

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: February 28, 2017
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 Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis and Greg Hipkind
Absent: Trustee Mary Carroll
A quorum was present.

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed

Others Present: Attorney Terry Bruckert, BG & L, P.C.
Dean Wallen
Bob Buechler
Hart Morgan

APPROVE MINUTES

Supervisor Barnes made a motion to accept the January 24, 2017, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipkind. Absent – Carroll. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of January. The January 1, 2017, Sanitary Sewer Fund balance as reported here is \$9.77 more than the December 31, 2016, balance reported due to an interest sweeps journal entry.

	<u>January 1, 2017</u>	<u>January 31, 2017</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 442,345.42	\$ 429,131.31
General Assistance Fund	\$ 86,942.49	\$ 86,690.13
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 147,352.19	\$ 143,483.04
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 506,543.45	\$ 502,169.23
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 652,694.02	\$ 593,028.58
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 4,947,418.72	\$ 5,112,065.92

Trustee Wells made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes stated the office has been busy with two large volume FOIA requests in the last month. One requested all sewer agreement negotiation information/communications from 2009 to present date. Another requested all concrete purchases from 2009 to present date. A third FOIA request wanted the names and addresses of all former sewer accounts now being billed by Swansea.

Supervisor Barnes read the last paragraph of the judge's ruling on the law suit Road Commissioner Kernan filed against the board for not approving his budget as submitted. Judge Gomric stated in her finding that the Board was within the bounds of its legal authority when it modified the road commissioner's budget.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The road commissioner was not at the meeting and did not send a report to be read.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes reported there is little change in the total amount past due on sewer accounts. He stated 76 water shut-off notices were sent with the most recent sewer billing.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen reminded everyone the next Volunteer Day at Centennial Park will be March 4, 2017. He stated all the old playground equipment has been removed from Loop Creek Park. He stated he was contacted by Joe Starkey with Long Forestry Consultation about helping the township address the problem of invasive species at Centennial Park. He said

the company uses a chemical approach and helps local governments find government money for land management.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Hart Morgan asked what the requirements were for a township resident to be eligible to receive assistance. He also asked what services the township provided for senior citizens.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Ordinance No. 2017-1 – Supervisor Barnes stated Ordinance 2017-1 would allow the township to request water be shut-off to residents living in the township who owe the township for sewer services provided at a previous address within the township. Trustee Wells made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2017-1. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.
- Nature Play Area – Brian Dulski provided a list of estimated expenses for the features he included in the play area design presented last month. The estimated total for the features was \$6,705. He also included an estimate to clear the tree canopy of hazards. The arborist estimated the highest cost would be \$17,000. Mr. Dulski reminded the board that MEPRD has a 25% matching grant every year. Supervisor Barnes checked with the insurance agency to see if they needed to review the project. He was informed that a project this size would not increase the premium unless liability type claims increased because of injuries at the park. Supervisor Barnes made a motion to move forward with getting details about a grant from MEPRD and having the arborist reevaluate the canopy after the trees bud. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.
- CDB Grant – Supervisor Barnes stated that usually the Community Development Block Grant alternates between the road district and the township. Last year the road district used the grant. He stated there is no place needing a sewer line repair that qualifies for the grant within the township so he proposed the board allow the road district to apply for the grant again this year. He specifically stated that Aaron Drive and Glen Addie subdivision do not meet the low to moderate income qualifications required to use the grant. Trustee Hipskind made a motion to allow the road commissioner to apply for the 2017 CDB Grant. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Wells. Absent – Carroll. Motion passed.

At 7:53 pm Supervisor Barnes announced the attorney was not yet present to discuss the next item on the agenda (union negotiations) so the board would take a short recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:07 pm Trustee Wells made a motion to go into Executive Session under 2(c)2 To discuss union negotiations. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. Absent – Carroll. Motion passed.

At 8:25 pm the regular meeting convened.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 p.m. Trustee Wells made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: March 20, 2017