

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: September 25, 2012

TIME: 7:00 p.m.

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

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

OTHERS PRESENT: See List

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.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on August 28, 2012

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the August 28, 2012 regular meeting minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report - Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Budget Report - Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the budget report. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills - Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the monthly bills. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Communications - None

Supervisor's Report

- Insurance Claims – No new claims.
- Delinquent Sewer Account Report - Supervisor Buchanan said the Township is making progress. The overdue amount when the shut offs started was \$254,823. It has been reduced to \$132,191. More than \$100,000 has been collected for past due accounts.
- Water Shutoff Report - No notices.
- Sewer Line Break Infiltration Investigation - Supervisor Buchanan provided a report of the progress being made in the Old Lincolnshire area. He said all the easy corrections

have been made, and those alone may solve the problem. But the man holes are still being investigated. He provided pictures for the board to review and an explanation of each picture on how they were defective after years of use. He said that the man holes are probably going to have to be dug up and replaced.

- Prevailing Wage - Industrial Motors - Trustee Trentman had inquired if Industrial Motors who works on the motor pays prevailing wage. Supervisor Buchanan said that Industrial Motors is a union shop and they do pay prevailing wage. There is another company that could be used, but they could not verify they paid prevailing wage, so they will not be used.
- Zoning Ordinance - As a result of an inquiry from a resident who came to the last meeting, Supervisor checked to see if the Township could impose zoning laws about cleaning up properties. Supervisor Buchanan said that if the County has zoning rules then the Township cannot have additional zoning rules.
- Annual Treasurer's Report - Supervisor Buchanan said that some time back he submitted a suggestion for proposed legislation to the Illinois Township Officials, and it is now law. His recommendation was to publish the annual treasurers report and other notices in a smaller version and direct people to where they can get a full version or to publish it on a website rather than publishing the full lengthy versions that are very expensive. He gave an example of what the full document would cost, \$558, instead of \$70 for the smaller notice. He said this will not only save expenses for our Township, but will save hundreds of thousands of dollars for schools and other branches of government throughout Illinois. It is an example of what one Township can do to help make a difference for all government.
- Bankruptcies - There were questions at the last meeting between the difference Chapter 7 and Chapter 13. The Township attorney explained in a letter that for Chapter 7 bankruptcies it is rare if anyone will get paid. Chapter 13 is when a deal is worked out with creditors to pay some of the debt. He said typically about 10% is recovered by the Township in Chapter 13 bankruptcies.
- USA Enterprise Update - Will be discussed in Executive Session.
- Set Elected Officials Salaries - Supervisor Buchanan said he has inquired with three other similar Townships to find out what others are paying, but none of them has responded yet. Trustee Bridgman recommended that trustees be paid \$5,000 per year rather than the current amount of \$7,500 per year. Trustee Barnes said he looked at the health insurance and retirement programs for full time elected officials. He felt that a 401(k) may be a better option for retirement and higher premiums (1/2 the cost for primary and full cost for dependents) for the health insurance. He said that he checked with Township Officials and that a 401(k) is an option that could be utilized. Assessor Knee reminded the group that the Assessor's position is the only one that requires certification and continuing education.

Business Items

Complete Safety Institute Safety Training Program - Supervisor Buchanan introduced Thomas Davidson of Complete Safety Institute. He said he learned about his company through other municipalities who use his services. He gave a presentation on what he could do for the Township. His cost is \$225 for a 45 minute training that would be performed monthly.

Good Energy - Supervisor Buchanan reminded the Board that he is working with them to purchase electricity. He provided a chart with energy trends. They are hopeful we can be put in with the aggregation group in Madison County for an even lower rate, but for now put together a proposal for just us. Supervisor Buchanan is asking that the Board authorize him to approve a contract between board meetings because the energy rates change on a daily basis. He is

recommended a two year contract. A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to sign a contract for electricity between .0490 and .0410 per KW hour. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Highway Commissioner's Report -

- Commissioner Burk said Gleeson's finished up another asphalt pouring project on Irene, Minnie and Cornell on the west end of town.

Public Comments - Sue Don Carlos asked about Good Energy and whether other suppliers were looked at. Supervisor Buchanan explained that Good Energy is a broker and they research the best deals. He did say there were other brokers, but the advantage to going with them is they already have Madison County and are getting. St. Clair, and the Township may be able to be aggregated with them which would save even more costs.

Skip Kernan asked Road Commissioner Burk if he had the authority to authorize projects. Commissioner Burk said that anything over \$20,000 had to be bid out by public notice. He asked Trustee Barnes if he thinks it is okay for an elected official who is receiving a pension and is also eligible for a pension as an elected official. Trustee Barnes said if it is legal it is up to the individual. As a taxpayer, he feels he has the right to vote people in who stand for the pension reform, but until it is reformed there is nothing I can do about it. Skip Kernan said in the past, the Township provided candidate information for potential candidates and asked Mary Carroll if it would be provided this year. Mary Carroll said that although not required, the Township as a courtesy would provide a website link where candidates could go to get information. Supervisor Buchanan said he would provide a packet of information for the candidates tomorrow. He asked Supervisor Buchanan where the Township stood with Swansea on the sewer negotiations. Supervisor Buchanan said the Township has proposed binding arbitration about a year ago and Swansea rejected that. The last proposal (a couple of weeks ago) from the Township to Swansea was to get representatives from each party and sit down and not leave until it is settled. Swansea has not responded to this request yet.

Bill Schindler said he appreciates the work done in St. Clair Township. It is very commendable. However, he wants to know why the Mine Haul Road entrance was closed on 158. Road Commissioner Burk said it was a matter of the cost of maintaining a road for two entrances when there is a brand new million dollar road with Frank Scott. Mr. Schindler who lives on Schmidt Lane said he and others sometimes pull a trailer and has to make a right turn instead of having to go straight across. He feels it is a hazard to have to pull out on 158. Road Commissioner Burk stated that the State of Illinois would not have authorized this entry closure if they did not feel it was safe.

Kevin Stumpf who lives north of Smithton said he also drives agricultural equipment and doesn't like to have to travel on 158. He liked being able to go across 158 on Mine Haul Road. Commissioner Burk reiterated that he has a responsibility to the taxpayers in St. Clair Township. He said it costs approximately \$18,000-\$20,000 every three years to maintain that stretch of road. He also said that the decision was made about a year ago,

Julie Valarius lives on Park Road and she has a 17 year old and she said that she worries about inexperienced teenagers driving.

Steve Williams who owns St. Louis Composting on Mine Haul Road said he did not want it closed and did come to the public hearing that was held on this road closure. He said there is a lot of traffic that comes to his business and now they have to come via Frank Scott Parkway. Mr. Williams feels that there will be traffic on Frank Scott Parkway now. He mentioned that his

business pays taxes to St. Clair County. He also said there is trash problem, and Commissioner Burk agreed that people often use the road as a dump.

Brady Barber said that he sees the concerns that everyone expressed. But as far as the trash is concerned, he notices that people also dump on Park Road frequently and trash things with graffiti.

Road Commissioner Burk said he did offer to have the composting business to maintain that three tenths of the road and leave it open, but the company declined.

Gene Willmann said he and others use that road too, and it is a big inconvenience for him.

Emily Willmann asked how much it costs the Township to maintain that stretch of road. Road Commissioner Burk said it costs \$18,000-\$20,000 every three years.

Kevin Stumpf asked where we can get the decision overturned. Commissioner Burk suggested starting with the County or to call the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Trustee Trentman said he thinks it is a safety issue, and believes all the Township taxpayers should have to foot the bill to maintain this road similar to how they had to foot the bill for the East Main Street improvements.

Betty Willmann uses the road and it is going to be an inconvenience, and she wants to know who they should contact. She was told they need to contact IDOT.

Commissioner Burk said the issue of safety was discussed with the both the county and the state before a decision was made, and neither felt this was a safety issue.

Keith Sturgis who lives on State Street Road east of the area in question. He sees a lot of people speeding and cutting across on Park Road from Hwy 159. He feels that changes happen, and it is a matter of people getting used to change. He said there is a lot of damage to the signs in his area with graffiti and spray paint destroying the signs with reflective arrows. He appreciates Commissioner Burk coming out the next day to replace them and the good job that he does with safety on the signage.

Mr. Sturgis said in response to Skip Kernan's comment about double pensions, he said that he is proud that there is an educated person in the Township Supervisor's position. He said he benefits as a taxpayer having a knowledgeable and educated person looking out for the taxpayers. He doesn't care how many pensions he has, because he earned them and worked for them.

Mr. Sturgis said he tried to talk to IDOT about the roundabouts, and he had no luck.

Business Items:

- A. Sewer Write-Offs - Supervisor Buchanan provided a list of delinquent accounts that the Township Attorney advised they had to be written off due to bankruptcy. A motion was made by Trustee Bridgman to write off the six accounts totaling \$2,946.60. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion carries.
- B. J.W. Boyle's Audit Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan asked the auditors if they agreed to a longer term agreement if they would give the Township a better deal. The Township paid \$30,000 in 2011, and \$21,900 in 2012. J.W. Boyle came back with an offer to charge

\$22,000 for the next three years. Supervisor Buchanan asked if they would lower it to not exceed \$20,000, and he would take it to the Board, and they agreed. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve a three year contract with J.W. Boyle to not exceed \$20,000 per year for auditing services. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion carries.

- C. Complete Safety Institute Safety Training Program . See above.
- D. Executive Session Minutes Review - Clerk Carroll recommended that at this time there were no executive session meeting minutes that could be released. Trustee Schobert made a motion to continue to keep the executive session minutes closed . Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- E. Capacity, Management, Operation, and Maintenance Plan (CMOM) - Supervisor Buchanan said this was required by IEPA. He said it is completed and has been reviewed with the employees. It's main purpose is to make sure the Township is doing everything to prevent backups and overflows and there is a plan in place to keep the wastewater where it should be. The introductory portion was provided to the board members to review. Trustee Schobert made a motion to accept the CMOM Plan. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- F. Local Government Debt Recovery - Trustee Barnes made a suggestion at an earlier meeting recommending that the Township tap into tax returns to collect delinquent sewer bills. There is a system to do that and Supervisor Buchanan provided an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Township and the Illinois Comptroller's Office. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Debt Recovery. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- G. Sewer Backup Claims from 4/28/12 - No claims submitted.
- H. Backup Valve Reimbursement - No claims submitted, but there were two of three homes that had backups installed backup valves .
- I. Woodfield Estates Customer Transfer to Swansea - Information not received from Swansea yet.
- J. Swansea Sewer Use Negotiations - Still waiting on a response from Swansea.
- K. Personnel - None

At 8:47 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion to go into executive session for expected imminent litigation. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-NO, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion carries.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:58 p.m.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Carroll
Township Clerk