

**WATAB TOWNSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
MINUTES
Tuesday, March 14, 2023–8:15 pm**

The Watab Township Annual Meeting was called to order by Clerk Sauer at 8:15 pm.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Those present offered allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

ROLL CALL

Kathy Sauer, Clerk, Ray Thompson, Dothan Aleshire, Eugene Beniek, Jack and Renee Polcher, Juie Fandel, Emily Forbord, Kristen Tschida, Robin Wollak, Wayne Larson, Julie Johnson, Fred Segler, Barb McKeever, Steve Wollak, Jesse Arndt, Jerry Kostreba, Jeff Wollak, Mike Wilcox, Sandra Saldana, Paul Wippler, Natasha Barber, Corrie Steinhofner, Ben Dockendorf, Neil Andruschale, Lloyd Erdmann, John Olson, Sandy Rau, Kellie Gallagher

2. ELECTION OF MODERATOR

Paul Wippler nominated Jeff Wollak as moderator; vote was unanimous.

3. APPROVE THE AGENDA

Paul Wippler moved to approve the agenda; Ron McKeever seconded; vote was unanimous.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Annual Meeting Minutes: March 8, 2022

Fred Segler to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes; Julie Fandel seconded; vote was unanimous.

5. WSB ENGINEER REPORT—Kevin Kruger

Road construction projects completed for 2022 were: Indian Road, Sharon Place, and Sucker Creek Road.

Road construction projects planned for 2023: are 15th Avenue, Lakewood Shores Road NW Shoestring Loop, Sues Road, Gannet Road, and 105th Street NW.

West Lake Road was originally planned for 2023; however, the DNR offers grants periodically that may, if secured, help to defray the cost of construction. We have applied for \$850,000 in funds and notification should be within the next month or two.

Kevin Kruger distributed maps illustrating a 5-10-year road reconstruction plan. Plans are subject to change.

6. 2023 SPRING FLOOD FORECAST—Kristen Tschida, Benton County Emergency Management Director

Kristin Tschida presented information provided by the NWS Twin Cities 2023 Flood Outlook which reports that flooding will be “well above” normal this year.

7. ANNUAL LEVY & BUDGET PRESENTATION—Julie Johnson, Chair

Supervisor Johnson explained the levy and budget proposal submitted by the Board of Supervisors for 2024.

8. LEVY FUNDS VOTE AND APPROVAL (by fund)

General Fund \$80,000.00

Paul Wippler made a motion to approve a levy of \$80,000 for the General Fund; Robin Wollak seconded; motion carried.

Road and Bridge Fund \$370,000.00

Lloyd Erdmann made a motion to approve the Road and Bridge Fund levy of \$370,000; Julie Fandel seconded; motion carried.

Fire District 1 \$10,000.00

Jerry Kostreba made motion to approve a levy of \$10,000 for Fire District 1; Jack Polcher seconded; motion carried.

Fire District 2 \$55,000.00

Eugene Bienek made a motion to approve a levy of \$55,000 for Fire District 2; Lloyd Erdmann seconded; motion carried.

Bond Fund \$60,000.00

Julie Fandel made a motion to approve a levy of \$60,000.00 for the Bond Fund; Lloyd Erdmann seconded; motion carried.

2021 Road Reconstruction Bond \$260,000.00

Kellie Gallagher made a motion to approve a levy of \$260,000 for the 2021 Road Reconstruction Bond; Robin Wollak seconded; motion carried.

9. MS4 REPORT—Emily Forbord, Benton County Soil and Water Specialist

Emily Forbord presented information on the types and effects of lawn and garden fertilizers on the lakes, ground water, and river in our area.

10. ELECTION RESULTS

Clerk Sauer reported election results as follows:

Candidate 1: Jesse Arndt: 111 votes

Write-ins: 0 votes

11. RICE RECREATION DONATION REQUEST—Julie Fandel

Julie Fandel thanked the Township for its past support. She provided information about the way donations are used in the community and requested a donation of \$3,000.

Jack Polcher made a motion to approve a donation of \$3,000 for Rice Recreation Renee Polcher seconded; motion carried.

12. SET DATE FOR ANNUAL MEETING AND TOWNSHIP ELECTION, 2024

John Olson made a motion to hold the Township Election on March 12, 2024, from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm and the Annual Meeting on the same day at approximately 8:15 pm; Paul Wippler seconded; motion carried.

13. ED POPP, BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONER

- Report on Benton County initiatives in the areas of upcoming road construction projects and broadband.
- County officials are considering a new government center.
- Bend in the River Park received an \$800,000 Legacy grant for improvements.
- County officials will hold a meeting on May 22, 2024, at St. George Township Hall to hear more from Townships regarding needs and concerns.

14. CITIZEN'S INPUT/CONCERNS/QUESTIONS

- Corrie Steinhofner complained that he was not being listened to regarding the issues he is having with water draining on his property since road construction last year.

15. ADJOURNMENT

Paul Wippler moved to adjourn; seconded by Mike Wilcox; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:35.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Sauer
Township Clerk

Jeff Fandel, Moderator