

## Watab Town Board Meeting Minutes for September 6, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Watab Township Board was called to order on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the Watab Town Hall by Chairman Ed Kacures Jr. All board members were present: Treasurer Eileen Saldana, Clerk Pat Spence, and Supervisors Ed Kacures, Jr., Lloyd Erdmann, and Craig Gondeck. Audience members were: Jon Bogart, Ray Thompson, Doug Harden, Todd Waytashek, Nathan Tywinski, John Baune, Daniel Olmschenk, Bob Raveling, and Anna Saldana.

Following the Pledge to the Flag, the agenda was approved with the addition of a Moment of Silence for the Jacob Wetterling family and the consideration of a Request for Quotes for the 2016-2018 Snow Plowing Contract. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Kacures to adopt the agenda with these two additions; motion passed. Minutes of the August regular board meeting were approved through a motion by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed. Eileen Saldana gave the Treasurer's Report with a current cash balance of \$571,622.33 in the two checking accounts. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to accept her report. Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to approve the claims #6137 through 6169 and electronic transfers for PERA, IRS, and MN Department of Revenue totaling \$26,003.43 as presented and to withdraw the necessary funds, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and motion passed.

Citizen's Input: John Baune said that the property insurance company he uses charges \$500 more because his home is in the Sauk Rapids Fire District rather than in the Rice service area, because he is closer to the Rice Fire Hall than Sauk Rapids. He would like the township to request a change by the fire departments to make County Rd 13 as the boundary. The board discussed the issue with John and others at the meeting, and informed them that the Rice fire contract negotiations begin soon. Sauk Rapids fire contract is not up at this time. The issue was tabled until next month, and Supervisor Gondeck will talk to other residents who might be affected by moving the boundary. Supervisor Erdmann said that moving the boundary may please some residents but then affect others in a negative way, so the township should be careful. Clerk Spence added that in past research she learned that insurance companies do not all use the same criteria in determining rates. Construction of the home and credit rating of the owners are two of the major factors.

### Old Business:

- A. Jon Bogart was present to explain his engineering work on the 85<sup>th</sup> and 95<sup>th</sup> Street improvement projects. On 85<sup>th</sup> Street, he is using the same alignment for the road. There may be some issues with going outside of the right of way. He is proposing a standard ditch bottom with 24 feet street top. Supervisor Erdmann suggested adding a shoulder for a biking/walking path. There are 84 homes in Oak Hill Estates, and residents have asked for this. Jon added that there is an average of ten car trips per day per home. Each board member received a copy of the plan to review. Supervisor Gondeck said that the development owners will donate any dirt that is needed, and Supervisor Erdmann will visit with them about an additional easement for the extra width. Jon will give the board an update on the costs, which he currently has estimated at \$174,869.75. He then moved to discussion of the 95<sup>th</sup>/Saldana Road project: Ray Thompson raised numerous questions about how the project would affect his property. Supervisor Erdmann will work with Ray on his questions. The board requested that Jon make some revisions to a curve near Highway 10 and come back to the board with a revised plan. Jon will also contact BNSF to set up a future meeting to review the plans for the Quiet Zone.
- B. Crack Filling Update: Supervisor Gondeck reported that work was done on Ilex, 85<sup>th</sup> Street, Ivy Place, and Burton Place; he will bring a report on total cost to the next meeting.
- C. Tree Trimming on Lakewood Shore and West Lake Road: Supervisor Gondeck reported that there have been many complaints about tree/brush growth into the roadways. He has a quote

from Burski Excavating to do the trimming on both these roads for \$3,375. Other companies he contacted were not interested. Dan Olmschenk spoke on how trees are growing over the lanes of the roads where he drives. It is a safety danger. After brief discussion, Supervisor Gondeck made a motion to move ahead with the work being done by Burski's; motion was seconded by Supervisor Erdmann; motion passed.

- D. Weed Removal: Supervisor Gondeck will work with the STS crew. There are still large stands of thistle on the south side of Lakewood Shore near the Paradise Development.
- E. Supervisor Gondeck contacted three companies for quotes to seed Lakewood Shore shoulders near the railroad crossing. One quote was received for \$2,620 to repair the shoulders near the railroad crossing from Burski Excavating. Motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to do the repair this fall.
- F. Asphalt for Johnson Road: Supervisor Erdmann has a quote from MN Blacktopping for \$1,800 and work can be done on Wednesday. Clerk Spence was asked to send a letter to Kevin Johnson to reimburse the township for \$1,900, which is half of the total cost (\$2,000 to Rice Contracting and Development for the culvert extension and approach widening and \$1,800 to MN Blacktopping). Supervisor Erdmann made a motion to accept the quote; second by Supervisor Gondeck; motion passed.
- G. Meeting with Troy Heck on Emergency Management Issues: Supervisor Gondeck met with him. Jim McDermott was not present. The Sheriff is going to get officers trained to be weather spotters so more people will be able to activate the outdoor warning sirens. Supervisor Gondeck said that he was very pleased with Sheriff Heck's actions. The Sheriff will also work with Jim McDermott.
- H. Dead trees at town hall: Asplun Tree Service will take the tops down off the trees.
- I. Repair of Culvert on West Lake Road: the culvert didn't need to be replaced. Allen Saldana added a compound between the two culverts and repaired the damaged area. Cost was under \$500. Supervisor Gondeck showed the board photos of the repair.
- J. Lake Andrew Report: Clerk Spence and Supervisor Gondeck gave the report. Clerk Spence was asked to contact Scott Jarnot about the wastewater system upgrade. She will also contact Herschel Blasing at MPCA for an update.

#### New Business:

- A. Report on District 8 meeting at Clarissa: Supervisor Gondeck, Treasurer Saldana, and Clerk Spence attended. Legislative updates and concerns were discussed, and Watab received unanimous support for the resolution to allow unpaid service charges to be assessed to property owners, since they have more power to collect. The resolution will next be presented at the Legislative Conference in St. Cloud.
- B. L & R Meeting: Supervisor Gondeck will attend to present the above-referenced resolution.
- C. Clean Up Day: September 24<sup>th</sup> from 8 to 2pm at Pine's Edge parking lot. Supervisor Gondeck added that he will go to people's homes to pick up debris if they have no way to get it to the site.
- D. 2017 Levy Certification to Benton County: The board reviewed the levy certification as authorized by the electors at the 2016 annual meeting.
- E. Park Dedication Ordinance is being drafted by Couri and Ruppe.
- F. Report on the Inspection Tour at the Central Minnesota Water Education Alliance meeting: CMWEA group toured the Honda business to see best management practices on the sites. Supervisor Gondeck said that he learned a lot about ways to improve his violation logs.

- G. Rice Fire Contract: the board discussed the upcoming negotiations for the next contract. The current contract expires on December 31<sup>st</sup>. The board will discuss this further at the October meeting.
- H. Benton County Association of Township's Meeting: September 8<sup>th</sup> at Mr. Jim's in Foley at 7:30 p.m. The entire board will try to attend.
- I. Internet Service Upgrade: Clerk Spence said that that internet service at the town hall has been upgraded by Century Link.
- J. Snow Plowing Quote: A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, second by Supervisor Erdmann, and passed to amend Resolution 2006-2 to reflect the current mileage of township roads and reference to unaccepted roads and to send the amended resolution and a request for quotes out to interested businesses.
- K. Communications: There was a letter from the Minnesota Association of Township Insurance Trust regarding current coverage. A motion was made by Supervisor Erdmann, second by Supervisor Gondeck to keep the current coverage; motion passed.
- L. Supervisor Erdmann talked about the problem with water running off the township road on the property owned by Chuck Feia on Burton Place. He would like to create a rain garden to collect the water with two small spillways to lead to the rain garden that would partially be in the road right of way. Supervisor Erdmann will meet with him again, and the township will draft an agreement.
- M. Board Member Reports: Supervisor Gondeck reported on the Greater St. Cloud Economic Development Board meeting, the land disturbance permits, Riverview Loop trimming, and a tree down on Circle Pines that he cut; Clerk Spence raised two safety issues that had been called in with a pontoon and a car sitting on township roads. Supervisor Gondeck will follow up on these.
- N. Work Plan: the two major items are the Benton County Association Meeting in Foley and Clean Up Day.
- O. Citizen's Issues: Ray Thompson asked about the proposed width with the improvements to 95<sup>th</sup> Street; it will be twenty-four feet.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

Respectfully submitted by Clerk Pat Spence