

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Lloyd Erdmann and Craig Gondeck, Treasurer Eileen Saldana, and Clerk Pat Spence. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, there were the following announcements by Supervisor Gondeck: deepest sympathy to the Charlie Reichensberger family on the death of their daughter and the announcement for a benefit on August 23rd for Jesse Kipka. Audience members present were Bob Raveling, Rep. Jim Newberger, Don & Ginger Jarnot, Mark and Roxanne Saldana, Douglas Boser, Sam Deleo, and Allen Saldana.

The agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures with the addition of the preliminary plat request by Mark Saldana, a request for tree trimming on Lakewood Shore Road by Ruth Janski, and the 66th Street Road access issue requested by the Jarnots. Motion was approved.

Representative Jim Newberger attended the meeting to discuss the Highway 10 access issues. He is very disappointed that the General Fund budget has less than 1% going to transportation. He had the traffic count numbers sent to us earlier, which were prepared by MNDOT. He thanked Claudia Dumont at MNDOT for her assistance. Before February 2014, he wants to come up with a wish list with the town board to present in the bonding bill. There are a number of different plans and strategies, and he will call on us to help get "yes" votes. Supervisor Kacures asked about Governor Dayton's wish list. Representative Newberger will send in a request as soon as possible, and he requested an email response from Clerk Spence outlining the town board's wishes. In response to a question by Supervisor Kacures about getting federal funds, Rep. Newberger stated that Interstate 94 will get federal dollars and U. S. Highway 10 would not likely be funded. He added that there will most likely be a special session of the legislature to deal with disaster relief. He will support it. Jim answered other questions from the board and residents. The Chair thanked Representative Newberger for attending the meeting.

The minutes of the July meeting were approved by motion of Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed. Treasurer's Report was given by Eileen Saldana with a cash balance of \$383,633.34. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed for approval of her report. Approval was given to pay the monthly bills for claims #5207 through 5220 and electronic transfers for PERA and IRS totaling \$13,463.50 through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed.

A request for approval of North View Plat was made by Sam DeLeo. He presented the plat for Doug and Tanya Boser, who want to develop two buildable lots for the future. There are no wetlands on the property. The plat has been submitted to the county, and he is now seeking approval from the township board. Access to the lots would be off the county road. Zoning will

continue to be Agriculture. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to approve the preliminary plat and allow for signatures by the Chair and Clerk, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed.

Mark and Roxanne Saldana are selling land near their business in Watab to Derek Nelson. They are putting in a utility easement along 15th Avenue. The county is requesting township approval. It will be used to bring in telephone and electricity to the site. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to approve their request for the utility easement; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. The plat is titled Nelson addition. Clerk Spence needs to send the information to Joe Janish, Benton County Department of Development tomorrow.

Old Business:

1. Lake Andrew Signage is complete with the installation of the last sign.
2. FEMA report was given by Supervisor Gondeck. He will attend a meeting tomorrow to submit our bill of \$2,504.57. Seventy-five per cent could be covered by FEMA; if the state approves a special session, we may get the additional dollars covered. The costs were for two road washouts that needed repair and tree removal from township roads and right of ways.
3. Outdoor Warning System: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the grants received from East Central Energy and Benton Telecommunications Foundation. The siren is ordered and should be installed in six to eight weeks.
4. Dry Hydrant System: There was a meeting of Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck with Nikki Blake-Bradley at DNR on Friday morning to review the permit requests; they will now go out for a 30-day comment period with other DNR officials. If people live within 1000 feet of a fire hydrant, they can get a reduction in their property insurance.
5. Ditch Mowing is currently in progress. Supervisor Gondeck was requested to contact the contractor with the board's concerns about him mowing at dusk for safety reasons.
6. The board discussed priorities for Highway 10 Access in the township to be forwarded to Representative Newberger: 1) interchange system with frontage roads is number one priority; 2) service road for Oak Hill and Golf Haven Estates; and 3) acceleration lanes for Pines Edge and Rockwood Estates. Clerk Spence is to include these in the email to Representative Jim Newberger.
7. Saldana Road Street Signs: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the signs that will be added upon request of Sandra Saldana at last month's meeting.
8. Warning Lights: Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has the new batteries for the road project warning lights.
9. Minimum Maintenance Road (105th Street): Brian Erdmann changed his mind on doing the project because Phil Nelson doesn't want it done. Other contractors aren't interested: Ray Thompson Excavating, Saldana Excavating, Burski, and Marson. The board decided to have the road bladed and have two loads of gravel added on the north end and one load of gravel by Bogies. Brian Erdmann will be asked to do it for \$600. Motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed for Brian Erdmann to do the above-mentioned work with Supervisor Erdmann abstaining due to being a brother of the contractor.

