

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes: June 3, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. on June 3, 2014 at the town hall. Board members present were: Supervisors Ed Kacures Jr. and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were: Bob Raveling, Allen Saldana, John Thompson, Janel Vaillancourt, John Baune, and Kevin Reiter.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved through a motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed. Approval of the May meeting minutes was given through a motion by Supervisor Kacures, second by Supervisor Gondeck; and motion passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a total of \$203,774.88 in checking accounts. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to approve her report. Approval to pay the monthly bills was delayed until later in the meeting in hopes of Supervisor Erdmann attending the meeting. Allen Saldana raised a citizen's concern about graffiti on the railroad box across from Supervisor Kacures' driveway. Supervisor Erdmann will contact the railroad to request painting it, since it is an eyesore in the neighborhood.

Quotes were requested from six township excavating businesses to install two dry hydrants for fire protection in the township. Since no quotes were submitted, the board decided to ask for quotes from outside the township to find interested contractors. Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence will make some additional contacts to hopefully get quotes for the July board meeting.

Old Business:

1. Rice Fire Contract: a letter was sent from Watab Board Chair to Ross Olson, City of Sauk Rapids Administrator, requesting their consideration to serve the entire township, and he is talking to the necessary parties for their consideration. When the township receives a response, Supervisor Kacures stated that he will call a public hearing, and we need to act by the end of the month. Clerk Spence reported on the research she was asked to do by the board at the May meeting. If the boundary for fire protection would change and 11 homes on the north side of Little Rock Road and in Bayview Court plus the King's Inn property would be served by Rice, it would increase cost to Rice by approximately \$1,442. Also, she requested information from Brian Koester, Benton County Assessor, on the tax rates for the mobile homes, which pay personal property tax instead of property tax; the personal property rate is $\frac{3}{4}$ of 1%. He stated that mobile home tax delinquencies in Benton County are higher than the amount collected from them. Currently, Rockwood Estates has a taxable value of \$449,200. Questions were asked about the fire contract negotiations by Kevin Reiter and John Baune. Most of the delinquent bills from the township for fire protection are for first responder calls to Rockwood Estates.
2. Flag Pole Replacement: Supervisor Gondeck had quotes from Vans and Countryside. He recommended fixing the current one for \$50; Supervisor Kacures asked that this be tabled until next month when Supervisor Erdmann is present.
3. West Lake Court Improvements were tabled since Supervisor Erdmann was absent.
4. County Rd 79 Crossing: some of the crossing signs are up, and the remainder should be here this month. Notice of Intent has been sent for the Quiet Zone by Clerk Spence and Jon Bogart. Supervisor Erdmann arrived at the meeting and said the project went smoothly; Omann Brothers did a good job once they got started and had the flagman. Supervisor Erdmann now has a phone number for the flagman.

5. Pre-Design of Future Railroad Crossings: Staking and surveying is going on for the planning process. Supervisor Gondeck stated that House File 294 was passed at the legislature with funding that the township could make application; he will research this further. No crossing work will be done this year. Cost estimates are being prepared this year.
6. Follow Up on Road Tour: Supervisor Gondeck reported on Allen Saldana's work on pothole repairs. Supervisors Erdmann and Gondeck met with the County Engineer to review the drainage problem at the intersection of Sucker Creek Road and Little Rock Road. The recommendation for the most cost-effective approach would be to make the ditch deeper on the corner to hold more water; however there are many utilities in that ditch that have been located. Supervisor Gondeck said we need to find out how deep the gas line is; he will dig there to find depth of the utilities and bring back the information for the next meeting. Supervisor Kacures expressed his reservations about a supervisor digging. Supervisor Gondeck said that the frost heave on West Lake Road needs replacement; the Clerk is to work with Supervisor Erdmann on a proposal and get quotes for the next meeting; the board won't do additional work on Sanbur Trail this year. Stop signs have been installed; additional culvert markers will be installed by Supervisor Gondeck this month. Supervisor Kacures read the letter from Craig Hanson responding to concerns brought up at last month's meeting. Oak Hills will address the water valve issue. They feel they do not need to open the plugged catch basin. The board believes that the catch basin needs to be opened up; being plugged for many years does not satisfy the issue. We have been informed by residents within Oak Hill that a beehive cover at corner of 85th Street and First Avenue is cracked and a small child could fall in. The Clerk is to draft a letter for the board chair to Oak Hill Estates that this has been brought to the township's attention. Supervisor Kacures opened the quotes for blading of 105th St NE, 5th Ave NE, Jackle Rd NW, and repairs to 66th St. NW:
 - a) Ray Thompson and Co. Excavating: \$8,100.00
 - b) Saldana Excavating and Aggregate: 105th St NE blading--\$275; 66th Street blading and recycled concrete: \$4,761.75 (did not bid the entire project).
 - c) Rice Contracting and Development Services: \$8,885.Supervisor Erdmann announced that he would need to abstain because of a quote being from his brother. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to award the job to Ray Thompson and Co. Excavating based on the lower quote for the work; seconded by Supervisor Kacures; and motion passed with Supervisor Erdmann abstaining. John Thompson said he could begin the work in the next three weeks. Bob Raveling asked if there's going to be any tree trimming this summer. Supervisor Gondeck said that the Adopt a Highway Grant will pay for a portion of future tree trimming costs if chipping doesn't go into landfill. Crack filling will happen this month; the new county supervisor of the STS Crew has been hired and trained on the equipment.
7. Approval was given to pay the monthly bills totaling \$99,648.91 for claims #5424 through #5453 and electronic transfers for IRS and PERA through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed with Supervisor Kacures asking questions about some amounts on Supervisor Gondeck's time sheet.
8. Membership in the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance: Clerk Spence gave a report on the meeting she attended and the benefits of joining the organization to fulfill many of our MS4 requirements. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Erdmann

for the township to join the CMWEA and authorize the board chair to sign the membership form; motion passed.

9. Clerk Spence will work with MS4 Inspector Wayne Cymbaluk on the permit forms and instructions this month. They will be given to Benton County Department of Development to issue with the Land Use Permits; building permits will not be issued until the permit forms are completed and returned to the township.
10. Lake Andrew Storm Water Concerns: Supervisor Gondeck said that all the debris from the construction site is going into the storm sewer. Dale Kremers cleaned everything up at his construction site as requested. On May 21st Supervisor Gondeck received a copy of a letter that MPCA sent to Scott Jarnot, owner of Lake Andrew Development; he distributed a copy of the letter, which is placed on file. Supervisor Gondeck also reported a problem at the Jason Miller site in the Lake Andrew Development; Clerk Spence was asked to send him a letter and Supervisor Gondeck will also talk to them. There is no rock entrance and no barrier around silt piles; a letter also needs to be sent to Scott Jarnot reminding him that builders in his development need to be getting the land disturbance permit from the township.
11. Water Heater: Clerk Spence reported that Jim Petron recommends installing a 50-gallon water heater; the smaller water heaters are more expensive. On-demand water heaters have a shorter life expectancy and are also very expensive. He also recommends an on/off switch on the water heater so that it can be turned off when the hall is not in use to save energy. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to purchase the water heater and installation from Petron Plumbing and Heating.
12. APO Meeting: Both Supervisors Kacures and Gondeck attended the meeting. Supervisor Kacures was disappointed with the fact that there wasn't a good presentation; Supervisor Gondeck stated that a MNDOT rep told him that there is nothing planned in Watab for frontage roads or interchanges for the next 20 years. Supervisor Gondeck said that his research shows that APO is not listed as a top lobbyist at the state legislature. Both supervisors felt the township shouldn't join the APO, since the cost would outweigh any potential benefit.
13. Lark Road sewage followup: Supervisor Gondeck inspected the site of the spill near Gold N Plump. He stated that it is a county issue since the sewage was in their ditch. Supervisor Kacures asked Supervisor Gondeck to talk to Joe Janish, Benton County Department of Development, and let him know about it.
14. MS4 permit termination for the town hall construction was completed by the Clerk. Supervisor Erdmann had George Mastey sign the paperwork and it was submitted to MPCA.
15. Summer Work by MNDOT in Watab Township: Clerk Spence reported on her conversation with Claudia Dumont on resurfacing of Highway 10 in Watab Township and reviewed the handout from MNDOT of summer construction projects. The bids will be opened this coming Friday, and the contractor will stage the work. Clerk Spence will place a link to the MPCA website regarding construction dates on the township website. MNDOT will host a public meeting around the date of July 10th regarding the projects. Supervisor Kacures would like to send a postcard to our residents about it in addition to the postings on our website, Channel 3, and town hall. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to have the board chair and clerk proceed with the letter and postings as soon as the township has firm dates from MNDOT. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.

New Business:

1. Snow Plowing Contract: Supervisor Gondeck suggests adding language to the contract that plowing every time must be from shoulder to shoulder; Supervisor Kacures would like to see snow plowing start when there is 2" of snow on the road rather than waiting for the snowfall to end; buy salt sand mix consistent with county and state; if the snow is blowing over the road and no place in the ditch for it, contractor should be responsible to truck the snow; Supervisor Kacures added that he has made several comments for changes on his copy of the contract. Supervisor Erdmann would like further time to consider changes and have this on next month's agenda. A decision on contract language will be made at the next regular board meeting.
2. Property Insurance: Clerk Spence reviewed the changes needed on the personal property insurance for the town hall due to the new copier/scanner and other changes in inventory of signs and election equipment. Additional premium was \$19 to MATIT.
3. Maintenance at Town Hall: the board reviewed items suggested through an email from Maureen Graber on landscaping; due to the estimated cost by a local landscaper of \$1,500, the board decided to do the work as volunteers. Also, the Clerk is to ask Jim Petron to secure the outdoor faucet on the north side of the building. Supervisor Gondeck will get wood chips for the path by the storm water pond at the town hall.
4. There were two new Land Use Permits issued by Benton County in the township.
5. June 16th MAT Short Course at the Holiday Inn: Clerk Spence, Treasurer Saldana, and Supervisor Gondeck will attend the training.
6. Correspondence:
 - a. E-mail from CMWEA on posters and business cards that were distributed to area pharmacies to help educate customers about the drug drop box locations and why to use them. Copies are available at the town hall on the brochure rack. Another email message from CMWEA noticed us that the new website is live; the township is asked to help promote use of the website and encourage residents to take the Clean Water Pledge. The website address is www.h2youmn.com.
 - b. The copy of an email was received from Wayne Cymbaluk to Jeremy Sanoski at MPCA regarding follow up to concerns at Lake Andrew Development. MPCA has not responded at this time.
 - c. The township has received the document from Falcon National Bank to get additional signatures on the checking account; board members signed the document. The Deputy Clerk and Treasurer will go to the bank to sign.
 - d. Membership cards in the Minnesota Association of Townships were distributed to the board members.
 - e. Adam Surma from Tri-City Paving in Little Falls emailed about his inspection of the Lakewood Shore Rd NW project; grass covers over 75% of all areas of the project; Notice of Termination of the SWPPP has been signed by the township and the contractor and sent to MPCA. Silt fencing will be removed by the contractor in the near future.
 - f. Benton County Amnesty Day is June 14 at the Sauk Rapids High School from 7am to 2pm. It is advertised on the county website.
 - g. A thank you card was received from the Benton County Fair Board for the township's donation towards the Military Day activities and the children's activities at the fair this summer.

- h. An email was received from Jim McDermott, Emergency Services Director for the county. If the township has expenses related to flooding, we are to send him cost estimates. At this time, the township has no public flooding issues.
- i. Standard and Poor sent a letter thanking the township for the continued relationship and asking that they be informed of any changes in the township indebtedness.
- j. The State Board of Appeal and Equalization Training Council sent the schedule of required training by town board supervisors. All Watab Supervisors have completed recent training.
- k. Three Right of Entry Permits have been issued to Xcel Energy during the past month: Jasmine Loop, Alaina Place, and Lake Drive NE for work in township ditches. An invoice has been sent for the permits.

7. Supervisors' Reports:

- a. Supervisor Kacures suggested getting rock for riprap at the Lakewood Shore Road railroad crossing to prevent trespassing by four-wheelers. Supervisor Erdmann disagreed since the main problems are on the railroad property close to the tracks. He will speak to the signal man about putting a barricade near the tracks. He will also talk to him about the graffiti on the signal building at the Saldana Road crossing.
- b. Supervisor Gondeck reported that he has inspected all the township culverts; they are all working and there is no erosion. He also met with a concerned citizen at Ivy Place about their concerns with a neighbor's drainage pipe going into the channel. After speaking with the property owner who did the installation, it was determined that the project was okayed by the Department of Development and has a filtration system so that contaminants will not get into the Channel. The site plan for the project is on file at the town hall. He asked if Benton County should have a driveway permit for the new entrance from the park to Ferry Point. Clerk Spence said that the county was creating a more formal walking path, and it is not for vehicular traffic. She will follow up with Benton County Department of Development. Supervisor Gondeck said that the \$11,250 SCORE Grant he applied for the September 13th Clean Up Day has been approved by Benton County. He also reported on his attendance at the MAT L & R Meeting and what he learned about transportation funding and possible changes for EPA authority that would affect the township. The development group is surveying businesses to see if they would benefit from airplane service to North Dakota; there may be 50 people flying to ND if the St. Cloud airport offers the flights. Supervisor Gondeck also stated that the township should get more involved with input to the next zoning plans in Benton County. Many small businesses that are interested cannot locate in Watab because of zoning.
- c. The board received a bill from Mike Sobania for 50 pairs of gopher feet that he turned in. Authorization was given by the board to pay \$100 to him.
- d. Citizen's Issues: Kevin Reiter asked about the tree disease in the township.

Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence, Clerk