

Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for February 2, 2016

The regular monthly of the Watab Town Board was called to order at 7:08 p.m. on February 2, 2016 at the Town Hall by Chair Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Supervisors Kacures, Lloyd Erdmann, and Craig Gondeck; Treasurer Eileen Saldana; and Clerk Pat Spence. Audience members were Anna Saldana, Jason Kruger, Delroy and Donna Rothstein, Doug Boser, Bob Raveling, Steve Simones, Jeff Hanson, Jon Groethe, and Kiev and Cheryl Motl.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the Agenda was approved with cancellations due to the snowy weather. Wayne Cymbaluk's contract renewal and Stormwater Runoff Discussion will be tabled until March. Also, Scott Jarnot has phoned that he is unable to attend. West Lake Road Parking recommendations from Sheriff Heck were added to Old Business. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures and passed to approve the agenda with the above changes. Approval of the minutes of the January meetings was given through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with \$424,368.18 in the checking accounts; motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed to accept her report. Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck to pay the bills and withdraw the necessary funds. In discussion of the motion, Supervisor Kacures added that the Assessor's bill should be held until the board has a report from the County Assessor on completion of required work. In addition, the board decided that Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck should contact ten to twelve residents in the most current assessment area to follow up that a visit was made. The motion was amended and seconded to include the above recommendations and to hold the payment as short a time as possible after assurance that the contract has been fulfilled. Motion passed.

Citizen's Issues: Jason Kruger asked if the board had made a decision on contributing to Benton County Economic Development; this will be brought up at the annual meeting for input from the residents; the board has budgeted for a contribution. The county commissioners have asked for a donation of \$1 per resident in each township. Kiev Motl asked the board for information on potential accesses or interchanges for Highway 10 in the township, especially for County Road 79. Board members explained that they are not in MNDOT's 20-year plan; however, Representative Newberger is going to introduce a bill for funding two interchanges in Watab Township, since he believes that there will be a strong transportation bill this legislative session.

Old Business:

- A. Lake Andrew Development Issues: Scott Jarnot is not here this evening due to the weather, but there is a representative from the Minnesota Department of Health to address issues with the Lake Andrew Water System. Jon Groethe, District Engineer for the Minnesota Department of Health is in charge of oversight of public water supplies. He referenced a letter that he sent to Scott Jarnot in early December addressing findings of his field inspection of the water system. It was not built out according to the

submitted plans in 2006, and so the Department of Health is asking for site plans to be signed by a registered engineer that meet the community water system requirements, the implementation of the plans, and the hiring of a water system operator. A copy of the letter is on file at the town hall. A board member noted that the well may be a former irrigation well. Jon said that the next steps are up to Scott Jarnot and must be completed in the spring. Supervisor Gondeck asked about the quality of the water; Jon said the water seemed very good at this point in time. Supervisor Erdmann asked what the board should do and said the pressure problems should be solved before there is any further buildup of the development. Jeff Hanson asked if the well can support the development. Jon said that the size of the pipes is in question, and there was a resident complaint about inadequate water pressure. Doug Boser said he was surprised that there isn't more jurisdiction that the MN Dept. of Health has to protect the citizens of the development. Jon said they weren't able to do anything until the development was more built out. Doug asked for help in making sure Scott does the right things. Jon Groethe said that he agrees with MPCA on holding building permits. Doug suggested that the town board have Scott draft a plan to fulfill the entire project water and wastewater systems and to take care of the roadways. Doug also offered his services at no charge to help however he can to solve the problem. Supervisor Erdmann said he feels badly for the people who live there: poor roads, sewer treatment, and water problems, and he made a motion to continue withholding building permits until roads, water treatment, and wastewater systems meet all state and county requirements. He stated that it is the town board's obligation to protect the public safety. Delroy Rothstein suggested to Supervisor Erdmann that the board ask Scott how he is going to pay for it. He also added to his motion that Scott Jarnot be required to present how the necessary remedies will be financed. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Gondeck and passed. Doug Boser said the newspapers need to be picking up on these issues. Delroy Rothstein added that twenty-two of the neighbors spoke diligently against this project prior to it being approved and only two spoke in favor; he felt the residents' comments were ignored.

