

Regular Meeting
St. Clair Township

DATE: July 13, 2010

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Wilton Hataway
David Anderson
John Schmierbach

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 except for Trustee Greg Bridgman

Minutes of Budget Hearing Meeting on June 8, 2010:

Motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the June 8, 2010 Budget Hearing minutes and seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Regular Meeting on June 8, 2010:

Supervisor Buchanan said a correction was needed on page 4 to remove the dollar sign from the 2,000 gallon minimum usage fee, and that the word "special" should be changed to "regular" in front of the word meeting on Page 1. Motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the June 8, 2010 Regular Meeting minutes with the corrections noted and it was seconded by Trustee Trentman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Special Meeting on June 17, 2010:

Motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the June 17, 2010 Special Meeting minutes and seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor's Monthly Treasurer's Report:

Trustee Trentman asked if we had received anything yet from the County for taxes? Supervisor Buchanan said we had received a payment, but he did not see it on this report yet. He said he would check on this, and get back to the Board. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. It was second by Trustee Trentman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll Call vote. All in favor.

Communications:

None.

Reports:

A) Engineer's Report - None

B) Supervisor's Report - There were two sewer backups on Scout Drive as a result of a power outage. It has been turned in to insurance. Trustee Trentman asked Trustee Schobert if generators were ever used in the past when the power went out? Trustee Schobert said they had looked into it at one time, and there is a generator near Weatherstone. Supervisor Buchanan said he would look into the generator issue and also pointed out that a problem with this particular lift station on Scout Drive is that it is Belleville's line where the backup occurred, but it is the Township's lift station and that we were trying to straighten this out with Belleville.

With reference to the delinquent sewer report, Dave Barnes asked if we can shut off the service if they are not paying? Supervisor Buchanan said he will do the research to find out how the Township can do this. He said the customers will need to be notified the water will be shut off prior to doing so.

The final bill for the flow monitoring was \$18,200. Once we get Swansea's data, the engineer will analyze the information and report back to the Board.

Ameren repositioned one light at Loop Creek Park, and replaced a globe that was broken. The broken globe was a 250 watt and they exchanged it for a 400 watt to produce more light. Supervisor Buchanan also said that a company inspected the lighting at the park, and suggested hooking on to an existing meter. He said this would eliminate having another meter. He is waiting on their proposal.

The Board was presented with a comparison showing what was saved by the switch from Ameren to Bluestar Energy. From September 2009 to May 2010 period, the total savings was \$16,921.32 or 25%.

Supervisor Buchanan reported the Township received final payment in the amount of \$134,945.85 for the sale of 201 Service Street to Swansea.

The new easement machine has been received. The Township employees have been trained to operate it safely.

At the last meeting, Trustee Schobert said the hockey nets at Wolf Branch School rink were missing. Supervisor Buchanan said that Denny Milam has told him that they have replaced the nets, but they keep getting destroyed. Supervisor Buchanan asked for input from the Board on whether they should be replaced? There was a question about the cost of repairing, which Supervisor Buchanan said is about \$50 each time. There was also discussion around not having any nets there, using different types of material, safety issues, etc.

Supervisor Buchanan gave the Board members of breakdown of the Summer 2010 newsletter costs. The total cost after the ad revenue was \$1,895.79 which is less than what was originally thought. Trustee Trentman said he thought there was some good information in the newsletter, and he feels it should go to all of the Township residents. Supervisor Buchanan reminded Trustee Trentman that to save on costs, the Township has proposed that the Swansea residents receive the Township news via the Swansea Newsletter.

Supervisor Buchanan said we will be reviewing the sewer increases later in the meeting tonight, and there will also be another meeting this Thursday, 7/15/10 that the public is invited to attend. Next week on Tuesday, 7/20/10 the Board will be voting on it.

Trustee Schobert inquired about the lights at the tennis courts at Wolf Branch. He said they did not appear to be working correctly. Supervisor Buchanan said he would check the timer.

C) Highway Commissioner's Report - Commissioner Burk said they are currently working on the first phase of Weatherstone. He said they are pouring a lot of concrete. Keeley is the contractor for this job. He said the second phase of Weatherstone will begin in September. This will be overlay of asphalt. Rooter is the contractor for this job.

Public Comment:

None

Business Items:

A) Sewer Rate Increase Discussion - Supervisor reminded the Board why the rate increase was necessary: 1) The Township sewer fund has been going in the hole the last couple of years because it has been using reserves. 2) Swansea has built a new sewer plant. We are in dispute of what we owe Swansea, and we are negotiating with them.

