

Regular Township Meeting

DATE: June 9, 2009

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
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Robert Knee, Assessor

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Stiehl, Attorney
Ron Stuckel, Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT: See Attached List

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 found that all board members were present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion made by Trustee Barnes, seconded by Trustee Bridgman to accept May minutes as presented. All in favor.

Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report:

The next order of agenda was the Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report. Trustee Bridgman questioned the large amount of Certificate of Deposits (CDs) in the Sanitary Sewer Fund. Supervisor Buchanan said he was unable to answer that question because the CDs were there previously, but that he would look into it.

Trustee Trentman also raised a question about how the general assistance program worked. Supervisor Buchanan explained the process. Trustee Schobert added that Trustees do not have any

authority for General Assistance. It is handled by the office personnel and approved by the Supervisor. Names of the General Assistance participants should not be published on the monthly financial report.

One last inquiry from Trustee Barnes was put forth regarding streamlining the General Assistance form. Supervisor Buchanan explained this was already considered and was in process.

Motion made by Trustee Schobert, seconded by Trustee Trentman to accept Supervisor's monthly financial report as presented. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

Supervisor Buchanan requested a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Trentman motioned to accept the monthly bills, seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Communications:

Supervisor Buchanan mentioned there was a National Association of Towns and Township Conference to be held in Washington, DC, but that it may be a bit expensive. He will look into this further.

Public Comment:

The floor was opened up for public comment. Ms. Julia Burkett whose property borders Loop Creek Park said she had several concerns: 1) She said the fence was too low. Kids are jumping the fence, and it is a safety concern. 2) There is a tree in the park that is leaning over the fence toward her property. She would like to have this tree removed. She believes this is a safety concern, and also when it storms it drops numerous limbs on her property. She offered to replace it with two new trees if needed. 3) The park needs more policing. It is often littered with trash and empty alcohol containers. She said that yesterday she found condoms near the playground. 4) She said someone has installed an unauthorized basketball hoop and back board on the pole that was left behind when the last backboard was removed by the Township. She believes the basketball hoop is drawing older kids and adults there during all hours of the night. She said there could be 20-30 people "playing basketball" on a half court which does not seem reasonable. She asked if the pole could be cut down so that another backboard could not be installed.

Next, Ms. Lisa Williams representing a group of residents from the Weatherstone neighborhood spoke to the Board. Lisa's first question was to find out if the Weatherstone road projects were still being considered? Commissioner Burk told Ms. Williams that to be honest, there were several other areas including Old and New Lincolnshire and

Glen Addie that were in more need than Weatherstone. He did not feel that Weatherstone's road projects would get done this year.

Commissioner Burk said he is working on a four year plan and once it was complete he would share it with the folks at Weatherstone to see when they might expect their road projects to be complete.

Mr. Ray Bender from Weatherstone asked why Old Lincolnshire was so bad? Commissioner Burk said it was probably due to mine subsidence.

Mr. Bender also wanted to know how much of an easement there is for their subdivision sign near the entrance of their subdivision near Greenmount Road. Commissioner Burk explained the easement is usually a number of feet out from the center of the road.

Ms. Williams said they are interested in making improvements to the sign. She showed pictures of how the wood was rotting and the bushes around it were overgrown. However she said the homeowner wherein the sign lies has a difference of opinion and would not allow them on the property. Ms. Williams also presented the board a March '08 plat map. The representatives from the Weatherstone neighborhood are hoping that the Township has jurisdiction and can assist with the improvements or find out if they have a right to get on the property to make the improvements to the sign. They are willing to pay the costs associated with it.

Ms. Burkett then approached the board again and asked when the Old Lincolnshire Roads will be paved? She said that Stone River, Bull Run and West Avenue were missed the last time. She said it had been four years since they did West Avenue. Commissioner Burk told her that the Township would be getting some help from the County and they were going to be filling holes beginning next week.

At the end of the public comment, Mr. Buchanan thanked all the residents for coming to the meeting and expressing their concerns. He commended them for taking an interest in their neighborhoods and making the Board accountable for their concerns.

Old Business:

Ron Stuckel updated the board on the Highland Hills Sewer project. There is an approved project regarding an easement disagreement with resident Mr. Kenneth Harris. Mr. Schobert made a motion to approve the Sanitary Sewer Easement Agreement between Kenneth Harris and the Township, seconded by Mr. Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

New Business:

Commissioner Burk requested approval to sell excess surplus equipment (car, roller and chipper). Attorney Stiehl said he believed the Board did not have authority to disburse equipment and this was entirely up to the Road Commissioner. Mr. Stiehl said he would follow up on this.

Commissioner Burk asked for permission to assist citizens on Cardinal Drive with flooding issues by delivering culverts. The Township would sell the culverts to the citizens at cost. Attorney Stiehl will look into: 1) whether this is allowed; and 2) if there are any liabilities to the Township associated with it.

Supervisor Buchanan read the 2009 Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve, seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Mr. Buchanan explained that a Resolution was needed to transfer credit card accounts from prior Supervisor and Road Commissioner to Supervisor Buchanan and Commissioner Burk. Trustee Barnes asked who in the Township has a credit card? Supervisor Buchanan replied that almost all employees have a card and explained the procedures for use of it and the approval process. It was also stated that the credit cards are paid off each month and no interest accrues.

Barnes motioned to approve the Credit Card Resolution for Supervisor Buchanan, seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

It was determined that no approval was needed for Commissioner Burk's Credit Card Resolution. He has the authority to approve it himself.

Supervisor Buchanan explained the Tentative St. Clair Township Budget and Appropriation Ordinance and asked for questions. Trustee Schobert mentioned a discrepancy on the General Insurance line item. Supervisor Buchanan said he would check into the discrepancy. Trustee Schobert also questioned the line item for the State of Illinois Loan Payment. Supervisor Buchanan will review this item also. Trustee Trentman questioned why the building maintenance was budgeted high when there were very little expenditures in past years? Trustee Schobert explained that it needed to be budgeted higher in case of emergencies. Supervisor Buchanan thanked Trustee Schobert for his help with this answer.

Commissioner Burk went over the Road District Budget and Appropriation Budget and asked for questions. Trustee Barnes asked what the line item for equipment purchase was. Commissioner Burk explained there were three items: 1) tar machine; 2) dig ditcher to stop

flooding; and 3) the chipper was on a lease program and Commissioner Burk said it could be paid off to save money.

Good of the Order:

A report on the delinquent sewer accounts was given by Supervisor Buchanan. Trustee Barnes wanted to know if the largest delinquent client was making payments? Attorney Stiehl said the client is on a payment plan but has defaulted on the agreement. The payee has until the end of the month to make restitution or the Township will file suit.

No new business for Engineer's Report.

Supervisor Buchanan notified the Board of a Newly Elected Officials Seminar to be held on August 1st in Fairview Heights. He asked that Board members notify him if they would like to attend.

Supervisor Buchanan gave an update on the General Assistance Insurance Program. Trustee Barnes asked if this insurance is bid out? Trustee Schobert said it is purchased from the State's General Assistance Fund.

Supervisor Buchanan also notified the Board that a General Assistance Client passed away and the Township was responsible for funeral service. The family requested cremation, and it was paid by the Township.

Supervisor Buchanan announced a Budget Hearing and Special Meeting to adopt the Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held on June 29, 2009 at the Township Office. Supervisor Buchanan asked if other agenda items can be added to the Special Meeting agenda? Trustee Schobert said only the Budget can be on the agenda at the Public Hearing.

Supervisor Buchanan advised the Board that in the future he will notify the Trustees by e-mail when the monthly bills are ready. The Trustees will need to come to the office to review and approve the bills after they receive the notification they are ready.

A form was passed to the Trustees to confirm by signature they viewed and examined the monthly bills.

It was confirmed by Supervisor Buchanan that all Board members had a copy of the Audited Financial Report.

Supervisor Buchanan informed the Board that Township employee Denny Milam's sister passed away yesterday and his wife passed a few weeks ago. He asked everyone to keep Denny and family in their thoughts.

New keys were made for all Board members. Supervisor Buchanan asked that all confirm their keys worked because there had been some problems with some of the keys.

Supervisor Buchanan mentioned that bids for energy were being reviewed. He said we could save over \$7,000 over the next year by making this change and locking in at a lower rate. Trustee Schobert wanted to know if Ameren would be willing to do work if repairs were needed? He suggested the Township get something from Ameren confirming they will. Supervisor Buchanan said the energy provider is one of Ameren's suggested provider's, but he would look into this.

Trustee Schobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor. Adjourned at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk