

**Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes  
October 1, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. Board members present were Supervisor Craig Gondeck, Lloyd Erdmann, and Ed Kacures Jr.; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members present were Rice Mayor Dale Rogholt, Council Member Chris Scheel, Allen Saldana, Bob Raveling, and Louis LeBlanc. Supervisor Gondeck extended sympathy to several township residents who had experienced recent deaths, and the board wished Supervisor Gondeck a happy birthday.

Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to add the Annual Township Road Certification to the agenda. Minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> meetings were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck and second by Supervisor Erdmann. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a total of \$277,089.60 in checking accounts at Falcon National and Bremer Banks. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann and seconded by Supervisor Gondeck to pay claims number 5245 through 5263 and electronic transfers for PERA, Internal Revenue Service, and MN Department of Revenue totaling \$94,128.87. This motion included authority for the Clerk and Treasurer to re-issue the September payroll check to Supervisor Kacures and to pay the Cardmember Service bill for \$46.00, which was received today. Motion passed.

Rice Mayor Dale Rogholt suggested that the current contract be used as a model for the new emergency services contract for Rice, which needs to be renewed by January 1, 2014. He recommended using the federal Cost-of-Living-Amount as an increase on the current lump-sum amount, as established on January 1. He also asked if there were any language changes that the township would like in the new contract. Clerk Spence suggested the sentence regarding Net Tax Capacity be eliminated from the contract. She also explained how it would be helpful for residents to get insurance coverage in paying for their services if the township could use the city's Health Care Provider Number. Since the township does not directly provide the emergency services, the township cannot apply for the health care provider number. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion for Clerk Spence to make the changes in the current contract language to accommodate these items and send it to Mayor Rogholt as soon as possible. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Discussion followed on the conflict of interest of volunteer fire fighters who serve on the Rice City Council to be negotiating and voting on these contracts. Clerk Spence said that she would send Mayor Rogholt the Minnesota Statute language that reflects this conflict.

Old Business included:

- a. Building maintenance: Supervisor Gondeck had two quotes to repair lights in the parking lot. Supervisor Kacures asked him to also get quotes for changing them to LED lights. This agenda item was tabled until these quotes can be obtained in the interest of lowering operating costs. Clerk Spence suggested having the sprinkler system turned off for the season so that the rust could be removed from the sidewalk, flag pole, and building. This will be done within the next couple weeks.
- b. Railroad crossing projects: Supervisor Erdmann reported that the Lakewood Shore Road section has the base course on and seeding and mulch down with a straw blanket; grass

should be growing by this time next week. He doesn't know when Tri-City Paving will come to do the wear course but most likely within the week. There is an issue with the curb median. When the railroad was putting in the planks they ran over the median and cracked some of the median inset. Tim Otremba, owner of Tri-City Paving, is trying to get a meeting with the railroad to get a remedy. Supervisor Kacures asked if the town board needs a meeting with the railroad to finalize making it a no-whistle zone. Supervisor Erdmann said that when the road construction is complete, the town board needs to request an inspection from the railroad and federal railway administration to see that it meets criteria and used the approved plan. The Chair raised his concern about the 4 wheelers ripping up the new grassed area and suggested putting up an orange fence. Clerk Spence asked Supervisor Erdmann to assist her with the MS4 report on the project when it is completed. Supervisor Kacures raised a concern about the large size of the directional signs for the crossing, but Supervisor Erdmann felt that they would be okay. Supervisor Gondeck inquired about any additional curb damage; there is none. Bob Raveling commented on the position of one of the power poles. Supervisor Erdmann said that he shares the same safety concerns, but said that Xcel Energy would not move it. Supervisor Erdmann reported that he spoke to the owner of Omann Brothers two weeks ago regarding the County Road 79 project. Omann Brothers has been communicating with a woman at BN with no response for several weeks at that time; he finally got a response that she no longer works at the railroad. Now, he has been emailed another form which he filled out and still hasn't had a response in two weeks. Louis LeBlanc asked why it takes the township so long to get railroad crossings done, when they do them so quickly in Sauk Rapids and Saint Cloud. The board responded that the workload is entirely different for the railroad at this time, because there have been many cutbacks in railroad staffing and railroad traffic is greatly increased. The man the township works with is responsible for Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and the province of Manitoba. Also, the largest safety project in fifty years is being completed between Staples and the Twin Cities. Supervisor Kacures made a motion for the Clerk to distribute a notice to the residents of the Lakewood Shores project area that the crossing has re-opened; motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck. Supervisor Erdmann asked to have a note added that it's seeded and mulched, and if anyone knows who is driving the 4 wheelers that are doing the damage to let him know, and they will be dealt with accordingly. Motion passed.

- c. Outdoor Warning Siren: Supervisor Gondeck reported that Tom Green will install the siren this month.
- d. DNR Permit Review and Quotes for installation of dry hydrant system: Supervisor Gondeck met with a DNR representative today at the public landing, and a decision was made on placement of the hydrant. He recommends that the township eliminate the hydrant planned for Rumors, since the permit was given for the one at the public landing. He also suggested eliminating the one at the Gordon Bridge. For the locations on county road right of way, the township needs to apply for a shoreline permit from the Benton County Development office. Motion was made by Supervisor Kacures to drop the Gordon Bridge and Rumors locations, and it was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed. Concern was raised by Allen Saldana about snow plowing into

the public landing in the winter so that emergency vehicles could reach the hydrant. The board decided that the township would keep it plowed. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to investigate the possibility of connecting to the irrigation wells, and he will check on it. The board decided to wait until spring to go out for quotes for the installation of the dry hydrants. The township will only need to pay DNR for the permits used. Supervisor Erdmann will draw up the specifications for the dry hydrant quotes during the winter months.

- e. Minimum Maintenance Road: repairs have been completed by Brian Erdmann; Supervisor Gondeck showed pictures of the work and said that Brian did a good job but that more work should be done next year.
- f. Supervisor Gondeck reported on signs he installed during the past month; there are four stop signs left to install in Circle Pines and Isaac Road coming onto Lakewood Shore Road. Yield signs will be changed to stop signs.
- g. Road issues: Supervisor Erdmann said that there are holes in the road in front of Pine Stop; Clerk Spence said that she had a contact about a hole on Burton Court, and Bob Raveling raised concerns about the need for repairs at the end of Shoestring Loop. Supervisor Erdmann was asked to contact Tri-City Paving to repair Shoestring Loop; Allen Saldana was asked to make the other repairs, and he said he would do so within the next couple days.
- h. Supervisor Gondeck said that everything is settled with FEMA on the June storm damage. 75% of the cost will be covered by FEMA and the remainder by the state.
- i. Watab Clean Up Day: Supervisor Gondeck showed pictures of the day. 200 people came through the line; he recommends an increase in cost charged residents for tires next year. Josh from Pine Stop handed out \$5 coupons for those coming through the line who brought food shelf donations; he also offered to pay for advertising for next year's Clean Up Day. Pine Stop will give a \$5 certificate for a meal next year if people bring 5 items for the food shelf. Supervisor Gondeck thanked all the workers and said that there were many favorable comments.
- j. Plat Process: this was tabled for a special meeting later in November after the Clerk has time to work on the new MS4 permit.
- k. Picnic Table: Supervisor Gondeck reported a SCORE grant has been approved for up to \$484. Benton County will reimburse the township up to that amount (75 % of total cost for the picnic table). Supervisor Gondeck was asked to bring photos to the November meeting of tables made of recycled materials that would be appropriate for the town hall property.
- l. Weed Tour: Supervisor Gondeck reported that he made the weed tour with the county weed inspector, and he reported that there were very positive comments on the ditch mowing. Supervisor Gondeck will file the report with the Clerk.
- m. Road Right of Way issues: a property owner on Lakewood Shore Road needs to be asked again to move rocks and posts off the right of way; the truck parked on right of way in Circle Pines for the past several months has been moved. Supervisor Gondeck was given authority to talk to the new property owner on Ferry Point about the brick mail box in the road right of way.
- n. The board discussed the Benton County Association of Township meeting.

- o. Road Certification with Benton County: motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to have the Chair sign it; second was made by Supervisor Erdmann; and motion passed. Supervisor Erdmann questioned the length of recorded road for 66<sup>th</sup> street and wants research it this winter.
- p. Supervisor Gondeck gave a Development Board report: there are concerns about the mill property; and there is a transition to a new director.
- q. Supervisor Gondeck met with Chuck Ertl, and all mowing will be completed this month. The vacant, dilapidated trailer house on Indian Road is gone and property is cleaned up. Welcome to Watab Signs are re-installed following the county road projects. He showed a potential design for a sign rack for the town hall storage room and was given permission to get quotes for one.
- r. The board discussed the October work plan.

Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence