

WATAB TOWN BOARD MEETING
Regular Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 14, 2023 – 7:00 pm

The regular monthly Watab Township Board Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Johnson at 7:00 pm in the Watab Township Hall.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Julie Johnson, Steve Wollak, Jesse Arndt, Kathy Sauer, Clerk, Mary Shearer, Treasurer

Others Present: Delroy Shane, Kimberly Leyman, Dothan Aleshire, Julie and Jeff Fandel, Jack and Renee Polcher, Pat Spence, Sherree Kruize, Mark and Cindy Welty, Wayne Larson, Robin Wollak, Buzz and Mary Cripe, Chad Erdmann, Dave Sweeney, Pam and Danny Hurdt, Dick and Amanda Webb, Bob and Donna Salmonson, Ray Thompson, Aaron Thiele, Tyler Ireland, Amy Ireland, Sue Brehmer, Glenn Brehmer, Mike Allgood, Sandra Saldana, Paul Wippler, Stacy ad Craig Kapsner, Jim and Sandy Rau, Corey and Nicole Flynn, Dan Gerads

ADDITIONS OR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

None

2. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Supervisor Arndt made a motion to approve the agenda; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

3. CONSENT AGENDA—One motion for all items

- a. October 10, 2023: Regular Board Meeting

Supervisor Wollak moved to approve the consent agenda; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT

FALCON CHECKING STATEMENT

October 31, 2023:

Ending Balance	\$98,431.30
Outstanding Deposits.....	<u>+00.00</u>
	\$98,431.30
Outstanding Checks	
PERA.....	<u>-441.56</u>
	441.56

BALANCE **\$97,899.74**

CTAS Schedule 1 Balance **\$97,899.74**

Difference **00.00**

As of October 31, 2023, the bank balance and the Township records are in balance.

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES:

- Intrafi.....\$1,866,261.19
- Checking Account.....\$98,341.30
- Road and Bridge\$66,788.08
- Town Hall Savings.....\$11,686.96
- Bond Value\$1,746,033.54

Notes:

- Checking Account Interest: \$00.00
- Road & Bridge Savings Interest: \$25.52
- Town Hall Building Savings Interest: \$4.46
- Intrafi Interest: \$2,982.65
- BCA Fine Share: \$93.32
- Franchise Fees: \$2,305.17

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

5. APPROVE LIST OF CLAIMS AND PAYROLL

Receipts for the month of September \$1,116,506.23
Disbursements for the month of September \$1,185,867.52

EFT Payments:

Internal Revenue Service..... \$722.25
MN Dept of Revenue \$13.07
Public Employee Retirement \$441.56

Supervisor Arndt made a motion to approve the List of Claims and Payroll; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

6. WSB ENGINEER REPORT—Kevin Kruger

a. 2023 Construction Update

Payment Voucher 1 for 95% of the contract in the amount of \$7827,043.25 has been submitted from Knife River for approval. Payment for Voucher 1 has been approved. Retainage of 5% in the amount of \$38,265.43 will be held until spring to ensure there is proper drainage. Responsibility for any repairs will fall to WSB and Knife River.

b. Shoestring Loop Meeting with Ravelings

Before work can begin on Shoestring Loop, the Township needs to purchase some right-of-way from Bob Raveling. The other homeowners in the area must approve the sale of right-of-way, but Bob Raveling has signing authority and is fine with selling ROW and doesn’t expect anyone to object. Kevin will check with the County and pull the legal description and begin the process of transfer. Mr. Raveling will accept the going rate of \$10,000 per acre as compensation. The piece of property is approximately 2’ X 66” which at that rate would cost the Township about \$50.

c. Survey is complete for the Lakewood Shores 2024 Road Project. Survey for Ferry Point is done as well.

7. DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT REQUESTS

None

8. RESOLUTION 2023-13, 2023-14, and 2023-15: VACATING EASEMENTS IN THE COVE

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve Resolutions 2023-13, 14, and 15; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

9. RESOLUTION 16: CERTIFICATION OF UNPAID OVERDUE EMERGENCY SERVICES

Supervisor Arndt made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-16; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

10. RESOLUTION 2023-17: MAILBOX POST POLICY

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-16; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

11. JUNK PROPERTIES: Meeting with local House/Senate Members to Update Rural Laws

Meeting held with Representative Isaac Schultz and officials from Benton County, Langola, and Minden Townships to discuss issues regarding property clean-up.

12. BURTON ROAD ISSUE–Resident Request

Stacy Kapsner 8870 Burton Place NW, Rice

The pavement has not been resurfaced and is too narrow. Large trucks, buses, and emergency vehicles have difficulty getting through. Many potholes. No lighting on roads. Children must walk to buses because buses cannot turn around. Bus drivers will not go down Burton because of overgrown trees hanging over the road.

The Township is willing to trim trees outside of the right-of-way and will send a letter asking residents for permission to trim trees that are on private property.

Residents should contact the Township office to report pothole location; Township will repair.

The Township does not provide street lighting.

There is no room to widen the road within the right-of-way. May be able to purchase right-of-way if residents would be willing to sell.

Residents were advised to attend school board meetings to report school bus issues; Township has no authority regarding school bus issues.

Jim Rau 8889 Burton Place NW, Rice

Has the Township attorney been consulted regarding the sale of right-of-way? Can residents be forced to sell right-of-way in the interest of public safety.

Township will consult the attorney.

13. FALL ROAD TOUR REPORT/ISSUES

Supervisors conducted a road tour to evaluate tree and brush clearing throughout the Township.

14. RESTROOM RENOVATION QUOTES

Two quotes were received to remodel the women’s restroom:

- Anthony’s Custom Construction \$6,800.00
- DG Homes & Remodeling \$18,227.00

Clerk Sauer stated it would be efficient to remodel both the men’s and women’s bathrooms and asked if the Board would consider doing them together. If approved, the bid would be doubled to \$13,600 for both restrooms.

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to accept the bid from Anthony’s Custom Construction in the amount of \$6,800.00 for the women’s bathroom and \$6,800.00 for the men’s restroom using ARPA funds; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

15. AUDIT QUOTE

Quote for the 2023 Audit from Conway, Deuth, and Schmiesing is \$18,000.

Supervisor Arndt made a motion approve the CDS quote of \$18,000; for the 2023 audit; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried,

16. FRANCHISE FEE REPORT

Due to the decline in cable services, pursuing franchise fees from other providers is not warranted.

17. RENTAL REQUEST

The request from the Benton County Master Gardeners for rental of the Town Hall for the last Monday of the month throughout 2024 as a government organization was approved by the Board.

Policy will be reviewed in January.

18. REVISIONS TO ORDINANCE 3

Ordinance 3: Establishing Fees for Emergency Protection Services needs updating to accurately reflect current practice.

Supervisor Arndt made a motion to approve the revisions to Ordinance 3 pending attorney approval; Supervisor Wollak seconded; motion carried.

19. LAKEWOOD SHORES ROW CLEARING QUOTES

Kevin Kruger presented an explanation for the reasons the Township conducts right-of-way clearing; snow plowing, drainage; safety; and infiltration to comply with MS4 requirements.

Pins have been located on almost every property. Clearing will only take place within the right-of-way--not on private property.

The road will not be repositioned all the way to the center of the right-of-way because of encroachment on other properties and cost.

Stumps will be removed with the project.

Kevin offered to meet residents on site to discuss specific trees scheduled for removal.

TREE REMOVAL AND BRUSH CLEARING QUOTES

- Rice Contracting \$32,750.00
- Midwest Tree Experts \$39,200.00
- AAA Tree Pros \$32,000.00
- Jason Zwilling \$18,500.00
- Undercut Tree \$52,000.00

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to accept the quote from Jason Zwilling in the amount of \$18,500.00; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried.

CITIZEN’S INPUT

ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Wollak made a motion to adjourn; Supervisor Arndt seconded; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:23.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sauer
Township Clerk

Julie Johnson, Board Chairperson

Date

Kathy Sauer, Clerk

Date