in the successful usage of Township hall audio amplification equipment. Supervisor Johnson will secure additional information and service.

Annual Newsletter

Supervisors and office officials were reminded of the quickly approaching task involving development of Watab's annual newsletter. Several topics were suggested by citizens present.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD

County Sales Tax

Supervisor Gondeck shared information recently received on a proposed county sales tax being considered that would replace the transportation levy and that townships could then access as well. It is expected additional information will be forthcoming.

Emerald Ash Borer Quarantine in Wright County

Correspondence has been received from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture that an emergency quarantine has been imposed on Wright County due to the abundance of Emerald Ash Borers being reported.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD (continued)

Minnesota Department of Transportation Response to Highway 10 Traffic Study

Supervisor Johnson had obtained and shared information from the Minnesota Department of Transportation in regard to a traffic corridor study of Highway 10 between Sauk Rapids and Rice. While there seems to be much agreement about the traffic access challenges, funding remains a problem.

Plaziak Road Nuisance

Supervisor Gondeck reported on the situation and remedies being implemented.

Utilization of Recycled Shingles

Supervisor Gondeck presented information on grants being developed for the use of recycled shingles as road patching materials.

Home Construction

Supervisor Gondeck reported that seven new homes are under construction in the township.

Supervisors' October Plans

- * Supervisor Johnson will not be available for two weeks after October 15.
- * MPCA Conference attendance – Gondeck
- * MS4 Water Conference attendance - Gondeck

CITIZENS' INPUT

Comments and concerns were heard on the following:

- * Junk yard appearance of property on 85th Street
- * Number of residences on a singular piece of property
- * Semi-trailer parked near 75th Street and Highway 10
- * Hemlock Road right-of-way
- * Road signs blocking driver vision
- * School bus decorum

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business appearing before the Board, a motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried adjourning the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon L. Hull
Watab Township Clerk

Respectfully accepted,

Todd B. Waytashek
Watab Township Chairman