

## **Special Meeting St. Clair Township**

DATE: March 22, 2011

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Clair Township  
107 Service Street  
Swansea, IL 62226

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Buchanan, Supervisor  
Mary Carroll, Clerk  
Dave Barnes, Trustee  
Richard Schobert, Trustee  
Bob Trentman, Trustee  
Greg Bridgman, Trustee  
Mark Burk, Hwy Commissioner  
Bob Knee, Assessor

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen                      Bob Buechler  
Dennis Milam                      Jeff Carmack  
Scott Wilson                      Rhonda Burk  
Robert Trentman, Sr.

### Roll Call:

The special meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Tim Buchanan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call found that all were present .

### Public Comment:

Trustee Schobert asked why the flag was not up. Supervisor Buchanan said it was torn, and he took it home to have his wife repair it with her sewing machine. It will be back soon.

### Business Items:

A. Sewer Ordinance Amendment - Supervisor Buchanan informed the Board that an additional amendment from 2005 was discovered. He said the ordinance that was reviewed at the last meeting will have to be edited to make sure any changes from the 2005 amendment were incorporated into the document. He said it had not been published yet.

B. Community Development Block Grant Resolution 2011-5 (Road District) - Supervisor Buchanan reminded the Board that the Township was applying for two grants. One is for the Sewer operations and one for the Road district. The Road District work will be performed in the South Belt West area of the Township. In order to increase the chance of receiving the grants, the Township has to contribute \$32,862. Trustee Trentman noted that the Township just recently lowered the taxes to citizens. He felt the taxpayers locally could have paid for these improvements instead of applying for federal money. Supervisor Buchanan explained that the grant was available. If the Township did not get it, some other municipality would, and that it is to the Township's advantage to not have to pay for these improvements. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve Resolution 2011-5 to apply for a Community Development Block Grant for Program Year 2011 for the St. Clair Township Road District. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

C. Community Development Block Grant Resolution (Sewer) - Supervisor Buchanan provided pictures from the Glen Addie area where the sewer work will be performed if the grant is received. He pointed out with an "X" any trees that will need to be removed. He said the tree removal will make the project more expensive.

D. Centennial Park Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan said the agreement was not approved by Swansea yet, but he felt that everything was in order, and Swansea will sign the agreement soon.

E. Water Shutoff - Supervisor Buchanan said that once the Sewer Ordinance is complete and it has been published, the Township will begin shutting off water of delinquent sewer customers. Supervisor Buchanan asked for the Board's input on what order the shutoffs should be addressed. For administration ease, Supervisor Buchanan suggested the largest amounts due be handled first. Trustee Schobert said he thought those with the oldest delinquencies should be taken care of first. Trustee Schobert made a motion to shut off water to the sewer customers who have the oldest delinquencies first. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES.

F. Health Insurance Employee Applications - Supervisor Buchanan said he is reviewing health insurance for the employees for a potential savings of \$25,000. He said that pursuant to the union contract, the coverage must be equal or better than what they currently have with no premium cost to the employees. He pointed out that the State of Illinois has a standard form that the employees must complete in order for the agent to get the bids. Trustee Schobert said he was concerned the employees' health information will be used for other purposes and to reveal pre-existing conditions. Trustee Barnes said there are HIPPA laws to prevent insurance companies from revealing personal information, and if they did they would not be in business. Supervisor Buchanan added the information is kept private, and that the application is only to give the Township the opportunity to receive bids. He said the coverage will be of equal or better coverage. He said he is only trying to save on the high cost we are currently paying. Supervisor Buchanan said he tried to get the application process done last year, but it was turned down. Trustee Trentman at that time made a motion to allow the employees to decide by secret ballot if the insurance is of equal or better coverage and that the employees' vote would be binding on the Board. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion.

There was more discussion before a vote was taken on the motion. Trustee Bridgman said he felt there were two issues. The first was the employees' fear of giving their health information out. The second was there appears to be a lack of trust of the elected officials. The trustees are elected by the taxpayers to make these types of decision and that the board should not transfer their decision making powers to the employees. Looking toward the employees, he said the information will be kept confidential and that the Board will try to do what is right for the employees and for the taxpayers. Supervisor Buchanan added that inertia tends to keep people where they are. Some employees will not want to change because they are comfortable with the current plan even though a new plan will have similar coverage. Roll call vote was then taken on the motion to allow the employees to decide if the insurance is of equal or better cover and that the employees' vote would be binding on the Board. Trentman-YES, Bridgman-NO, Schobert-YES, Barnes-NO, Buchanan-NO. Motion fails.

There was more discussion around the application process. Trustee Schobert told the employees in attendance at the meeting that they would not have to complete the form in full and could leave the parts off they did not want to reveal. Trustee Barnes quickly said they would need to fill out the form completely and accurately if they wanted coverage. Not completing the form truthfully is fraud and it could result in insurance claims not being paid. Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve distributing the applications to the employees covered by health insurance and having the employees

fill out the application in order to receive bids. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes.

G. National Retirement Solutions - Supervisor Buchanan told the Board that in addition to their IMRF pension, the employees have a retirement plan they can contribute to on their own. The Township does not contribute to this plan. Tim said the he was notified that due to change in laws, the plan needed to be amended and he had a consent form that he needed to sign to accept the changes being made. He said he talked to National Retirement Solutions and they provided a summary of the changes. Trustee Schobert made the motion to allow Supervisor Buchanan sign off on the form to accept the changes. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes.

Supervisor Buchanan noted that the salt barn property was on the agenda for the executive session and he asked Trustee Schobert if he thought it was okay to discuss in public. Trustee Schobert said it was okay. Scott Wilson of Wilson Landscaping addressed the Board and he apologized that there was a communication problem on his part and he has not put anything in writing. He said that once the Township had the property appraised, he will move toward an offer. Trustee Schobert said he thought we should get it appraised. Supervisor Buchanan said he was not willing to move forward with an appraisal without a reasonable offer in advance. Trustee Barnes made motion to have the property appraised. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-NO.

At 8:22 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of considering the setting of a price for sale or lease of property owned by St. Clair township and for the purpose of considering litigation, and the Board finds that an action involving the Township is probable or imminent. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

At 8:26 p.m. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to return to the regular meeting. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

There being no further business, Trustee Bridgman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Schobert seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll  
Township Clerk