

Regular Township Meeting

DATE: May 11, 2010

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

STAFF PRESENT: William Stiehl

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Keith Sturgis
Bill Cummins

Roll Call:

The regular meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Tim Buchanan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken. All present.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held on April 13, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the April 13, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on April 21, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Bridgman to approve the April 21, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Special Board Meeting held on April 26, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Barnes to approve the April 26, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Executive Session held on September 8, 2009:

A motion was made by Trustee Barnes to approve the September 8, 2009 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Executive Session held on April 13, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Barnes to approve the April 13, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Executive Session held on April 26, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the April 26, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor's Monthly Treasurer's Report:

The trustees were given time to review the Treasurer's report. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

Trustee Trentman asked if it was okay for the Road District to pay for the lights at the sewer plant. Trustee Schobert said that since the money would be reimbursed by a grant, it was okay. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman No, Bridgman Yes, Schobert Yes, Barnes Yes, Buchanan Yes. No's 1 - Yes's 4, Motion passed.

Communications:

None.

Engineer's Report:

Mr. Stuckel was not present at the meeting, but he provided a written update.

Piper Hills Project - We have received the IEPA permit and are working on the easement. Once the easement is received, we can set an advertisement date and a bid opening for the project. It is expected to cost approximately \$80,000, and he is encouraging the board to put this in the budget.

Ordinances - Draft ordinances have been sent out for grease interceptors and other revisions necessary. He will meet with Attorney Stiehl to clarify violations and penalties.

Vicksburg Manhole IDNR Grant - The state said they did not receive the Township's letter that was mailed out last week and have asked to have it resubmitted. Supervisor Buchanan said they are planning to resend it.

Supervisor's Report:

Supervisor Buchanan said there have been no sewer backups.

He provided the sewer delinquency reports for the board to review.

There is a sinking driveway in Highland Hills subdivision due to a sewer problem.. He said the cost to jack it up would be \$697.

Supervisor Buchanan reported there were some bridge issues at Centennial Park. He said the flowing water is tearing away at the bases. He is planning to inspect the bridge with Denny Milan and Ron Stuckel. He reminded the Board the Park budget is limited.

He made the Trustees aware the St. Clair County Board of Review provided an Assessment Reduction for Swansea Realty going from \$1.9m to \$493k.

He said there would be no summer help for the parks because there is no money in the budget for this.

An update on the sale of 201 Service Street by the Village of Swansea was given. He said that John Openlander is waiting for the sales contract with the completed, it would go to the title company and they would expect to close on it about thirty days after that.

The flow monitoring data will be ready 6/1/2010.

Supervisor Buchanan met with the County Sheriff with regard to Loop Creek Park. They are working on arrangements for a gate so the police have better access into the park. Supervisor Buchanan said he also asked the Sheriff for a recommendation on where lights should be placed in the park. Supervisor Buchanan said he also walked the neighborhood and knocked on the doors of all the homes that border the park to ask them for their recommendations. A map of the park with three suggested spots for lighting was given to Board members to review. After discussion, a motion was made to put a strong light at the suggested location #2 on the map (near the bridge) by Trustee Bridgman. Trustee Barnes seconded he motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Highway Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Burk said things were going good. He reported that bids had been received for the Chenot Place work and it will start next Monday and will last approximately six weeks. He said the Weatherstone project is scheduled for August.

Public Comment:

Jewel Frazier said things are good in her area and has no complaints. Dean Wallen pointed out that Loop Creek Park should be closed at sundown to everyone. He said he also noticed that there was someone who was piling leaves up against the fence.

At 7:37 p.m. Trustee Schobert made a motion to move that the Board of Trustees go into executive session to consider pending litigation, and the Board finds that such litigation is probable or imminent, in that the Supervisor has been served with a demand for arbitration by the Village of Swansea regarding the current contract with the Village. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman.

Business Items:

Supervisor Buchanan said they were researching penalties for violation of ordinances and looking into better ways to do it. He asked the Board members if there were any objections to Attorney Stiehl proceeding. There were no objections.

Dave Rodden was conducting the sewer rate analysis. Supervisor Buchanan asked for approval to have him create a spreadsheet that can be used now and in future years to calculate the sewer rates. Trustee Schobert made a motion to allow Dave Rodden to work on the spreadsheet for sewer rate analysis. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan said that our health insurance contract for the employees was up on July 1, 2010. Although he was not planning to make a change, he said he had been approached by a representative from Linden Group Insurance Company who is based in Chicago, IL. They specialize in competing with government health plans. Supervisor Buchanan pointed out to the Trustees that the only way a change could be made to any benefit is if the benefit was equal to or better than the current contract. Linden Group's proposal was equal to, or in most cases much better than the current coverage, and the cost was estimated at \$12,757 per month as opposed to our current cost of \$20,068 per month. This would be a savings of approximately (\$87,000 per year). Supervisor Buchanan told the Board the employees were hesitant to

change because they would have to complete a standard health questionnaire. Supervisor Buchanan asked for permission from the Board to have both our current representative and Linden Group come to the Township to do a presentation for the employees and allow them to ask questions so they would feel more comfortable. Trustee Barnes said he was concerned that Linden Group was from Chicago and indicated that he did not trust someone from Chicago. Trustee Schobert agreed. There was discussion around this. Supervisor Buchanan offered to have some other local companies give a proposal and to present also. He asked the Board members for recommendations, but no one was able to provide one. Trustee Barnes suggested looking in the yellow pages. Supervisor Buchanan said he would feel more comfortable asking other local communities what companies they work with. There was discussion around time constraints on the Supervisor, and Trustee Barnes made a motion to put off changing the health care insurance until next year, and Trustee Schobert seconded it. Roll call vote. Trentman Yes, Bridgman Yes, Schobert Yes, Barnes Yes, Buchanan No. Yes-4, No-1. Motion carried.

Supervisor Buchanan said he was going to have a conflict with the July 13, 2010 meeting and asked if it could be moved to July 20, 2010. Trustee Schobert made a motion to move the July 13, 2010 meeting to July 20, 2010. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan said he was researching electricity purchase and said that it was less expensive than using Ameren. He estimated that the Township saved approximately 19% by doing this last year. He asked for the authority to work with two different companies to get the best rate. Trustee Barnes made a motion to allow Supervisor Buchanan to negotiate with the two companies. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Recently, Ronny Sutton, was parked at Centennial Park and made a claim that his windshield was nicked from mowing at the park. Supervisor Buchan said he viewed the windshield, and it was hard to see the nicks. He did confirm that mowing was performed at the park the day the alleged incident happened. He said he received four bids and the lowest bid was \$259.34 from Glass and More. He said the deductible for this is \$1,000. He asked the Board if we would take Ronny Sutton's word and pay to fix the windshield. Trustee Trentman made a motion to fix the windshield, and Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in Favor.

Tentative budgets for the Township and the Road District were provided to the Board members. Trustee Schobert made a motion for a Special Meeting on May 19, 2010 to review the budgets and it was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Trustee Trentman made a motion to hold a Budget Hearing on June 8, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

A motion to adjourn the Township meeting was made by Trustee Barnes. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk