

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: June 24, 2014
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg.
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL

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 Barnes
Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, Greg Hipskind
Absent: none

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Cletis Cox Dean Wallen
Angela Ramirez Sue Gruberman

APPROVE MINUTES

April 28, 2014 Road District Budget Hearing Minutes – There was discussion about how Mr. Kernan answered a question about hiring an employee. There was also discussion about whether the clerk was editorializing by using words such as “scolded” and “expressed frustration” in the minutes. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction [amendment] that Mr. Kernan said he will not be hiring anyone when she asked that question at the meeting. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells, Hipskind. Motion passed.

May 27, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes – A motion to approve the May 27, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. All in favor.

June 3, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes – A motion to approve the June 3, 2014 Special Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Supervisor Barnes. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Barnes. No – Wells. Present – Sturgis, Hipskind. Motion passed.

June 3, 2014 Executive Session Minutes – A motion to approve the June 3, 2014 Executive Session Minutes was made by Supervisor Barnes, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Barnes. No – Wells. Present – Sturgis, Hipskind. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

After questions and discussion about some line items a motion to approve the treasurer's report was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

After questions and discussion about some line items a motion to approve the budget report was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

MONTHLY BILLS

A motion to approve the board list/monthly bills was made by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Supervisor Barnes. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. Present – Wells, Hipskind. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes said the work on the lunch room at the sewer plant is complete. They should have the refrigerator, microwave, table and chairs by end of this week.

Supervisor Barnes reported 75% – 80% of the work is completed on the Loop Creek sewer pipe relocation.

Trustee Hipskind would like the board to consider some kind of barrier to protect the lift station at the Rt. 15 round-about.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Delinquent Sewer Accounts – The amounts past due continue to increase. The township is continuing to do all it can to make collections.
- Supervisor Barnes said Swansea has approved and signed the sewer contract. He has not yet received a signed copy of the contract.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Chenot Place Repair – The project is moving along well. Half of Magnolia was opened today. If the weather allows, Magnolia should be finished by July 4. Construction should start on Shady Lane by next week. Mr. Kernan said the contractor has been very accommodating to the residents during the project.

- Law Suit – There is nothing new to report on the law suit Mr. Kernan filed last month.
- Large Item Pick Up – The pick-up has been very successful. Residents are appreciative.

PARK BOARD REPORT

There was no Park Board meeting this month.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sue Gruberman said she felt it was unfair to say employees wanting answers to questions was the cause of high attorney fees. She also pointed out that her property taxes increased in multiple taxing districts listed on her tax bill, not just the road district.

Steve Joyce, Representative from Local 148 Operating Engineers, stated his experience with grievances is that both parties sit down to discuss the grievance.

Skip Kernan, Highway Commissioner, commented that he left the March Road District Budget Hearing at 6:35 to attend a meeting for the road district. He also said he did not scold Mr. Duff at the road district budget hearing in April and he pointed out two trustees agree with him.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Catastrophic Insurance for General Assistance – There was discussion on whether the insurance should be renewed. Issues pointed out as reasons for not renewing were the fact that the township has never made a claim, the policy has a \$25,000 deductible, and changes to health care under the Affordable Care Act. Issues pointed out as reasons for renewing were the premium is only 9% of the deductible, it is a cost of doing business, and it is a good thing to have never made a claim. Trustee Hipskind made a motion to approve to pay \$2,360 for Medical Assistance Catastrophic Insurance for General Assistance. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind. No – Carroll, Barnes. Motion passed.
- Camera at Sewer Plant Entrance – Supervisor Barnes provided bids from two companies for the purchase and installation of a camera for security at the gate going into the sewer plant. Trustee Wells volunteered to contact customers of the two companies, Metro East Office Machines and Phone Masters, to get feedback on their experiences with camera surveillance. She will give report at the July meeting.
- Prevailing Wage Ordinance – Trustee Hipskind made a motion to approve Ordinance 2014-1, An Ordinance Ascertaining the Prevailing Rate of Wages. The motion was seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. All in favor.

- OSLAD Grant – There was discussion about whether the plan Engineer Ron Stuckel had proposed for Loop Creek Park improvements had been approved by the board. There was question about the cost of improvements and the order of implementation of the improvements. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to give Supervisor Barnes authority to sign the DOC-3 Resolution of Authorization for an Open Space Land and Development (OSLAD) Grant. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hipkind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:10 Trustee Hipkind made a motion to go into executive session pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) of the open meetings act to discuss collective bargain negotiating matters. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed.

At 8:29 the board returned to the regular meeting.

RESPONSE TO GRIEVANCE

Trustee Sturgis made a motion to deny the grievance discussed during the executive session. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. Present – Wells, Hipkind. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m. Trustee Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: 7/22/2014