

## **St. Clair Township Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE: May 27, 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 Hipskind  
Absent: none

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Ron Stuckel, engineer  
Doug Gruenke, Bruckert, Gruenke, & Long, P.C.  
Tony Erwin, Thouvenot, Wade, & Moerchen  
Tonda VanHoose  
Gene Kish  
Cletis L. Cox  
Dean Wallen  
Terry Carroll

### BUSINESS ITEMS

Supervisor Barnes requested approval from the board to jump to some business items on the agenda. The board informally approved.

Swansea Sewer Agreement - Doug Gruenke of Bruckert, Gruenke, & Long, P.C., the firm that represented the township during negotiations on the sewer agreement with Swansea, was available to answer any questions concerning the contract. He pointed out that a sentence was omitted on page 4, at the end of paragraph 3 in the draft copy of the contract. The sentence will read, "The township will review its township transport fee on an annual basis and said fee can be increased or decreased annually at the township's discretion." The transport fee for year one will be \$7.34. Trustee Wells questioned whether there was an ordinance addressing the

\$7.34 charge for sewer line usage added to township residents whose sewage is treated and billed by Swansea. Supervisor Barnes stated an ordinance would be passed before the contract went into effect. Currently the township bills about 8,200 users for sewer services. Swansea will start billing about 3,200 of those users.

Trustee Hipskind made a motion to approve the Swansea Sewer Contract as amended. Motion was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Present – Wells. Motion passed.

Mr. Gruenke left the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

Finish Work at Roundabout Lift Station – Engineer Ron Stuckel reported IDOT expects to be finished with the roundabout by July. He provided a copy of the final pay request from Kamadulski to demonstrate total funds approved for the roundabout project had not been paid out. Mr. Stuckel provided a proposal from Hank's Excavating & Landscaping, Inc. in the amount of \$5,250.00 to do the final grading and aggregate placement at the lift station. The funds had already been approved so no vote was necessary.

Trustee Hipskind expressed concerned about an errant vehicle damaging the lift station and suggested a permanent barrier might be a good idea. Mr. Stuckel suggested waiting to see how the traffic flows before a decision is made on placing a permanent barrier.

Mr. Stuckel left the meeting at 7:18.

Sewer Plant Equipment Maintenance – Larry from Rhutasel and Associates, Inc., explained the maintenance that needs to be done at Sewer Plant #3. The maintenance consists of replacing headers, diffusers, blowers and cleaning the tank. The estimated cost is \$447,400. Supervisor Barnes added that this was a planned project for fiscal year 2014/15. There are two grants that can be applied for to help cover costs of the project. The grants could total \$154,260. Rhutasel will do the grant application process at an hourly rate not to exceed \$10,000.

A motion to move forward with the grant application, with the cost of application not to exceed \$10,000, was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

A motion for Supervisor Barnes to sign a contract to start the design work for Tank #3 improvements was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Larry left the meeting at 7:40.

Update on Chenot Place – Tony from Thouvenot, Wade, and Moerchen, said the project in Chenot Place is progressing better than anticipated. There is good possibility the project will be complete by July 4.

Tony left the meeting at 7:47.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Motion to approve the March 25, 2014 Road District and Township Budget Hearing Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells, Hipskind. Motion passed.

Approval of the April 28, 2014, Road Budget Hearing was tabled due to no motion being made.

Motion to approve the April 22, 2014 Regular Board Meeting minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes apologized for the oversight of the Treasurer's Report not being included in the meeting packet.

#### BUDGET REPORT

During questions about some line items it was made known defibrillators were purchased for the sewer plant and the township building.

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

#### MONTHLY BILLS

A question about payment of receipts to fast-food restaurants made it known that the road district is taking advantage of a program offered by the county sheriff to use two or three prisoners to help with light manual labor in exchange for buying lunch for them and a supervising deputy.

Motion to approve payment of the monthly bills was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Two insurance brokers presented some health insurance options to be considered for employees and eligible full-time elected officials.

- Karen Sprinkle of K & K Insurance explained three health insurance plan options offered by BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois and Delta Dental of Illinois.
- Al Oreit of Warma, Witter, Kreisler, explained three health insurance plan options offered by BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois and Advantica Dental.

Supervisor Barnes informed the board of an addition mistake on the annual budget. The General Town Fund – Contractual Services total should be \$31,950. It was incorrectly listed as \$28,950.

#### SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Delinquent Sewer Accounts – Unfortunately the total amount past due continues to increase. The total amount past due 151 days was \$108,481 compared to \$86,936 in May 2013.

#### HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Road Commissioner Kern announced a law suit will be filled tomorrow in regard to the Chenot Place pavement failure.

### PARK BOARD REPORT

Trustee Wells reported the president of the park board is getting bids on improvements at Loop Creek Park. A community service day at Centennial Park is planned for October 11, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. until noon. Work will be done to remove invasive species. Volunteers are needed.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tonda VanHoose stated that it might have been possible to get a grant for defibrillators. She stressed the importance of all employees being trained in CPR and use of the defibrillators.

Road Commissioner Kernan and Trustee Carroll exchanged questions and answers.

Cletis Cox stated buying prisoners lunch in exchange for their work was a good deal. He also thanked Trustee Carroll for her attention to detail.

Jill Halupa said overall the communication with the contractor about the daily schedule of the Magnolia and Shady Lane road repair has been good.

### BUSINESS ITEMS

Local Government Health Plan (LGHP) – The board had discussion about terminating the current health insurance plan with LGHP. The fiscal year for the health care plan begins July 1. The premiums with the LGHP will increase 6%. If the township terminates coverage with LGHP it cannot return to LGHP for health insurance coverage for two years. Policy premiums for comparable plans presented by both vendors earlier at the meeting were less than LGHP. Trustee Carroll made a motion to terminate the LGHP. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Present – Wells. Motion passed.

Health Insurance Vendor – The board discussed the lack of significant differences in the policies presented earlier in the meeting by both vendors. Supervisor Barnes suggested it might be a good business decision to have K & K Insurance provide health coverage because the township has other insurance coverage with Warma, Witter. One of the dental plans presented by K & K also had a carry-over for unused benefits not available with the Warma, Witter plans presented. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to have Supervisor Barnes sign a contract with K & K Insurance Agency for employees, supervisor, and road commissioner insurance. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Present – Wells. Motion passed.

### ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:31 p.m. by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed  
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: 6/24/2014