

## **Regular Meeting St. Clair Township**

DATE: October 23, 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:

Gene Kish	Deb Barnes
Dean Wallen	Gerald Faughn
Daryl Falkenhein	Derek Vandenburg
Jim Kopp	Ronald Hahn
Mike Boyer	Eileen Boyer
Greg Hipkind	Lana Frey
David Moore	Skip Kernan
Doris Rebenstorff	Steve Rebenstorff
Ken Mueller	Alexa Edwards
Terry Carroll	Brian Wells
Jeff Carmack	Sue DonCarlos
Guy DonCarlos	Tom Reichert
Maggie Juscius	Bob Buechler
Kelly Meurer	Pam Townsend
Carrie Nevills	Keith Sturgis
John Frazier	Gianna Hacker
Steven Hacker	Krista Tavarous
Ken Faulkenberry	Terry Brown
Peggy Buchanan	Rhonda Burk

### 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 September 25, 2012

Trustee Trentman said he had a problem with something in the minutes that he said regarding the Mine Haul Road closing. Clerk Carroll provide a written transcript of the conversation so

that Trustee Trentman could see exactly what was said. There was no change requested to be made to the minutes after the transcript was read by the board members.

Road Commissioner Burk requested a couple of minor changes to the minutes.

Trustee Bridgman asked if Clerk Carroll recalled if there was anything said at the last meeting about the supervisor or road commissioner planning to raise their salaries. He said he was trying to determine what would have cause Skip Kernan to write a letter to the editor to the newspaper stating that. Trustee Bridgman said he thought he was the only person to discuss salaries, and that he recommended lowering the trustee's salaries. Clerk Carroll told Mr. Bridgman there was no discussion about raising salaries and if there was, she would have put it in the minutes.

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the September 25, 2012 regular meeting minutes as amended. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. Trentman- NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion carried. Minutes approved.

#### Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting held on September 25, 2012

A motion was made by Trustee Barnes to approve the September 25, 2012 executive session minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

#### Hairer Final Pay Request

Tim Pruett of Rhutasel gave an update on the UV sewer plant upgrade. He recommended that pay request #5 to Hairer Plumbing in the amount of \$7,285.71 be approved and paid. Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve and pay the pay request. Trustee Schobert seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

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

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

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

Communications - Supervisor Buchanan provided the board two Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. The first one was from John "Skip" Kernan requesting Supervisor Buchanan's home computer email list regarding a email about Swansea gambling where Buchanan identified himself as Township Supervisor. The Township attorney advised that this request be denied. Mr. Kernan appealed the denial to the attorney general's office. The second request was from Elizabeth Balderas for Board meeting minutes. This request was fulfilled.

#### Supervisor's Report

- Insurance Claims – No new claims.
- Delinquent Sewer Account Report - Trustee Bridgman said he likes the new layout reporting the delinquencies, and that it appeared the delinquencies were moving in the right direction.
- Water Shutoff Report - The notices were reviewed and then passed back in.

- Sewer Infiltration Investigation in Old Lincolnshire- Supervisor Buchanan said that on Sept. 25, 2012 during a 7.5 hour period, 2.5 inches of rain fall was recorded, and it did not produce excess flow to the sewer plant. This indicates the repairs that have been made are making a positive impact.
- Scout Lift Station Overflow on 9/25/12 - During the heavy rain fall, the Scout Lift Station overflowed. Since then a bigger pump was installed that came from a station that was decommissioned; therefore, no cost to the Township. The lines are also being smoke tested.
- Agreement with Tenants - After reviewing the state statues, Attorney Stiehl has changed his advice and does not feel the Township can sign agreements with tenants which would allow them to pay rent to the Township that could be credited to the landlord's delinquent sewer bill. Attorney Stiehl advised that only the water company can do that.
- Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) - Supervisor Buchanan said at the last meeting Trustee Barnes asked if the Township could do away with IMRF and instead have elected officials participate in a 401(k) instead of the IMRF. Supervisor Buchanan said he investigated with IMRF and learned it is not permissible. The Township can offer a 401(k) in addition to IMRF, but you cannot disqualify employees and elected officials who meet the 1,000 hour standard that was established by the Township's resolution. Once an elected official is in the system, they have to stay in the system.
- USA Enterprises Update - USA Enterprises had threatened to sue the Township but did not present anything to go to court, so it is off the table now.
- Six Inch Pump - Supervisor Buchanan said the new six inch pump has been delivered.

#### Highway Commissioner's Report -

- Commissioner Burk the Township was going to top a number this year. He said that \$1,135,000 in road work will be done, and that has never been done in the history of St. Clair Township. He explained that this is good news to the residents whose roads have been in total disrepair. He added that \$135,000 of the money was work done by the Township's own road crew, and they have never done this much before. He said he appreciates the efforts the employees are putting in. He added that things are going great and in the right direction.
- Commissioner Burk addressed a letter to the editor from Skip Kernan that was put in the newspaper stating that he had said he was going to raise his salary and benefits. Commissioner Burk said this was a blatant lie, and he did not say that. He advised that when people print things in the paper, to please call him and asked if it was true. He said if he had said it, he would tell you. But in this situation, it was a lie. He just wanted to clear the air, and said that you were all brought out here on false pretences because neither he nor Mr. Buchanan ever said what was printed in the letter or communicated in the automated call from Skip Kernan that was sent to Township residents. He said that in the future, please call if you see something that does not line up.

#### Public Comments

Brian Wells, who identified himself as a Trustee for the Village of Swansea said he is familiar with IMRF rules and stated that board members who do not work at least 1,000 hours are not allowed to participate in IMRF, and they can get out if they want. Supervisor Buchanan told Mr. Wells that the Township board members who are working less than 1,000 hours are not participating in the IMRF. Supervisor Buchanan said the board had voted on a resolution to increase the hours to qualify for IMRF to 1,000, but that even before the resolution was passed, no trustee had ever participated in IMRF. Mr. Wells added that trustees at the Township are getting paid more than the Swansea trustees.

Ken Faulkenberry asked if taxpayer money was used to send out the automated call with the misinformation. Supervisor Buchanan said that Mr. Kernan was the person who sent it out, so he should ask him.

Skip Kernan said he was upset that Supervisor Buchanan claimed he was wasting taxpayer money with Mr. Kernan's FOIA request for Supervisor Buchanan's personal email address list. Mr. Kernan asked that if his appeal to the Attorney General was granted, if he would say he was wrong. Mr. Buchanan said he would be glad to do that.

Skip Kernan said that at every Township meeting he has come to in the last year and a half, the board is always discussing ways to be more efficient and to save the taxpayers money, so Mr. Kernan said he had a recommendation that the Supervisor's position be cut to a part-time position. Supervisor Buchanan asked him how he came to the conclusion that the Supervisor's position should be part-time? Mr. Kernan said it was on what he observed and by talking to others. He said he talked to Stookey Township Supervisor Dave Bone who is part-time, and Mr. Bone told Mr. Kernan that he thought St. Clair Township Supervisor should be part-time. Supervisor Buchanan asked Mr. Kernan if he knew what the Supervisor at St. Clair Township does. Mr. Kernan said no he didn't. But Mr. Kernan said that he talked to former St. Clair Township Supervisors Rich Schobert and Dennis Tribout and concluded that the Supervisor's position should be part time. Both Schobert and Tribout were full time Supervisors. Mr. Kernan said the reason they were both full time was because there used to be more employees, and they would pass out cheese, milk and bread once a month for general assistance back then. Mr. Kernan recommended hiring an independent firm to observe and let them determine if the job should be full or part-time.

Mr. Kernan said that Mr. Burk's comment about the letter to the editor was directed to him. Mr. Kernan said the reason he has stated this was because at the Township meeting last month, there was discussion about decreasing the salary of the trustees, and neither Mr. Burk or Mr. Buchanan said anything. Supervisor Buchanan pointed out to Mr. Kernan that he was making a charge in his letter to the newspaper that Mr. Buchanan and Mr. Burk said they were going to raise their salaries. Supervisor Buchanan then asked Mr. Kernan what evidence he had to back that up. Mr. Kernan did not answer the question, but instead he asked if the rates of health insurance were going to go up? Supervisor Buchanan said that health insurance rates could go up, and reminded him there was never any discussion about salaries being raised. Supervisor Buchanan claimed that Mr. Kernan was making a charge with no evidence. Mr. Kernan said that he felt that if health insurance rates go up, as a taxpayer, he was going to have to pay more.

Skip Kernan also asked about the status of the sewer negotiations with Swansea. Supervisor Buchanan said they had asked Swansea to go to binding arbitration a long time ago. Swansea refused. Supervisor Buchanan said the Township has done everything they can to get this settled. Mr. Kernan asked why don't you lock each other in a room to get it done. Supervisor Buchanan said that the Township has already proposed that, but Swansea has not responded. Brian Wells (Trustee from Swansea) said Swansea is negotiating, and he also wants to get it resolved. Mr. Wells said the bottom line is that Swansea will have to bill the Township customers direct.

Terry Brown asked if Dave Bone was still the Supervisor for Stookey Township because he thought he resigned. Supervisor Buchanan confirmed that Dave Bone is still the supervisor for Stookey Township.

Mr. Brown also asked Mr. Burk if he took the full salary when he was elected to the Highway Commissioner position. Commissioner Burk said no, that he gives back \$11,000 of his salary every year. Mr. Brown asked Mr. Burk how many hours he worked last year. Commissioner Burk said he has worked over 3,000 hours every year he has been in the position. He said he is not just in the office, but out on the road, working with the guys, overseeing things and trying to make sure things are done right. Mr. Brown asked where in the world did the idea come from that you were going to somehow raise your salary when you are already voluntarily giving about 20% of it back. Commissioner Burk said people are just making up stories to get people upset.

Guy DonCarlos asked Commissioner Burk if there was a Township ordinance to prevent an entity from regularly parking a tractor trailer in his residential subdivision because it is a lot of weight being put on a residential street. Commissioner Burk said the Township does not have jurisdiction unless the roads are being torn up. He knows the County does not have an ordinance.

Alexa Edwards introduced herself and said that her family owns McDonald's Mobile Homes (the largest sewer user in Swansea) and that she is also a Township resident. She asked Mr. Schobert, who said she has known for thirty years, how long he has been on the Township Board. Mr. Schobert replied forty years. She asked him if the Supervisor's position should be a part-time position. Mr. Schobert said he is not going to get in the middle of whether it should be a part-time or full-time job. Mr. Schobert said that when he became the Supervisor, it was changed to a full-time job because that is when the Supervisor was made responsible for the sewer operations. It was decided at that time, the Supervisor would be responsible for the sewer operations instead of hiring a full time sewer superintendent. Ms. Edwards confirmed that the Board chose to consolidate for efficiency and to save costs. Trustee Schobert agreed and he said without the sewers, there would not be a reason for the Supervisor to be full-time. Ms. Edwards asked if there are still sewer operations now. Trustee Schobert replied yes. Mr. Schobert said that Mr. Tribout's position was also a full-time job, and that it has been full-time position since the early 1980's.

Krista Tavarous asked Mr. Buchanan how much money was saved by taxpayers since he has been in office compared to the prior administration. Mr. Buchanan said he was working on the figures, but he didn't have it available tonight. He asked Mr. Burk to respond because he knew that he had numbers available. Commissioner Burk said the numbers were outstanding. He said he can't give an exact number, but it is in the millions just by the Road District. He said it was done by streamlining things, evaluating what the Township buys, what the Township doesn't buy and how it does business.

David Moore asked Supervisor Buchanan why is there a carryover balance in the Sewer Fund. Supervisor Buchanan said that \$700,000 has been set aside to pay Swansea once the sewer negotiations are settled. There is also money set aside for major sewer repairs that are coming up in the near future and for the current sewer plant UV plant upgrade. He said the Township recently had to pay \$300,000 for a roundabout sewer relocation in Belleville which was a surprise. Supervisor Buchanan said that unfortunately, you will see that reserve diminish quickly.

David Moore also asked Supervisor Buchanan if he was considering going to a part-time position. Supervisor Buchanan said no, and said he will go over his job duties later in the meeting.

Keith Sturgis introduced himself as a member of the United Mine Workers and the recording secretary of his local union. He said he appreciates the job that Clerk Carroll does taking minutes, summarizing what has been said and putting it on paper so people could understand.

Keith Sturgis said that whenever he is able to, he has been attending the Township meetings for about five years. He said he appreciates Supervisor Buchanan and Commissioner Burk's leadership. He said he learns a lot from these meetings and encourages everyone that if you have questions to contact the board because they do a great job. He said he appreciates the service and commitment to the taxpayers that the Board provides.

Pam Townsend said she is new to the area. She said that she thought that Commissioner Burk voluntarily giving back part of his salary every year was very noble, and asked him why he does that. Commissioner Burk said he felt very blessed when he got a good job, and he felt it was the right thing to do. He said it is the way he lives his life.

Ms. Townsend also asked Supervisor Buchanan what his job consisted of. Supervisor Buchanan said he would be going over that soon.

Ms. Townsend said she went to the courthouse to find out what a Township was and they gave her a map, but she didn't get a clear answer. Supervisor Buchanan explained that in Illinois the counties are divided into townships. In St. Clair County there are 22 townships. He said they are smaller units of government within each county.

Brian Wells asked if there was a way to get rid of some of things that the Township does and eliminate Township government. Supervisor Buchanan said the State rules are written in such a way that it is impossible to get rid of Township government. It would need to take a State law change for that to occur.

Daryl Falkenheim said he heard Mr. Kernan say that the general assistance (monthly cheese, milk & bread) was eliminated, and wanted to know what the Township does for the needy. Supervisor Buchanan said that people who qualify are able to get \$245 monthly. Mr. Falkenheim asked if there was excess money in the general assistance fund that the Township could do more. Supervisor Buchanan said that as the economy has worsened, the general assistance fund has already had to be increased and the Township has consistently been providing more.

Mike Boyer asked if Supervisor Buchanan would consider doing a time management study. Supervisor Buchanan said he would, but that he was going to run through all that he does and Mr. Boyer will be able to see why the Supervisor's position is a full time job.

Joe Riley wanted to know of the money spent on roads what part of the money was used for roads in Chenout Place. Commissioner Burk replied \$365,000. Commissioner Burk said that Magnolia, the worse road in the subdivision, hadn't been touched in over twenty years. Mr. Reichart asked why one section was concreted and not curbed and asphalted like the other streets. Commissioner Burk said it was because the base in that particular area was poor, but that that the Township couldn't afford concrete everywhere.

Joe Riley also wanted to know why we are spending \$1.3 million this year, and had not done so in past years. Commissioner Burk said he has been spending at least \$600,000 every year, plus what the Township Road crew does.

Gianna Hacker asked Commissioner Burk if the part of his salary that he gives back goes to the State of Illinois. Commissioner Burk said his salary goes right back into the Township Road District.

Steven Hacker said if you want to get reelected you may want to do like they do in Chicago and listen to the taxpayers. People in our section of the Township have not had their road repaired in a while. Commissioner Burk asked where he lives. Mr. Hacker said that was not important, but the roads are falling apart. He also said they only get one pass through when the snow falls. He said he also hasn't seen a street sweeper in some time. He said if you want to get our votes, you need to give us service. Commissioner Burk said he thought he knew where Mr. Hacker lived, and that there was actually \$30,000 worth of work done in his subdivision this year. In addition Commissioner Burk said that there was more work slated for next year in Mr. Hacker's subdivision for a resurface and to finish the curbs. Mr. Burk said it will be Mr. Hacker's street, Fenwood Drive and Dianne Drive, and when that was subdivision was finished then the Township was going out to Paulette and Weatherstone, which is College. Commissioner Burk said he has been in the job 3-1/2 years and he has done work in the majority of every subdivision in the Township, doing the worst roads first. Commissioner Burk said there are other subdivisions that are also waiting for road work, but he has told them they will have to wait. Commissioner Burk said his philosophy is to work on the worst roads first, and he will not sway from that. Commissioner Burk said that he has not gotten any calls from people in Mr. Hacker's subdivision.

Gianna Hacker said the reason that Steven Hacker references the Chicago thing, is that people there vote elected officials out really quickly if things don't get done. She said we want to vote you back in, but we don't want our tax money wasted. Commissioner Burk said his suggestion is for anyone to take a ride with him, look at the books, and you can see how the money is utilized. Commissioner Burk also said that if he doesn't get calls, then he doesn't know if there is a problem. Ms. Hacker said they are middle class workers, and they can't always pick up a phone and call. Commissioner Burk said his phone is on 24 hours and they can call him anytime.

Doris Rebenstorff asked how many road workers there were, and if the Township replaced any of the people who retired. Commissioner Burk said there were three road employees, and said they are more efficient now than they were with six employees. He said they are doing more work now for less money. Ms. Rebenstorff said she thinks the Township should get some money together to hire more people. Commissioner Burk said hiring a new employee would cost the taxpayers about \$107,000 a person, and that would be less money that goes toward roads. Commissioner Burk explained that by not replacing employees there was more tax money to do all this extra road work.

Kelly Meurer said she is hearing people talk about cutting full time jobs to part time jobs to save money, and then other people saying the Township needs to hire more people. She said this makes zero sense. She said she is happy with her roads.

Jim Kopp said that he lives on Winslow Road and that this spring the weeds got high on his road. He said he called Mr. Burk and the Township came right out and cut the grass. But he said it was not cut again until about a week ago. Commissioner Burk said that repairing roads is a higher priority than cutting grass. Commissioner Burk said the Township, along with the County and the State have streamlined grass cutting. Commissioner Burk explained that the Township needs to tighten it up until we can get caught up with the road work. He believes that fixing streets is more important than sweeping streets. Once we finally get to where we can breathe, we will go back to sweeping streets and go back to a regimented cut.

Darrell Falkenhein asked Commissioner Burk if he doesn't believe he deserves his full pay and if it is just a way to get reelected. Commissioner Burk said first of all he didn't publically announce that he gives back his salary until someone asked about it. He said if you know me personally, you know that my walk is with God. I do everything I can to help people. It has nothing to do with politics. This is the first job I have ever had in politics. Commissioner Burk said he donates his time as a chaplain at the jail, and that he is also a St. Clair County auxiliary officer.

Guy DonCarlos said there was a sign at the tennis courts at Whiteside School that indicates it is St. Clair Township property. He said the resurface on the roads at the school was not done well. He wanted to know if those roads were the responsibility of the Township. Commissioner Burk said they were not, and that the school district is responsible for those roads.

Pam Townsend asked who the Township goes through for health insurance. Supervisor Buchanan said it has been bid out the last couple of years. The reason it is so high is the previous board signed a union contract with the employees that has no deductibles. The second thing is the Township pays the expense of retirees for five years after they leave. This makes for an older population, and causes the rates to be higher. Ms. Townsend asked if that was paid by the taxpayers, and when the contract was up. Supervisor Buchanan said yes, it was paid by the taxpayers and the contract would be up next December. Supervisor Buchanan said that when the contract was passed by the previous board, it was done for a length of time that the current board would not be able to have any say in it.

Jeff Carmack who identified himself as the Sewer Foreman for the Township said he wanted to make it clear that the previous board made that decision about healthcare, and it was not the employees. He said it was signed and passed by the previous administration.

Ms. Townsend asked if the taxpayers had a say in the contract. Supervisor Buchanan said that the previous board made the decision to enter into that union contract, and the taxpayers did not have a say in it.

Alexa Edwards said that during the last election for Township, Mr. Burk showed up at her door to ask her to sign his petition. She said she was not very kind to him because the previous Township Road Commissioner had done a good job for her in the past. After the election, she contacted Mr. Burk. She said that he followed through with what the previous administration had promised to her, and she said he was very kind and gracious to her even though she had not been very nice to him. She added that she is currently running for a political office, and she has been out walking and talking to people. She has heard very good things about the Township and the services. She wanted everyone to know that when Mr. Burk said he follows God, he truly does. She said that he could have been disrespectful to me, but he was not.

Ken Faulkenberry said he has known Mark Burk a long time. He said he doesn't always like what Mark has to say, but that Mark Burk will always stand up for what he says. He said that Mark is full of integrity and will always apologize if he is wrong about something. He said it makes him mad when he hears someone say blatant lies about Mark Burk. If people don't have proof about certain things, they need to zip it. He said he would bet his bottom dollar on things that Mark has to say.

Skip Kernan said he is being accused of lying, so he feels there needs to be an investigation.



Dean Wallen said the roads have been repaired over the years, and recommended that residents don't burn leaves on the roads.

Supervisor Buchanan said he appreciates everyone's views. He said don't wait until election time to express your views. Come to the meetings or call anytime.

Business Items:

- A. Sewer Write-Offs - Supervisor Buchanan provided a list of three delinquent accounts that the Township Attorney advised had to be written off due to bankruptcy. Trustee Barnes asked to confirm that there was no choice based on the law. Supervisor Buchanan said that was correct. Trustee Barnes made a motion to write off the delinquent accounts due to bankruptcy. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion carries.
- B. Ordinance 2012-3 Elected Officials Wages and Benefits - Supervisor Buchanan provided a spreadsheet to everyone in the audience with information about the elected officials' salary and benefit comparisons. He pointed out there are three different levels of health insurance based on whether they have dependents covered. He also added there were three retired employees that were still on the insurance plan. Supervisor Buchanan said that when the Township shopped for rates the last few years, the agents said they have never seen such a rich plan, and there was no way they could give the Township a decent rate. Buchanan said this plan will have to stay in place until the union contract ends in December of 2013. He said it covers health, vision and dental. Supervisor Buchanan explained that on the back page of the sheet there were somewhat comparable municipalities and a list of their salaries.

All the Trustees were asked to provide input regarding the salary of the trustees who set policies.

Trustee Trentman felt the Trustee salary should stay the same. After some discussion, Trustees Bridgman, Schobert and Barnes recommended it should be reduced by 10% to \$6,750 per year.

Clerk Carroll went over the clerk's duties, and said she estimated that she works approximately 15 hours per month. She recommended lowering the Clerk position by 10% to \$9,720 annually.

Assessor Knee reviewed the assessor's position and said it was the only position on the board that has to be certified. It was also recommended that this position's salary be cut by 10% to \$6,750 per year.

Road Commissioner Burk went over his full time position which includes a \$1.9 budget and the supervision of three full time employees. He said that St. Clair Township is the biggest Township in St. Clair County and it includes 57.4 miles of roads that Commissioner Burk is accountable for. He said he is responsible for drafting the Road tax levy and the Road budget. He is on call 24 hours a day and works numerous hours. Commissioner Burk went over many other responsibilities that he performs and what he has done to save the township money by going above and beyond what is expected.

Trustee Bridgman did a calculation on what the full time management salaries are and their related responsibilities. He said based on the hours worked and the responsibility they hold, that they were essentially making less than the employees that they supervise.

Supervisor Buchanan reviewed the full time responsibilities of the Supervisor which includes the entire oversight and direction of a \$4.8 million operation. He supervises three full time office employees and three full time sewer field employees. Supervisor Buchanan is the treasurer of all Township funds include the Road District. He is responsible for drafting the tax levy and budget and presenting them to the board. He is responsible for preparing board agendas and packets. He is responsible for the billing and collection of 9,000 sewer accounts. He is responsible for 100 miles of sewer lines and manholes. He is responsible for a wastewater treatment plant that serves 3,700 customers. He is responsible for negotiating agreements and contracts. He is responsible for four parks and recreation areas. He supervises the general assistance program. 95% of the time he stays after hours and he takes work home. All problems are his responsibility.

Trustee Bridgman said that earlier in the meeting that Skip Kernan compared the full time Township Supervisor's position to the part time Swansea Mayor's position. Trustee Bridgman pointed out that Swansea also had a full time administrator that was paid \$91,000. He said that it was hard to compare the Swansea's Mayor salary of \$17,000 to the Supervisor of the Township because you would have to add both the \$91,000 and the \$17,000 together which was much higher than the \$63,000 that the Township Supervisor is paid.

Supervisor Buchanan and Road Commissioner Burk showed comparisons between their salaries and those of similar managers and the employees they supervise. Both Burk and Buchanan asked that the wages be frozen for the next four years and that their positions would begin paying toward healthcare premiums at the same rate as the employees when the union contract is renegotiated next year.

Trustee Trentman said that the Road Commissioner's salary should remain the same, but the Supervisor's position should be cut to part-time. Supervisor Buchanan asked Trustee Trentman what his evidence was that it should be a part-time job. Trustee Trentman said he just didn't think it should be full time. Supervisor Buchanan asked what the salary should be. He said the Supervisor salary should be \$31,500 and the Road Commissioner should be paid \$63,000.

