

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: March 20, 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 Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, and Keith Sturgis
Absent: Trustee Greg Hipskind
A quorum was present.

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Dean Wallen
Bob Buechler
Samuel Hart Morgan
Jana Moll

APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Sturgis made a motion to accept the February 28, 2017, Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.

Trustee Wells made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of February 28, 2017 as presented. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of February. Eight township residents received assistance in February. Supervisor Barnes stated the township received a reimbursement check for assistance a township resident received while they were waiting to be approved for Social Security Disability. He said that will be seen on next month's reports.

	<u>February 1, 2017</u>	<u>February 28, 2017</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 429,131.31	\$ 397,453.78
General Assistance Fund	\$ 86,690.13	\$ 83,284.42
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 143,483.04	\$ 141,589.57
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 502,169.23	\$ 483,914.81
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 593,028.58	\$ 566,636.05
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 5,112,065.92	\$ 5,042,738.59

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. All present in favor

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes stated he received a thank you letter from RSVP and ATS for the township's recent donations.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Road Commissioner Kernan announced he had nothing to report.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes reported a recent audit of the township's payroll resulted in the Workmen's Comp premium being reduced by \$14,994.00.

Supervisor Barnes reported the total amount past due on sewer accounts is down about \$5,000.00 from what it was twelve months ago.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen reported he talked to Mr. Starkey from Long Forestry Consultation. They expect to meet in the near future. Mr. Wallen said the March 4, Volunteer Day at Centennial Park saw about 50 volunteers give their time to improve the park.

Trustee Jaynie Wells read the attached St. Clair Township Volunteer Park Committee Report noting the accomplishments of the Park Board since it was created in 2013. The trustees thanked Mrs. Wells for leading the movement to improve the township's parks.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mary Carroll asked if the union filed another grievance because of volunteers doing work in Centennial Park.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Annual Town Meeting Agenda – Supervisor Barnes provided a proposed agenda for the annual meeting scheduled for April 11, 2017. It was suggested that the approval of minutes of the Special Town Meeting held May 23, 2016, should be added to the agenda. Trustee Carroll made a motion to approve the presented agenda for the April 11, 2017, Annual Town Meeting with the addition of approval of minutes of the Special Town Meeting held May 23, 2016. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.
- Park Volunteer Days – The Park Board proposed scheduling recurring Volunteer Days for the first Saturdays of March and October. Trustee Wells made a motion to schedule Park Volunteer Days for the first Saturdays of March and October each year. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All present in favor.
- Change April meeting date – Supervisor Barnes requested the April 25, 2017, meeting be rescheduled to April 18, 2017 because of conflict with his schedule. Trustee Carroll made a motion to change the April 25, 2017, meeting to April 18, 2017. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Supervisor Barnes announced the attorney had no new information to report about union negotiations so there was no need to go into Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:21 p.m. Trustee Carroll made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: April 18, 2017

St. Clair Township Volunteer Park Committee Report – 2013 – 2017

The St. Clair Township Volunteer Park Committee is proud of our accomplishments, improvements, and increased public awareness of our beautiful parks. This document is presented as a thank you to the volunteers, and a testament to show what can be done over time.

The first thing we did as a committee was an assessment of the Township's parks and proposed a 5 year improvement plan, which became part of the ongoing budgets.

Centennial Park –

With the support of the Township board, we held 6 volunteer days in the past 4 years to begin the process of removing bush honeysuckle and other invasive species threatening the trees and other native vegetation in this park. We removed approximately 6 acres of honeysuckle bush with the help of many including: Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, conservationists, master gardeners, the Swansea Rotary, Salvation Army, local politicians, local business owners, and concerned citizens.

Additionally, a sewer pipe running through Centennial Park was repaired.

We now have porta potties in the winter due to the increased use of this park because of the bike path and walking path.

The committee is directly responsible for the removal of an abandoned water pipe that was causing erosion to Richland Creek and the path around the park. This was done at no charge to the taxpayers, as the owner of the pipe (Illinois American Water) removed it and restored the creek bank and path. Because of this work, Richland Creek is flowing as nature intended.

We worked with the board in expanding the parking lot with the help of a St. Clair County Grant. This also improved water flow when we have flooding.

We continue to recommend updates to the walking path. We started with mulch, and have added AG Lime to parts of the path.

We recommended installing new signs on 161 and in the park.

Loop Creek –

We have porta potties by the tennis courts, and the tennis court has been resurfaced.

We recommended new playground equipment to the board to be installed with the use of a St. Clair County Grant.

We have researched many options for bathrooms at this park including mulching potties. It is the opinion of the committee that many other improvements may be made at this park once the bathrooms are installed.

Monarch Butterfly Stations –

As a community project, the park committee installed 3 monarch butterfly stations. They are located at Wolf Branch School, High Mount School, and Whiteside School. Wolf Branch and Whiteside also have benches near the stations. We researched additional training for the schools through St. Louis Zoo.

The volunteers on this committee continue to look for ways to make our parks better for the future. We joined The Southern Illinois Parks and Recreation Association for a couple years, we have members who attend U of I green seminars, and many are members of Conservancy's. The volunteers continue to look for faster, better, and cheaper ways to remove the honeysuckle, from goats to forest managers. We are proud members of this community, and have always encouraged others to be involved.

I have been honored to chair this committee, and would personally like to thank Dean Wallen who has been involved from the beginning. His support was and is integral to the success of this endeavor.

Jaynie Wells – St Clair Township Trustee 2013 - 2017