10. Summer Road Projects: Everything is completed from the board's road tour work list.
11. Railroad Crossing Projects: Supervisor Erdmann reported that Tri-City should be moving in Wednesday or Thursday of this week. Omann Brothers have submitted their paperwork on insurance to BN. Supervisor Kacures called Bentley Tomlin about his concerns that nothing is happening on our crossing projects. He is extremely concerned about the projects happening during school time.
12. West Lake Court: Supervisor Erdmann presented a plan that he has developed. He is suggesting a 90 foot cul de sac blacktop without curb and gutter. The township needs to discuss the project with the homeowners. The board asked Supervisor Erdmann to proceed. Clerk Spence was asked to contact the bus company regarding buses picking up students in cul de sacs.
13. Shangri La Loop Bus Safety Issue: Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck met there and Supervisor Erdmann created a design to improve safety for the school buses ingress/egress. Supervisor Erdmann will show the design to Dick Raveling, bus driver who raised the safety issue, and see if it meets his approval.
14. Mop Sink for town hall: Jim Petron has ordered the sink and it will be installed this month.
15. Plat Process: Clerk Spence will work on needed revisions this month.

New Business:

1. 66th Street Road Issue: Don and Ginger Jarnot are seeking permission from the town board to access 66th Street from a 40-acre parcel they own. There is a recorded easement which allows ingress/egress from their property to 66th Street, but Benton County Department of Development would like the township approval before issuing a land use permit. After very lengthy discussion, Supervisor Erdmann made a motion that the township recognizes the easement for the purpose of the Jarnots selling a parcel of 40 acres for one home. If the purchaser wants further development, they will need to follow the township and Benton County platting process; seconded by Supervisor Kacures; and motion passed on a two to one vote. Supervisor Gondeck voted against the motion because he wanted a meeting with the residents adjoining the property before board action. Clerk Spence is to send a letter of the board action to the Jarnots.
2. SCORE Grant for Picnic Table at Town Hall: cost is about \$700 for a recycled table; township would pay 25%. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed requesting that Supervisor Gondeck submit a SCORE Grant to Benton County for \$525 for a picnic table for the town hall; total cost is \$700 with the township paying the remaining twenty-five percent.
3. Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck showed the poster for Saturday, September 14th from 8am to 2 pm at Twin Pine Restaurant Parking Lot. The board decided to keep prices the same as last year.
4. Rice Fire Contract Issue: Supervisor Kacures asked the Clerk to see if Langola and Graham townships are interested in having a joint meeting to discuss contracts with Rice.
5. District 8 Meeting: Clerk Spence reviewed the invitation to the August 21st meeting. The Clerk and Treasurer will attend the meeting at Timbermist Banquet Center in Brainerd.

6. Request for Tree Trimming: Ruth Janski asked to have the trees trimmed as a safety issue on Lakewood Shore Road. Branches are impeding two-way traffic. The board asked that STS Crew do the work this month. Supervisor Erdmann asked that they also check the leaning tree by Mark Beckman's property. The STS crew will also do tree trimming on Hemlock Road.
7. Clerk Spence is to send the signed copy of the quote on the warning siren to Frontline.
8. The board reviewed the monthly communications.
9. Supervisor Reports: Supervisor Gondeck said that the deteriorated trailer house on Indian Road will be removed. Clerk Spence was asked to determine who owns the strip of land on West Lake Road formerly owned by St. Regis.
10. Board work for August: clean rust from the town hall building, sidewalk and flag pole; install signs; tree trimming; railroad crossings; and cul de sac discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Spence, Clerk