

Regular Township Meeting

DATE: July 14, 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
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Robert Knee, Assessor

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Barnes, Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Stiehl, Attorney
Ron Stuckel, Engineer

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Donald Stahl
Keith Baugh
David Arnold

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, except for Trustee Dave Barnes, were present.

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Motion made by Trustee Schobert and seconded by Trustee Trentman to accept June 9th Regular Board Meeting minutes as presented. All in favor.

Two minor corrections for Minutes for June 29th Budget Hearing were pointed out by Supervisor Buchanan. Trustee Bridgman made a motion

to approve with corrections and Trustee Trentman seconded. All in favor.

Supervisor's Monthly Financial Report:

There were no questions or comments regarding the monthly financial report. A motion was made by Trustee Schobert, seconded by Trustee Bridgman to accept the Supervisor's monthly financial report as presented. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

There were no questions or comments regarding the monthly bills. Supervisor Buchanan requested a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Trentman motioned to accept the monthly bills, seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Communications:

Supervisor Buchanan informed the board there was a Township Officials of Illinois Trustees Division Meeting to be held August 29th in Bloomington. He said that if anyone was interested in attending should let him know.

Supervisor Buchanan said he received a citizen's resolution request regarding a new investigation into the events of 9/11. Supervisor Buchanan said that if there was any interest in the resolution, he would put it on the agenda as new business for the next meeting. Trustee Bridgman asked if the Township has any authority to support a resolution as this. Trustee Schobert was not sure if we should support it if it would cost the Township.

Public Comment:

The floor was opened up for public comment. Mr. Donald Stahl said he was there to represent Mr. Bill Demsar, who had submitted the resolution request to further investigate the events of 9/11. He expressed his concerns. Trustee Schobert suggested we move this to new business, so the board can vote on it next meeting.

Old Business:

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business:

Supervisor Buchanan discussed a potential Special Town Meeting regarding the sale and/or disposal of surplus property. The Board members were directed to see the Resolution that was provided regarding the Town Meeting and a proposed agenda. Supervisor Buchanan pointed out that any registered voter who attends the town meeting will

be eligible to vote. Trustee Schobert made a motion to move forward with the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The current sewer back up policy was discussed. Current policy states the claim would go to insurance company first. If the insurance company states we are not liable, the Township would still pay the expenses. Supervisor Buchanan suggested changing this. In the past three years, the Township has paid \$157,000 for back-up repairs. Supervisor Buchanan felt this would be better for all the citizens of the Township rather than just a select few.

Trustee Trentman asked where the back-ups generally take place? Trustee Schobert said they could be anywhere. Schobert said that typically the resident's insurance would pay first, but the Township would pay for their deductible. He also added that most people don't have sewer back-up coverage, and that if you use the insurance once, it cannot be used again.

Supervisor Buchanan said that typically our insurance does not pay because it is usually something that we cannot control. In other words, it is similar to an "Act of God".

Trustee Trentman wanted to know what the policies of other cities and townships were regarding sewer back-ups? Trustee Schobert said that most cities' policies are similar to what Supervisor Buchanan is proposing.

The next new business item was the Route 158 agreement with I-DOT that requires the Township to pay for manhole adjustments. Ron Stuckel said that the State will do the work, but the Township has to pay for it. After some discussion, Supervisor Buchanan asked for a motion to allow him to sign the agreement with I-DOT to do the work. Trustee Schobert made the motion; it was seconded by Trustee Trentman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan said he had been doing some research and has learned about the fees for credit card processing (used by the citizens to pay sewer payments). A summary was reviewed showing three different proposals. It identified that Proposal #3 (MOTO Program) would result in a significant savings to the Township. Supervisor Buchanan asked for a motion for him to accept the credit card processing proposal with the Bank of Edwardsville. Trustee Bridgman made a motion; Trustee Schobert seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan told the board he is working on the investment policy. The investment policy directs how the money will be invested and what banking institutions the Township can work with. The Bank of Springfield is new to the area. Supervisor Buchanan asked the Board to allow him to use Bank of Springfield because they currently have the best CD rate, and he did not want to miss out on this rate.

Trustee Trentman asked if the Township would use the Bank of Springfield for all CDs. No, if there is a better rate next month, we would move to that bank. There are large variations in the rates of CDs and that is why we need to be able to talk to different institutions. Supervisor Buchanan said he would always try to get the best rates and terms.

Trustee Trentman asked what Supervisor Buchanan wanted the board to vote on tonight? Supervisor Buchanan said he would like to have the Bank of Springfield put on the list. This would allow him the opportunity to find the best rate for the Township.

Trustee Schobert asked if the bank needed to provide two quarterly reports before they could approve them? Attorney Stiehl said the Trustees have the authority to give him permission without the quarterly reports.

Supervisor Buchanan said he did request the reports, but have not received them yet. However, he did check bankrate.com and Bank of Springfield received a 3 out of 5 star rating similar to the Bank of Edwardsville, our current banking institution. In addition, it was pointed out the bank has to back us for anything over \$250,000.

Trustee Schobert made a motion to add Bank of Springfield to the list of banking institutions that the Township can utilize. Trustee Bridgman seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan said that he spoke to a representative from Interfaith Food Pantry regarding a donation from the Township. Supervisor Buchanan was told the pantry is located at "B" & 2nd Streets in Belleville. It is supported by 11 churches and also the Belleville Township. Supervisor Buchanan is bringing this to the Board for comments and to see if the Township is interested in supporting them?

Trustee Bridgman asked if the pantry supports the people in the Township? Supervisor Buchanan replied that it does cover the bulk of the Township.

Trustee Bridgman asked about documentation for those who really are in need and those who may be trying to scam? It was pointed out they are part of the organization, Beacon in Belleville. They do monitor their donations and require proof of residency.

Attorney Stiehl noted that pursuant to the statutes, Townships do not have the authority to support something like this.

Trustee Trentman asked how does Belleville Township do it? Attorney Stiehl was not sure why Belleville Township was doing so. He said there is nothing in the laws that say we can authorize to expend funds in such a way.

Trustee Schobert added that the Township had already researched something similar to this a few years ago, and it was not approved.

Supervisor Buchanan said the Township had received a request from resident Mrs. Burkett regarding a tree that she would like to have cut down in the Loop Creek Park. Supervisor Buchanan visited Mrs. Burkett and saw the tree in question. Supervisor Buchanan felt there was not a safety issue with the tree and there was no danger of the tree falling on her house. There was some discussion as to whether or not Department of Natural Resources would allow us to cut the tree down. It was decided that Supervisor Buchanan would do this and get some cost estimates to either cut the tree down or trim it back. After more information was gathered, it could be brought to a vote by the Board.

Engineer Ron Stuckel discussed the Change Order #2 for the Loop Creek Interceptor. He said there was an extra cost for sewer lines that was not on the original bid. He recommended paying the extra cost. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the Change Order #2 for the Loop Creek Interceptor. Seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Engineer Stuckel went over the certification for payment, App.#2 for Loop Creek Interceptor. He said it has been inspected and the invoice was reviewed. He recommends the contractor be paid the remainder of the invoice. Supervisor Buchanan asked for a motion for certification for payment. Trustee Trentman made a motion. Trustee Schobert seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Reports

Attorney Stiehl said the Township was about to proceed to court for the largest delinquent account to secure payment. He said the Township will be filing suit shortly. The account holder will be responsible for

back payment, court fees and attorney fees. Supervisor Buchanan added there are lots of steps involved in collecting delinquent sewer accounts and went over the process for the benefit of the Board.

Engineer Stuckel gave a report on the Highland Hills easement negotiations. He said he is working with Mr. Ken Fournie in trying to secure an easement for the project. After some discussion, Stuckel said he would be getting back to Mr. Fournie for further discussions.

Engineer Stuckel reported that certified letters were sent to Piper Hills residents regarding easements. He said he has fielded some calls from the residents.

Commissioner Burk said the Township purchased a chipper by paying off the lease. He calculated that \$2,000 was saved by paying it off rather than finishing out the lease.

An older lap top computer was reported stolen. Commissioner Burk said a police report was filed. There was no break-in involved.

Commissioner Burk gave an update on the Villa Madero project. He said it has already helped with the flooding problems in the neighborhood. He estimated that approximately \$12,000-\$20,000 was saved in just the first two weeks on the project.

He added that a newsletter would be going out to the Township residents in the next few weeks. It will remind residents not to put stuff in the drainage ditches that can cause stoppage and flooding.

Dean Wallen asked Commissioner Burk if Shiloh was going to surface Lebanon Avenue going into Shiloh? Commissioner Burk replied that the Township will do the work and Shiloh would reimburse us. He said Shiloh was in agreement with the numbers that were submitted.

Attorney Stiehl certified that anyone can purchase a culvert from the Township at cost. The purchaser will need to sign a waiver releasing the Township from any responsibility. This will help residents with expenses.

Trustee Trentman asked if we buy culverts from the same place all the time. Commissioner Burk replied that we get them from the State of Illinois. The State negotiates the price. He added that we are not trying to set up a distributorship; we are just trying to help the residents by getting them at our cost.

Supervisor Buchanan reported that he is considering insurance through TOMRIA. He said that 94% of the Townships are part of the consortium. Trustee Schobert asked if they know we have a sewer plant. He was under the impression they would not cover our Township because we do have a sewer plant. Supervisor Buchanan was going to look into this.

Supervisor Buchanan mentioned he is still working and researching purchase electricity. As well, he is making inquiries about cell phone service and is waiting on return calls. He is also researching prices and contractors for work on the tennis courts and hockey rink.

Good of the Order:

Speaking on behalf of Mr. Demsar, Mr. Donald Stahl approached the Board again and he said he hoped that the Township would consider bringing the resolution Mr. Demsar submitted to a vote.

Trustee Trentman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor. Adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk