

## St. Clair Township Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: February 25, 2014  
TIME: 7:00 p.m.  
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg  
107 Service Street  
Swansea, IL 62226

### CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of St. Clair Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Dave Barnes  
Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, Greg Hipkind  
Absent: none

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Assessor Jim Wilson, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: There were more than 45 in attendance. Not all signed the attendance sheet.

John Frazier	Rosanne Keck
Rich Schobert	Clinton J Buechler
Bob Buechler	Angela Ramirez
Joel Ramirez	Mike Ramirez
Kim Ramirex	Alicia Carmack
Jeff Carmack	Jay C
Chris Gordon	Marietta Lowery
Peter Ross	Terry Carroll
Dean Wallen	William H. Bremen Sr.
Steve Duff	Illegible signature
Illegible signature	Bobby Carmack
Bonnie B	

### APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Wells made several requests for additions to the draft minutes of the January 28, 2014 meeting. She wanted her question about the changed agenda and the attorney's response added. She wanted it noted an amended agenda was used. She wanted her request to include a bill list with meeting minutes and the list to be posted on the website added. She wanted it noted the reason for her no vote on the approval of paying monthly bills was due to signing one

sheet as opposed to individual and the fact \$149,000 in bills was approved between meetings last month. She wanted it noted that Mr. Donley, during public comment, agreed with posting the bill list on the website. She wanted it noted that two attorneys attended the executive session.

Because of the number of changes Trustee Wells wants made to the draft minutes it will be necessary to present an amended draft of the January 28 meeting for approval at the next meeting.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

#### BUDGET REPORT

Trustee Carroll was concerned about spending above budgeted line-item amounts and if a transfer of funds was necessary. Supervisor Barnes explained going over a budgeted line-item amount is allowed by law but going over a budgeted fund amount is not and the office staff informed him it is easier bookkeeping to make transfers of funds once a year.

Trustee Wells wanted it noted specifically about a few over-budget line items.

	Budgeted	YTD	% over
Attorney Fees	\$5,000.00	\$7,778.52	155.57%
Travel Expenses	300.00	672.73	224.24%
Training	600.00	794.00	132.33%

Motion to approve the Budget Report was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

#### MONTHLY BILLS

Motion to approve payment of the monthly bills was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Carroll, Wells. Motion passed 3-2.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes reported on recent FOIA requests.

- Belleville Treasurer Dean Hardt sent a FOIA request asking how the township determined there are 177 homes for which Belleville should be paying services. Supervisor Barnes hand delivered the written explanation.
- An inquiry from Attorney General Lisa Madigan about our response to a FOIA request from Mike Greenfield for closed meeting minutes was answered. Supervisor Barnes has not received further communication on the matter.

- Supervisor Barnes sent the township's shut-off notice policy to the Attorney General Consumer Protection Division per their request instigated by a disgruntled, dead-beat sewer user.
- Attorney General Lisa Madigan sent an OMA Request for Review. Her request was instigated by Mike Greenfield (2014 PAC 27859).

#### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Delinquent Sewer Accounts – Sewer accounts past due more than 151 days as of February 2014 were \$100,934 compared to \$80,858 in February 2013. One sewer account owes \$70,644 in past due amounts.
- Swansea Sewer Negotiations – A letter approved at the January meeting was sent to Swansea. Swansea responded, saying they received the letter and would be getting back to the township. Supervisor Barnes is meeting with the township's engineer and attorney Friday, February 28.
- Loop Creek Park – Supervisor Barnes and Engineer Ron Stuckel met with Mike Buehlhorn, Executive Director of Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) to discuss future plans for the park and possible grant funding. Mr. Stuckel is creating a four-phase plan. Supervisor Barnes gave thanks to Trustee Wells for organizing the township's Park Board which provided ideas for park improvement that will be included in the plan.  
Signs have been ordered to place on Hwy 161 to direct people to the park.

#### HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Snow Removal – Road Commissioner Kernan commended and thanked his employees on recent snow removal. He thanked his crew for all the overtime worked and thanked the public for their patience.
- Storm Drains – Mr. Kernan reminded everyone storm drains are not intended to handle leaves and grass clippings. He encouraged everyone to spread the word and monitor their neighbors. Brochures are available in the lobby.
- Budget – Road Commissioner Kernan provided a copy of his tentative budget for FY 2014-2015. The tentative budget is available online.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Angela Ramirez, Township Sewer Billing Clerk, explained how the township has addressed the \$70,000 delinquent sewer account. She explained he owns many apartments in Glen Addie and is known for his lack of integrity (see YouTube and the evening news). The township has taken him to court with no avail.

John Frazier said snow at the curb made it difficult for residents on his street to get to their mailboxes. He said a pile of snow near an intersection close to Whiteside School was a problem. He thought there may have been something wrong with a street sweeper as it was throwing debris in yards.

Clete Buechler complimented Skip on the good job on snow removal.

Skip Kernan made a statement in support of the employees in regard to current union contract negotiations.

Guy DonCarlos asked if the township has a list of ordinances.

Dean Wallen complemented the street crew on the snow removal and street cleaning in his neighborhood. He appreciates the job well-done.

Steve Duff asked for clarification on amounts in line items and funds and moving amounts among funds.

Andrew Bailey asked how many trustees have participated in a union and how many have been involved in negotiations.

Rosanne Keck praised the township employees. She said the employees may be overworked compared to employees in other townships. She is concerned about union negotiations and supports the employees.

Bob Trentman, St Clair County Board District 14, said Skip's crew did a great job removing snow especially taking into consideration it was a crew of only three. He announced the county's Clean Sweep Program. Dumpsters will be in Centennial Park March 13 – 19. Large and small items will be accepted. Please, no tires, garbage, or yard waste.

#### BUSINESS ITEMS

Trustee Wells made a motion to discuss and vote on signing individual invoices for approval instead of approving all invoices with one signature. Trustee Carroll seconded. Discussion about the change was all positive. Supervisor Barnes stated signing individual invoices had been done in the past but this administration voted to sign approval for all with one signature. They now see the value in signing individually.

Roll call vote. All in favor.

Trustee Hipskind made a motion to discuss Resolution 2014-1 a Resolution to Apply for a Community Development Block Grant for Program Year 2014 for the St. Clair Township Road District. Trustee Wells seconded. The maximum grant would be \$60,000. The project proposed is a sidewalk and street improvement on Sierra Drive. It is expected to cost \$150,000.

Trustee Hipskind made a motion to vote to allow the road commissioner to apply for CDBG grant for Sierra Drive sidewalk and street improvement - Resolution 2014-1. Trustee Wells seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Trustee Wells made a motion to discuss and vote on a three-year service contract for five generators. Trustee Hipskind seconded. Supervisor Barnes provided proposals from Mid-South and Luby Equipment Services. After discussion the trustees decided it would be best to postpone the vote on the service contract to allow time to gather more information.

Supervisor Barnes requested Trustee input on the idea of removing basketball hoops at Loop Creek Park and replacing them with a pavilion. Mr. Buehlhorn (MEPRD) suggested a pavilion might bring more families to the park. Trustees were concerned about the peripheral costs that would be involved with building a pavilion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:55 p.m. Trustee Sturgis moved to go to executive session 2C2 to discuss union negotiations. Trustee Hipkind seconded. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed 4-1.

The regular meeting reconvened at 9:28 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:29 p.m. by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Trustee Hipkind. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed  
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: 3/25/14