Trustee Bridgman felt that both the salaries should be frozen. He said that Supervisor Buchanan is the biggest penny pincher there is, and he has done everything he can to run things efficiently and to cut costs, as well as Commissioner Burk. Trustee Bridgman said the Board does know what Supervisor Buchanan does for the Township because the Board sees it at every meeting when Supervisor Buchanan continually brings things to the Board to try to cut costs and make improvements. Trustee Trentman agreed that Supervisor Buchanan does a good job.

Trustee Schobert said he recommends cutting 10% from the Supervisor's position or \$59,850. He said that he is okay with Commissioner Burk's salary staying the same. He said that even though Commissioner Burk is giving back \$11,000 of his salary, the Township is still paying for pension benefits on that \$11,000.

Trustee Barnes is frustrated that the IMRF cannot be changed. He thought that vacation and sick time should be limited. Supervisor Buchanan said unfortunately all elected officials get unlimited days, and Trustee Schobert confirmed that. Trustee Barnes said he felt both the salaries should be frozen because they work hard and both do a good job.

The consensus of all five board members was that the Road Commissioner's salary

should be frozen and three of the five Board members agreed the Supervisor's salary should be frozen.

Supervisor Buchanan asked the Board to comment on health insurance. Trustee Trentman said he wants to see everyone get health insurance. He said the full time elected officials should mirror the same as the employees. Trustee Bridgman feels it should stay the same. Trustee Schobert said he can live with it staying the same. Trustee Barnes said he would like full time elected officials to pay 25% for the employee cost and another 75% for the cost of dependents. He also would like for Commissioner Burk to pay for the cost of his uniforms.

The Ordinance was adjusted as follows: Salary for the Supervisor \$63,000, Highway Commissioner \$63,000, Clerk \$9,720, Trustees \$6,750, Assessor \$6,750. The Ordinance was also adjusted to read that the full time elected officials would pay the same rate for health insurance as the employees who were covered under the collective bargaining agreement. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to read Ordinance No. 2012-3 by title only. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken. All in favor.

Clerk Carroll read the Ordinance by Title. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Supervisor Buchanan seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-NO, Barnes-NO, Buchanan-YES. The motion failed.

After further discussion, Supervisor Buchanan recommended cutting the Supervisor's salary by 5% which would reduce it to \$59,850. Ordinance 2012-3 was revised to lower the Supervisor's salary to \$59,850. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2012-3 as revised. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-NO, Buchanan-YES. The motion passed.

- C. Road Budget Line Item Transfers Commissioner Burk said he wants to do a transfer for a big concrete project to get more roads fixed at a good price. He wants to take advantage of the cost and save a lot of money. He said he also found out you can use the motor fuel money to pay for concrete for next year and will be able to save some more money. Trustee Schobert asked if he could see an official form rather than the handwritten information provided. It was agreed it could wait until next meeting.
- D. 50/50 Debt Recovery Program - Supervisor Buchanan asked if the Board wants to put it in the attorney's hand and paying \$300 that the Township may never get back or use the 50/50 Debt Recover Program. With the 50/50 program, there is no cost up front. Trustee Schobert said he is not in favor of negotiating. Supervisor Buchanan said he would turn it over to the attorney and pay the \$300.
- E. Electric Purchase Agreement. Supervisor Buchanan provided a copy of the 18 month Electric Service Agreement and showed that there would be a reduction from 0.0478 to 0.04100 per kWh for an estimated \$11,017 annual cost reduction. He asked for the Board's approval for electric supply. Trustee Barnes made a motion. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- F. St. Clair County Township Officials - Supervisor Buchanan said that the Township pays \$100 dues to the St. Clair Township Official's Association and that we are responsible for paying and estimated \$296 more per year for the quarterly dinner meetings. Supervisor Buchanan recommended that the Township do not attend or pay for the dinner. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to not pay for the dinner. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- G. Haier Final Pay Request - See above.

H. Swansea Sewer Use Negotiations - No update.

At 10:44 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion to go into executive session for expected imminent litigation. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Voice vote taken. All in favor.

The regular meeting resumed at 10:54 p.m.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Mary Carroll  
Township Clerk