The Board received in their packets a Wastewater Rate Evaluation from HGM Engineers dated July 2010. Supervisor Buchanan went over the packet in detail and answered questions from the Board. He also used the marker board to show how the current fees are assessed and how the rate increase will change it.

Supervisor Buchanan then asked the public for any comment. Mr. Hataway asked how do we currently handle the delinquent sewer customers? Supervisor Buchanan said we send out a notice and then a lien is placed on the account. He said that most of the offenders are apartment buildings. He also added that we are legally able to cut off the water. Trustee Barnes stated that we need to get aggressive with this.

Trustee Barnes said he thinks that larger families and businesses can adjust how much water they are using. Seniors and singles people can't really do that.

Trustee Trentman asked how much Swansea rates are? Supervisor Buchanan said they have raised their rates 40%, and ours will be higher than that. Trustee Trentman said he would like the engineer who worked on the evaluation to be here to explain things. Supervisor Buchanan said he will ask him to be at the meeting on Thursday.

Dean Wallen asked why the Township is not waiting for the arbitrator to make a decision? Supervisor Buchanan said Swansea opted out of the arbitration, and that the Township is working toward an August 1 effective date to raise the sewer rates. Trustee Schobert also added that it could take up to a year to see how this all pans out, and there is a possibility it could be lower than we expect.

Supervisor Buchanan said the Township has been continually contacting Swansea, but they have not yet provided us with the information we need.

John Schmierbach said it is hard to get a deduct water for a pool. Supervisor Buchanan asked if he had a deduct meter, and Mr. Schmierbach said no.

Mr. Anderson said that people are going to have a hard time understanding the rate increase. He also asked if the other plants will need upgraded? Supervisor Buchanan said that the Township has also been mandated to upgrade our plant this year.

Highway Commissioner Burk said this is a good reason that we have to continue to look for ways internally to keep costs down. He said that Supervisor Buchanan has been doing a good job of keeping things down to the bare bones on everything. He said we can't waste money in other areas.

Supervisor Buchanan said that he felt two things are driving up the cost: 1) Growth; and 2) EPA requirements.

B) Toilet Leak Adjustment - Supervisor Buchanan said there is a policy currently wherein if someone has a leak, they can call in and get a credit. It is his recommendation, not to have exceptions for this. Trustee Schobert said the reason the prior administration put that in place was because if a person went on vacation and they had a leak and did not know it, they would get a big bill. There was a lot of discussion around this. Trustee Trentman said he was unable to make a decision on it tonight, and he needed more time to think about it. Supervisor Buchanan said he would put it on next month's agenda.

C) Summer Adjustments - Supervisor Buchanan proposed that the Township consider changing the summer adjustment to provide 1/2 of the difference instead of the full difference between the comparison of the summer bill to the previous bills. He said this is what other municipalities do. After some discussion, Trustee Schobert asked if we could wait on this to look at some reports and see how much of a break we are giving in summer adjustments. Supervisor Buchanan said he would add it to the next agenda.

D) Guard Rail Bids - Supervisor Buchanan said that for safety reasons we need metal guard rails at the sewer plant. He said they would be going around the flumes, the sludge tank and one or two in the filter room. Supervisor Buchanan requested bids and two companies responded. Belleville Fence at \$4,193 and another company from St. Louis at \$4,750. He asked for permission to have Belleville Fence do the work. Trustee Trentman made a motion to hire Belleville Fence for installation of the guard rails at the sewer plant. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

E) Budget Error Correction - After the Road District budget was submitted to the County Clerk, a mathematical error was found. Attorney Stiehl provided a written opinion there was no need to have a hearing or publication for this change. However, Supervisor Buchanan said he will ask the Board to approve the document in their packets entitled St. Clair Road District Budget Correction. He explained that due a missing formula in the Excel spreadsheet on page four of the budget, the figure \$51,000 should have been \$21,000. Therefore, the Road District will be spending \$30,000 less than what was in the original Budget & Appropriate Ordinance. The corrected budget will be filed with the County Clerk. Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve the correction. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Buchanan - YES, Trentman - NO, Schobert - YES, Barnes - YES. (Yes's-3, No's-1). Motion passes.

Supervisor Buchanan also pointed out a discrepancy with the Township Budget vs. the worksheet. He said that the amount submitted with the Budget for subscriptions and license fees was \$700 and

\$4,500, respectively. However the worksheet had a total of \$5,000 for both under subscriptions. He said this was just for the Board's information.

Trustee Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk