

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: June 25, 2013
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg.
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dave Barnes, Supervisor
Brenda Reed, Clerk
Mary Carroll, Trustee
Greg Hipskind, Trustee
Keith Sturgis, Trustee
Jaynie Wells, Trustee
Skip Kernan, Road Commissioner
Robert Knee, Assessor
William Stiehl, Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT:	Dean Wallen	Cletis Cox
	Robert Trentman	Rich Schobert
	Terry Carroll	Richard Van Etten
	Shirley Van Etten	Michael Greenfield
	Deb Barnes	Brian Wells
	Sue Gruberman	Steve Duff

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the St. Clair Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:10 p.m.

ROLL CALL

All board members were present.

APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Wells would like some comments Road Commissioner Kernan made to be included in the minutes.

Motion was made to accept the minutes by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis.

Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Sturgis

No – Wells, Hipskind, Barnes

Motion failed.

Trustee Wells provided a list of comments she would like included in the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trustee Wells stated she would like to investigate replacing the contractor at the sewer plant with a township employee with the assumption it would provide a savings to the township. Trustee Carroll made the point that a complete cost analysis would be necessary to evaluate whether it would be an advantage for the township to make that change.

Motion was made by Trustee Hipskind and seconded by Trustee Carroll to approve the Treasurer's Report. Roll call vote. All in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

Motion was made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee Sturgis to approve the Budget Report. Roll call vote. All in favor.

MONTHLY BILLS

Motion was made by Trustee Carroll and seconded by Trustee Wells to approve payment of the monthly bills. Roll call vote. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS

There were no new communications

There was discussion of the township's Public Comment policy. There is no formal policy. Favorable comments were made about public participation being allowed throughout the last meeting.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Delinquent sewer account report
Almost \$90,000 has been collected since January 2012.
- Shut-off notices
About 45 shut-off notices were sent in June.
- Sewer contract negotiations
Supervisor Barnes met with new Swansea Mayor Ken Mueller to discuss the sewer negotiations. Mayor Mueller and some Swansea trustees have not seen the contract proposal. Supervisor Barnes gave the Mayor a copy of the last proposal. Supervisor Barnes thought it was a good meeting.
- Sewer back-up claims
Six claims were submitted to the insurance provider. All were denied because the cause was an "act of nature".
- Glen Addie project south of St. George Street
A grant in the amount of \$59,857 will be used to line 600 feet of sewer pipe. The project has not been started. There will be a request for bids.

HIGHWAY COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Commissioner Kernan thanked Mr. Greenfield for going out to close South 11th Street when a heavy rain caused water to rise over the road.
- Commissioner Kernan publicly thanked all his employees for the work they did removing downed trees and other debris from recent storms.

- The report from the engineer about the problems with the Chenot Place pavement was recently received. Mr. Kernan has not reviewed the report yet. He asked that it be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Mr. Kernan thanked Bob Trentman for making arrangements with the County Sheriff to have prisoners pick up trash in the township.
- Commissioner Kernan told Trustee Carroll he will show her the list of complaints he has received if she makes an appointment with him.
- Commissioner Kernan is taking health care insurance offered by the township for himself but not his family.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

In reference to the idea of replacing a contract employee at the sewer plant, **Steve Duff** made the point that service contractors generally are held accountable by having someone sign-off on the work they do. He indicated if there is a problem with services provided or additional services are wanted they might need to be specified.

Guy Don Carlos stated the revenues are less than expenditures in the budgets passed.

Rich Schobert said the township had a contract with the Humane Society for animal issues since the 1970s.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Policy for sewer backup damage payments
Supervisor Barnes provided two possible resolutions to adopt as policy for addressing sewer back-up damage payments. Resolution 10-A1 states if the township's insurer finds there is no legal liability no payment will be made for damages. Resolution 10-A2 states the township would pay for a reasonable cost of damages up to a specified amount if the township's insurer would not pay the claim or the resident's insurer would not pay the claim.
Motion to approve Resolution 10-A1 was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.
Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes
No – Wells
Motion passed.
- Policy waiving minimum usage sewer charges
Motion to approve Resolution Authorizing Suspension of Minimum Usage Charge was made by Wells, seconded by Carroll. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Prevailing wage for Township
Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-2 (Prevailing Wage) was made by Carroll, seconded by Wells. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Prevailing wage for Road District
Motion to approve Ordinance 2013-R2 (Prevailing Wage) was made by Carroll, seconded by Wells. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Possible solutions to Scout lift station

Brian Buckheit, Principal and Chief Environmental Engineer at HMG Engineers, Inc. provided a packet with information about the Scout lift station. Previous problems with the lift station have been address to the EPA’s satisfaction but the lift station will continue to be a problem. Mr. Buckheit suggested a study be done to evaluate the system surrounding the lift station. The study will include a draw-down test, visual assessment, complete hydraulic evaluation of the watershed, and a report of findings with recommendations and list of costs. The study will not cost more than \$3,500.

- Change of phone service

Employees in the field have had problems with their phones. Verizon provides the current phone service. Supervisor Barnes intends to change service to Sprint. The state has to approve Sprint as a provider before the change can be made.

- Bids to repair sewer lines on Cresthaven, Las Olas Drive, and Fenwood Drive

The bid from Hank’s Excavating & Landscaping, Inc. was:

Cresthaven	\$5,500
Las Olas Drive	5,650
Aaron/Fenwood Dr.	19,000
Total	\$30,150

The bid from Midwest Excavating Inc. was:

Cresthaven	\$4,890
Las Olas Drive	4,680
Aaron/Fenwood Dr.	17,280
Total	\$26,850

Motion to accept bid from Midwest Excavating Inc. was made by Carroll, seconded by Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

- Tree removal in Centennial Park

Supervisor Barnes received a bid from Meurer Bros in the amount of \$4,225 for work in Centennial Park. Mr. Barnes spoke with Mr. Budde from the village of Swansea about the job and costs because the township shares maintenance of the park with Swansea. Mr. Budde gave his approval.

Motion was made to have Meurer Bros. do the work in Centennial Park by Carroll, seconded by Wells. Roll call vote. All in favor.

- Training for use of the Vactor truck

The manufacturer offers training for one person with the purchase of a new machine. The fee for the Operator School is \$700 for additional attendees. Mr. Barnes was able to negotiate to allow a second person to attend for free. It will cost \$700 plus travel expenses for all employees working with the \$260,000 truck to receive training.

- Personnel

no items on agenda

EXECUTIVE SESSION – no items on agenda

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Hipkind. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk