

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: January 10, 2012

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION: St. Clair Township
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Buchanan, Supervisor
Mary Carroll, Clerk
Mark Burk, Road Commissioner
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Bob Knee, Assessor

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Ken Miller
Skip Kernan

Roll Call:

The regular meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor, Tim Buchanan with the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call found that all members were present except for Trustee, Greg Bridgman.

Minutes of the Tax Hearing held on December 13, 2011:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the December 13, 2011 Tax Hearing minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on December 13, 2011:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the December 13, 2011 Regular Board Meeting minutes with corrections. It was seconded by Trustee Trentman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of the Executive Session held on December 13, 2011:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the December 13, 2011 Executive Session Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Budget Report

Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the budget report. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills

Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Communications

A letter from RSVP asking the Township to help fund their program was included in packets. Trustee Schobert made a motion to put the letter on file. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor's Report

- Insurance Claims - No new claims.
- Delinquent Sewer Account Report – Supervisor Buchanan pointed out that the delinquencies of 150 days or more went up.
- Water Shut Off Report - Supervisor Buchanan gave an update on the water shut off for nonpayment of sewer payments. He said there were no other shut offs except for the one he had already mentioned last month.
- Bulk mailing permit - Supervisor Buchanan said that the Township purchased a bulk mailing permit for \$190 with the anticipation of saving 3 cents per sewer card billing for a total savings of \$187 per mailing.
- Leaf Burning and Reducing the Number of Garbage Trucks on Township Roads - In follow-up to inquiries at a previous meeting, Supervisor Buchanan contacted the Township Officials of Illinois and was told that the Township does not have authority to impose restrictions on either of these items.
- Community Development Block Grant - A \$59,000 grant for St. George Street Sewer Project was granted. Supervisor Buchanan reminded the Board they had already approved this project. He said he asked Engineer Ron Stuckel to proceed with the project.
- Sewer Map Updating - Sewer maps will be updated. Trustee Schobert asked about overlay maps. Supervisor Buchanan said they were very expensive, but he would check into it.
- Servicing and Repairing Sewer Plant Heaters and Heat Recovery System - Supervisor Buchanan reported that the non-working furnaces and the heat recovery system were repaired and that the thermostat was replaced with one that went down as low as 40 degrees. 12 Furnaces were serviced. That will save a lot of money on the gas bill. He said we may want to install those thermostats in some other places as well.
- Tax Reassessment- Supervisor Buchanan told the Board Members there would be a Special Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on 1/12/12 at Wolf Branch Middle School. He said he invited the County Assessor and a County Board of Review Member to be present to explain the tax assessment and appeal process. He said that about 80% of individual assessments went down which resulted in a \$14 million decrease or about 2.2% decrease. Even though the Township held the taxes at the same level, those with an assessment increase will see an increase in their taxes.
- Overhead Doors at Sewer Plant - Supervisor Buchanan said this was not on the agenda, but he wanted to make everyone aware that two large overhead door at the sewer plant were improved because it did not work when the power was out. He said there is now a chain that can be used if the power is out.

Highway Commissioner's Report

- Salt Barn - Commissioner Burk said the salt barn is projected to be finished by the end of the month
- Small Resurfacing Projects - Commissioner Burk reported that if the weather holds out, some of the other small projects will be done by 3/15/12 (end of the fiscal year).

Public Comments

Skip Kernan asked about the Swansea Sewer negotiations. Supervisor Buchanan told him it would be discussed in Executive Session.

Skip Kernan asked why the payroll account shows a negative number. Supervisor Buchanan said it probably had to do with employee sharing costs, but he would get back to him with a more detailed explanation.

Dean Wallen asked who would have the authority in response to the leaf burning situation. Supervisor Buchanan said it would be St. Clair County, Mike Mitchell. Road Commissioner Burk said he has already raised it with the County and they have expressed they won't be pursuing it. Commissioner Burk added that he is continuing to ask people not to burn on the roads and is handing out flyers. Mr. Wallen said he knows of some specific places that Mr. Burk could target.

Ken Miller said that he is thankful the wood chipping is done in Centennial Park. He said it is great. Supervisor Buchanan said that is good to hear that it looks good because he only ordered one load of chips instead of two, to save the Township some money

Business Items

A. Annual Sewer Adjustment - Supervisor Buchanan said he has not received the revised adjustment from Swansea yet.

B. Annual Meeting Dates for 2012 - It was proposed that the meeting dates remain the same on the second Tuesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m. for regular meetings. The Annual Town meeting will be on April 10, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve and post the meeting dates for 2012. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

C. Surplus Property - Supervisor Buchanan said we have five old computers, two old dot-matrix printers and two old desktop printers. It was mentioned that the SAVE site is a drop off point for old electronics. Trustee Schobert made a motion to declare the old equipment as surplus property. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

D. Past Due Sewer Bills, Penalties and Write Offs - Supervisor Buchanan gave examples of delinquent sewer account owners who are asking to settle, but some are asking for write offs. Supervisor Buchanan said he feels we need to be consistent on how it is handled, and asked the Board for recommendations on how they felt negotiations should be handled. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed there would be no negotiating. The customer would be responsible to pay full bill including penalties and there would be no exceptions.

E. Swansea Sewer Use Negotiations - This will be discussed in Executive Session.

At 8:01 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion to go into closed Executive Session for purposes of purchasing real property, and for the purpose of considering litigation, and the Board finds that an action involving the Township is probable or imminent. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

At 8:57 p.m. the Board resumed to back to the regular meeting.

There being no further business, Trustee Schobert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Barnes seconded. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Carroll
Township Clerk