- B. The resolution for authorization to bill property owners for unpaid emergency calls has not arrived from Couri and Ruppe.
- C. Contract for J. C. Christensen and Associates to collect unpaid emergency calls was approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures, and passed. The collection agency will retain twenty-one percent of the amount collected.
- D. Assessing Contract: Clerk was asked to prepare a request for quotes from potential Township Assessor candidates.
- E. West Lake Road Parking Issue: Sheriff Heck asked for signs on both sides of the road because he believes that the road without shoulders is not safe with cars parking on the sides. He has requested that two additional signs be added to eliminate parking on the south side in addition to the ones that have been installed on the north side of West Lake Road. Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to follow his recommendation; Supervisor Kacures seconded the motion. Supervisor Erdmann said that he feels this will cause people to park on the lake even when it isn't safe. Clerk Spence said she believed that the town board should follow the sheriff's recommendations since if there was an

accident, the township would be taking on liability for not following his professional advice. The motion passed with Supervisor Erdmann abstaining. The board authorized Supervisor Gondeck to get the signs installed as soon as possible.

New Business:

- A. Adoption of Resolution 2016-1: Establishing an Absentee Ballot Board: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign it.
- B. Adoption of Resolution 2016-2: Appointment of Election Judges for Annual Election: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck, and passed to approve the resolution and authorize the Chairman and Clerk to sign it.
- C. Membership in the Central MN Water Education Alliance: Clerk Spence read the mission of the group. Jason Kruger questioned the township's membership since it doesn't educate about the health issues caused by fluoridation of water. He suggest that the organization change its name to Consortium for MS4 Education. Steve Simones talked about the title change and said that it needs to stay the same. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck to renew the township's membership and have Clerk Spence attend the meetings; second was by Supervisor Kacures; and motion passed.
- D. Supervisor Gondeck was given permission to attend two MS4 workshops to continue his certification as the township inspector through a motion by Supervisor Erdmann and second by Supervisor Kacures; motion passed.
- E. Benton County Association of Townships will meet on Thursday, February 18 at Mr. Jim's in Foley at 7:30 p.m. All board members will attend.
- F. Board of Equalization is Thursday, April 14th at 2:30 p.m.
- G. Sauk Rapids Fire Meeting: Motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann to attend the meeting on February 11th. Following discussion, the motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann and passed adding that Supervisor Erdmann was to give his support for the proposal and to encourage Sauk Rapids applying for training grants. The motion passed.
- H. Clerk Spence reported on projections for the budget and levy recommendations and requested that the board hold a special meeting for further discussion and study. The board scheduled a meeting for Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. At that time, the board will finalize its levy recommendations for the annual meeting.
- I. The newsletter will be ready to go to the printer on Monday morning.
- J. Supervisor Gondeck and Clerk Spence gave a report on the SCORE Grants for Adopt a Highway and Clean Up Day. The board is very appreciative of the support from Benton County.
- K. Correspondence: Clerk Spence read Traci Balder's email regarding her services and resignation.
- L. Board Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported on his attendance at the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation with comments about use of paper mill site. He researched the two standby calls that Watab was billed for the Rice First Responders being on standby for the Benton County Sheriff's Office during the past month; one was a search warrant executed to a home in the Sauk Rapids Fire Department area; another one was a burglar alarm call. After Supervisor Gondeck's visit with the Sheriff, Sheriff Heck met

with the sergeants and explained how the township is billed for these calls. They will also review the safety of First Responders going to a burglar alarm call since they would be unarmed. Clerk Spence was asked to bill the homeowner for the burglar call. The DNR is conducting meetings on the drawdown of the aquifer by irrigators in the Little Rock Creek Watershed. They are concerned about potential depletion of water. Also, Supervisor Gondeck said that the Little Rock Lake and Mississippi River drawdown proposal is moving forward, but there are several additional steps of study that will need to be done by DNR. He added that he will be meeting on Thursday with Commissioner Ed Popp to look at the hazardous waste dump on private property in the township.

- M. February work plan: In addition to the special meetings, Clerk Spence was asked to contact county officials to determine the property tax impact of levy increases.

In Citizen's Input, Jason Kruger suggested that the newsletter article include information that the school district also has an impact on people's property taxes. This will be added. Clerk Spence asked Bob Raveling to assist with proofreading the final copy of the newsletter; he agreed to do so. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence