

WATAB TOWN BOARD MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 2, 2016

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: Those in the audience were Representative Jim Newberger, Senate District Candidate Andrew Matthews, Bob Raveling, Todd Waytashek, Sandra Saldana, Anna Saldana, and Kevin Reiter.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the Chair welcomed Representative Jim Newberger to give his legislative report. He said that the legislature had a productive year, but here are also things that are unfinished. The Republican Tax Bill emphasized tax relief that passed on a strong bipartisan vote. It also passed in the Senate. The Governor vetoed it and is likely to call a special session. The transportation bonding bill was mostly for roads and bridges. Watab's request for funding for an overpass and frontage roads between 75th and 85th Streets was included for \$12 million and passed through the House and Senate conference committees. On the last evening of the session the bill had been agreed to by the House and had wide bipartisan support. Late at night, it was sent from the House to the Senate, and a Senator introduced amendments to add funding for the light rail; the House was already adjourned. Adjournment time came with no agreements, and nothing was passed. If a special session is called, the same packages will be in place, and Jim said he would support them. If there isn't a special session, there is likely to be a bonding bill in early January. Other issues worked on were expansion of broadband service; and he is hoping to get more funding in the next session for emergency training for train derailments. He added that he believes the DNR is trying to shut down irrigators on the north end of Little Rock Lake, and he is working with them. Also, he said that he has stopped the DNR from clearcutting Sand Dunes Forest for pollinator habitat. He is still fighting for the Sherco plant to have a gas plant and to keep the coal plants operating. The Legislature also passed a major change to having a Presidential Primary in Minnesota with caucuses held on a separate date. On Governor Election years, Minnesotans will still have preference polls at the caucuses, and there won't be a primary. Kevin Reiter asked about electoral votes, broadband costs to consumers, and why taxpayers should pay for a special session. Representative Newberger was thanked by the board for his report.

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Kacures to approve the agenda with the addition of the Park Dedication issue, Little Rock Lake Association picnic for August 13, District 8 MAT meeting, and Rice Fire Contract; motion passed. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to approve the July meeting minutes and for the Chair to sign them. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a cash balance of \$552,460.06. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to accept her report. She was commended for her work. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to hold payment of the Tri-City Paving bill because it lists 500 gallons of calcium chloride; the truck showed 450 gallons used. Chair Kacures asked to have the Clerk contact Tri-City; second by Supervisor Kacures, motion passed.

Citizen's Input: Andrew Matthews introduced himself as the Republican Candidate endorsed for this Senate District. Senator Dave Brown is not running for re-election. He is from the Princeton-Milaca area, where he has lived for 20 years. He is a law school graduate, Bible School graduate, and a pastor. He has been a legislative assistant at the capitol in the past and has many relationships with current elected officials, which he thinks would be helpful. He also holds a federal position helping veterans.

Old Business:

- A. Lake Andrew report was given by Clerk Spence on numerous communications with Scott Jarnot during the past month. He is close to submitting plans to the Department of Health to correct the water pressure issues, and all his reports to the township were reviewed. Also, during July the board received calls from residents of Lake Andrew that water was standing outside the septic system; the Supervisors did an onsite inspection that evening and found sewage bubbling out and running toward the wetland. They reached Scott Jarnot by phone, photos were taken, the Duty Officer was called, and Nelson Septic was called to empty the tank, which they did. Supervisor Gondeck reported on his phone call to the Duty Officer who reported the issue to MPCA. It was caused by sump pumps pumping into the septic system. Supervisor Gondeck also reported on a female resident of Lake Andrew who screamed at him for the board causing problems in the development and asked him to leave. He was stopped by a Sheriff's Deputy near Seeker's telling him that a resident of Lake Andrew had called about a "creepy predator being in the development." The deputy suggested that he get Watab Township signs for his vehicle. Supervisor Erdmann suggested that Scott Jarnot talk with all his residents to make sure they aren't pumping sump pumps into the sewer system. The holding tanks had been pumped the day prior to the spill.
- B. Tree Trimming and Brush Cutting: Supervisor Gondeck said that he is getting lots of calls about tree branches over lanes of traffic. He will get quotes this month for the major work.
- C. Road Projects: Supervisor Erdmann said that ASTECH completed the seal coating and fog sealing and did a great job. Striping of the town hall parking lot spaces will be done this week. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to have the work done by Land Concepts as soon as possible, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed.
- D. Crack Filling should be completed this month and work done until crack filling material is gone.
- E. Asphalt for Johnson Road approach. Supervisor Erdmann met with Marson's to get a quote.
- F. Shoulder seeding for Lakewood Shore crossing area: Supervisor Gondeck has a quote from Burski's; the board requested that he find out the amount of black dirt that they plan to use.

- G. Park Dedication Fee: the township attorney is researching the issue and it will be on the September agenda.

New Business:

- A. July Storm Damage: there is a large washout on 115th Street, on Sucker Creek, and there were a few trees down. Supervisor Gondeck presented costs to FEMA when he met with them. Watab was fortunate to have little damage compared to some of the other townships. Governor Dayton will need to declare an emergency before funding can be received. The safety issues have to be fixed immediately. The board authorized hiring Saldana Excavating to repair 115th Street.
- B. Early Notification System from Benton County Emergency Management. The emergency notification calling system didn't operate, because Director Jim McDermott was on vacation. He reports to the County Administrator, so there is no coordination with the Sheriff. The outdoor warning sirens also didn't go off at appropriate times, because the sheriff's dispatcher wouldn't recognize the phone call to activate them. Supervisor Gondeck will follow through with Jim McDermott and Sheriff Heck to get this issue resolved. The board members were extremely upset that neither system was operational since two tornadoes were headed for Watab.
- C. Land Disturbance Permit Update: Supervisor Gondeck stopped one project, because they didn't have a Land Use permit from the county and had already put in a well. Silt fencing had to be added around a dirt pile that spread to neighbor's property during the heavy rain. Bob Raveling reported that dirt is being moved on the river bank off Shoestring Loop for building a new home; there are no permits.
- D. Speed signs for Lakewood Shore Rd: there has been a request from residents for more speed limit signs. Supervisor Gondeck was asked to order the signs to get them up next month.
- E. Annual Clean Up Day: Motion was made by Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Kacures to set September 24th as Clean Up Day; motion passed.
- F. Budget Quarterly Report completed. Everything is on track.
- G. Economic Partnership Report: Supervisor Gondeck reported on an excellent turnout at the meeting for the new Economic Partnership. He mentioned that both Sandra Saldana and Kevin Johnson from Watab Township are on the new Board of Directors. Sandra Saldana reported that John Herges, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp (representing the County Board), Laura Kangas, Kevin Johnson, John Brenny (representing the area Chambers of Commerce), and Butch Thell (representing townships) are board members. The cities of Sauk Rapids and Foley will select a representative for cities. Supervisor Erdmann asked if Sartell has been approached. Sandra said that they haven't done so, but she will look into it; the directors also hope that the City of Rice will join. The board hopes to have an Executive Director hired by the end of September.

- H. Little Rock Lake Association Picnic is August 13th; Clerk Spence will notice the meeting, since all board members are invited.
- I. The MAT District 8 Meeting is on August 17th at Clarissa: Supervisor Gondeck, Treasurer Saldana, and Clerk Spence will attend. Clerk Spence was asked to fill out the resolution form for the resolution that was passed in March 2016 regarding the option to bill property owners. The resolution will be presented at the District 8 meeting.
- J. The Rice City Clerk called today asking the board to present a proposal for the next fire contract. The board discussed it and suggested using the same proposal as last time with the Clerk and Supervisor Erdmann working on it. Supervisor Gondeck will check into getting reports from the Fire Marshall.
- K. Clerk Spence reviewed the correspondence: (1) communication with Mary McKenna, daughter of a former Watab school teacher; (2) a letter from the MN Department of Revenue that the 2017 Town Aid will be \$586; (3) the Benton County Association of Townships Meeting will be September 8th at 7:30 p.m. at Mr. Jim's in Foley; and (4) the township received a letter and first dividend check from the Minnesota Association of Townships for the Workers' Compensation Program; check was \$710.00
- L. Supervisor Gondeck gave a report on the Greater St. Cloud Development meeting. Supervisor Kacures reported on an email from a person on West Lake Road complaining about the signage by King's Inn. She wants the township to have an ordinance to control signs on businesses that have closed. The board discussed it, and believe that this should stay under Benton County Department of Development control. A realtor called about issues at Lake Andrew. Supervisor Gondeck said that there are dead trees on the town hall property. The electric power company will take one down by the power lines. West Lake Road signage is complete. Supervisor Gondeck is still working on finding a donation board. Joe Prom is still trying to find out owners' names for the vehicles at the Platz property. He can't haul out the vehicles until the owners are located. Supervisor Gondeck talked to Hulls about the runoff after the big rain. Supervisor Erdmann said that if there is a special session and the bonding bill passes, the township should have the attorney work on negotiations to get a frontage road.
- M. Work Plan: STS Crew crack filling, brush work, storm damage, trees on town hall lot; hydrant repair; work on Rice fire contract proposal; frontage road south from Kevin Johnson's, Marson's call; and Primary Election Day.

Citizen's Input: Kevin Reiter asked to have Sucker Creek added to tree trimming work. The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence