

Watab Township Supervisors' Meeting
June 5, 2018
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

A regular monthly meeting was called to order by Chairman Waytashek at seven o'clock p.m. in the Watab Township Hall.

Those present offered allegiance to the United States of America's Flag.

ROLL CALL

Supervisors present included Craig Gondeck, Julie Johnson, and Todd Waytashek. Other present were Clerk Jon Hull, Treasurer Deborah O'Keefe, Bogart, Pederson & Associates representative Nicholas Anderson, and guests Eric Altena, Natasha Barber (Sauk Rapids Herald), Mike Burton, Brian Erdmann, Lloyd Erdmann, Ted Fernholz, Deb Harden, Doug Harden, David Johnson, Kevin Reiter, Sandra Saldana, Jesse Schlichting, Rob Schlichting, Jessica Storkamp, and Paul Wippler.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried to approve the meeting agenda as printed with the addition of a driveway permit request, the Pilgrim's Pride road tonnage request, the 85th Street runway issue, and a message from Sheriff Troy Heck.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried approving meeting minutes of the April 30, 2018 continuation of Board of Appeals and Equalization Hearing, the May 1, 2018, regular monthly meeting (as amended), the May 5, 2018 Watab Township Road Tour, the May 22, 2018, special Board road pre-construction meeting (as amended), and the May 23, 2018, special Board road pre-construction meeting (as amended) as printed and distributed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Information from Treasurer O'Keefe included the monthly cash control statement and the receipts register. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried accepting these reports.

APPROVAL OF MONTHLY CLAIMS AND WITHDRAWAL OF NECESSARY FUNDS

A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried approving the payment of \$21,300.92.

CITIZENS' INPUT

There was no citizens' input at this time.

CONSIDERATION OF SUES ROAD REPAIR PROJECT

After some discussion among the Supervisors and interested parties, a motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and unanimously carried accepting the quote of \$17,147.50 (with blacktop) as submitted by Rice Contracting and Development Services.

DRIVEWAY PERMIT REQUEST

Watab resident Eric Altena appeared before the Board requesting driveway construction approval. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried granting this request.

PILGRIM'S PRIDE ROAD CONCERNS

A company representative appeared before the Board requesting the township increase the maximum tonnage on Lark Road and Frost Road from 80,000 pounds to 97,000 pounds, thereby reducing the occurrence of individual trucks on those roads as they access the company's feed mills. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck, seconded by Supervisor Johnson, and unanimously carried to enter into a signed agreement with Pilgrim's Pride that it will not use the aforementioned increased tonnage arrangement during the annual spring road weight restriction period and that these loads will meet Minnesota Annual Ag Permit standards for axle spacing and axle weights. Additionally, the company will be responsible for any road damage caused by the increased weight allowance.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Snowplowing Contract Changes

Supervisor Gondeck reported that, overall, Marson Contractors did a good job removing snow and ice on township roads during the past winter. He will be meeting with the contractor regarding road damage done during the snow and ice removal. A motion was made by Supervisor Waytashek, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried to distribute snow removal specifications for the 2018-2019 season with additional language that stipulates road damage done by snow removal equipment will be repaired by May 1 at the end of the snow removal season.

B. Ditch Mowing Contract Changes

It was agreed that ditch mowing contract specification language should include language addressing ditch mowing and brush cutting separately.

C. Completion of Address System

There continue to be some user/audience concerns with current equipment. Supervisor Johnson offered to explore options for successful utilization of the system.

D. 85th Street Noise and Vehicle Complaint

Supervisor Gondeck is monitoring the situation and reported that Benton County sheriff's personnel have been involved with some improvement noted.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Tree Cutting/Oak Wilt Complaint on Sharon Place

Supervisors discussed the reported complaint. This particular case of the disease stems from 2010 damage. It was noted that cutting and removal should be postponed until the fall.

B. Ditch Spraying Contract

While discussing development of ditch spraying contract language, it became clear that not all supervisors were in favor of this activity. It was decided to table and conduct additional research which Supervisor Gondeck volunteered to accomplish.

C. Set Building Security Meeting

Supervisor Gondeck will obtain additional information before the Board develops building security equipment specifications to distribute among vendors.

NEW BUSINESS (continued)

D. Road Tour Results/Schedule Road Planning Meeting

Supervisor Johnson was commended for the excellent job she performed reporting recent road tour results and proposed future projects. Supervisor Gondeck is in possession of a traffic tabulator, will employ this device during June, and report at a later date.

E. Farming in Ditches

It is noted that land being rented along 95th Street has been prepared for planting. Supervisor Johnson will notify the land owner, stressing that such use of ditches is a safety hazard by obstructing vision and essentially destroys the integrity of the road's base.

F. Review of Schlichting Variance Request

Robert and Jesse Schlichting appeared before the Board requesting the Township approve this request to facilitate a "new" house construction in the same area as the "old" house once stood. A motion was made by Supervisor Gondeck and seconded by Supervisor Johnson to grant this variance request. Voting in favor of the motion were Supervisor Gondeck and Supervisor Johnson. Opposed to the motion was Supervisor Waytashek. Motion carried.

G. Status of Township Roads Pothole Filling Project

Supervisor Waytashek reported that all potholes had been filled except for a few on Plaziak Road. Supplies and labor were estimated at approximately \$2,100 compared to \$4,700 the previous year. A number of township residents offered comments on their perception that potholes were not being adequately repaired, that a professional contractor should be retained for such projects, and that, generally speaking, township roads are not in good condition.

H. 85th and 95th Streets Work/Preconstruction Meeting

Preconstruction meetings for repairs to 85th Street and 95th Street were conducted on May 22 and May 23. Concerns were noted and permanent easements discussed. A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried authorizing the 300-foot move of an 85th Street ditch. Supervisor Johnson reported the Thompson family is wanting a culvert that would require an easement from the Walker family. A change order would be required for the addition of a catch basin for the culvert. Efforts to obtain these easements and agreements in writing will be pursued.

I. Request for Road Sign on Issac Road

Supervisor Gondeck will address the request of a family on Issac Road for road signage that would warn motorists of the special needs of children who may be near traffic.

J. Emergency Warning Sirens

Communication has been received from Benton County Sheriff Troy Heck regarding the possibility of involving Benton County townships in the activation of emergency warning sirens. All three Supervisors will participate in acquiring additional information before deciding how the township might be involved.

REPORTS TO AND FROM BOARD

Report topics included:

- A. Special use for 95th Street granted by DNR
- B. Broken sprinkler heads (need self-cleaning valves)
- C. Deer carcass at Jasmine Loop during Memorial Day week-end
- D. Fire calls – Supervisor Johnson
- E. Minnesota Pollution Control – Supervisor Waytashek
- F. MS4 Survey
- G. Emerald Ash Borer control grant
- H. Cabin remodel complaint – Supervisor Gondeck
- I. Grace Apartments garage
- J. Driveway permits – Supervisor Gondeck
- K. MS4 permits – Supervisor Gondeck
- L. Facebook/Website building usage calendars – Supervisor Johnson
- M. Town Hall gardens – correspondence from Maureen Graber
- N. Dry hydrant system check during lake/channel/river August draw-down
- O. June activities (Monday road construction meets, election training, pothole repairs, MS4 report)

CITIZENS' INPUT

It was suggested that bags of cold patch (pothole repair material) could have been purchased at the Rice Ace Hardware rather than in Sauk Rapids and Waite Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Supervisors and township residents reflected on the need for increased personal attention to public safety as more crimes are being perpetrated at the rural level.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Supervisor Johnson, seconded by Supervisor Gondeck, and carried adjourning the meeting at nine o'clock p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Jon L. Hull
Watab Township Clerk

Respectfully accepted by

Todd B. Waytashek
Watab Township Board Chairman

