

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: April 28, 2015
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

Others Present: Attorney Doug Gruenke
Bob Buechler
Lexi Cortes
Dean Wallen

APPROVE MINUTES

Supervisor Barnes asked for approval of the February 24, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Carroll suggested adding a comma to the second sentence in paragraph two under Treasurer's Report to make the sentence better understood. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the February 24, 2015 Regular Township Meeting Minutes. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Barnes asked for approval of the March 24, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Wells pointed out Trust Hipskind and Trustee Barnes needed to be corrected on page one under Approve Minutes. Clerk Reed said Attorney Terry Bruckert needed to be added to the list under Others Present. Supervisor Barnes made a motion to approve the March 24, 2015 Regular Board Meeting Minutes with the corrections of Trustee and Supervisor and adding

Attorney Terry Bruckert. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. Trustee Hipkind abstained because he was not at the meeting.

Supervisor Barnes asked for approval of the April 6, 2015 Budget Hearing Minutes. Trustee Carroll made a motion to accept the April 6, 2015 Budget Hearing Minutes. The motion was seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of March.

	<u>March 1, 2015</u>	<u>March 31, 2015</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 439,235.06	\$ 418,934.36
General Assistance Fund	\$ 66,209.90	\$ 56,982.67
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 169,659.27	\$ 160,956.76
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 444,030.02	\$ 419,865.69
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 674,111.33	\$ 638,276.54
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 4,614,243.69	\$ 4,857,102.27

Trustee Hipkind asked about the line item labeled Swansea Reserve Account in the Sanitary Sewer Fund increasing from \$700,000 to \$1,400,000 in the recently passed 2015-16 budget. Supervisor Barnes said because the board has been discussing the possibility of reopening negotiations on the sewer contract, he increased the line item so funds would be available in the event changes are made to the contract. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

Supervisor Barnes made a motion to approve the Budget Report as presented. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Carroll. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes stated the seasonal sewer employee started April 20, 2015.

ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Trustee Hipkind read a letter from Road Commissioner Kernan giving the road commissioner’s report. It stated parts of Oxen, Plankway, and Ganim were milled and overlaid. Culverts were put in on Violet, Cornell, and Lake Christine. Standing water issues were addressed on Violet

and the rest of Violet will be completed this year. Curb, gutter, and storm drain work was done on Paulette and Chase. A new contract with Laborer's Union #453 was signed. A Vactor truck was rented for \$1,760. In the letter Road Commissioner Kernan asked the Board for permission to use the sewer department's Vactor truck in the future.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Sewer Repair - Supervisor Barnes reported an emergency sewer line repair on Sierra Drive turned into a bigger job than expected when a piece of equipment got stuck and broke causing an employee to make a trip to the emergency room. As an attempt to remove the equipment was made, the road unexpectedly caved in. There were no injuries but the road replacement will be a sewer department expense. Supervisor Barnes reported Midwest Excavating has started the road replacement job.
- Past Due Sewer Billing – Forty-nine shut-off notices were sent with April sewer bills.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen reported a Park Board Committee and representatives from Swansea will be meeting May 20, 2015, with Heartland Conservancy to discuss a possible long range plan. Mr. Wallen said the Park Board suggests restrooms be located close to the playground and tennis courts in Loop Creek Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jaynie Wells asked where Township contracts and agreements are kept. Her recommendation is to put all contracts and agreements online.

Patsy Tarven said there should be a system for filing current and expired contracts.

Bob Trentman referenced an article about the sewer contract that will be in the Belleville News Democrat tomorrow.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Request to Reopen Swansea Sewer Agreement Negotiations - Supervisor Barnes asked for approval to send a letter to Swansea to request reopening sewer contract negotiations. After discussion and review of the options concerning the Swansea Sewer Agreement discussed at the March meeting, it was decided the attorney would look at the current contract to determine if it allows the township to pull back sewer users. If that is possible the engineer will determine if the EPA will allow two inactive lift stations to be reactivated and what the cost would be to do so. Discussion will continue at the May meeting.

- Centennial Park Agreement – Supervisor Barnes provided the revised version of the new Centennial Park Agreement with Village of Swansea edits. Trustee Wells made a motion to accept the Centennial Park Agreement as presented. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Sewer Department Pick-up Truck – Supervisor Barnes said the bid opening for the truck was April 20, 2015. The only bid received was from Lou Fusz for the amount of \$36,861. The trade-in value of the old truck was listed as \$6,000. Trustee Wells made a motion to trade in the old truck and purchase the new pick-up truck from Lou Fusz for \$30,861.00 (\$36,861 less \$6,000). Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Box and Crane for New Truck – Trustee Sturgis made a motion to have Kranz Automotive Body Company, St. Louis, Missouri, install the box and crane on the new pick-up for \$19,500.00. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Lawn Mower – The board discussed purchasing a new lawn mower. Supervisor Barnes provided a proposal from Erb Equipment for a new Scag mower with allowance for the trade-in of the currently owned Scag mower. The consensus was to spend more time researching the condition of the mower in use now, other makes, prices, trade-in values, and other alternatives for selling the old mower. No motion was made regarding the mower.
- Loop Creek Park Restroom – TWM provided a proposal to the Park Committee for a precast restroom to be placed at Loop Creek Park. The total amount for the restroom structure and necessary utilities and site upgrades was \$88,220.00. While the goal is to get more families using the park, concern was expressed about the cost of the restroom in light of the park's history. Supervisor Barnes said he will survey residents living around the park about whether they would consider a restroom a positive improvement. No motion was made regarding the restroom.
- Full-Time Sewer Department Employee – Supervisor Barnes told the board he would like to hire another full-time sewer department employee. A current employee's absence for six to eight weeks, scheduling of summer vacations, and the call-out schedule were the reasons he stated for the need of another employee. The board discussed the concern about legacy costs of hiring another employee, the benefits of being prepared for unexpected employee absences, the stress on the current employees in regard to the call-out schedule, and a desire to do more research on the issue. Trustee Wells made a motion to hire another full-time employee. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Carroll, Hipskind. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no business to be discussed in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:38 p.m. Trustee Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved 5/26/2015