

Regular Township Meeting

DATE: March 9, 2010

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
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Robert Knee, Assessor

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen
Terry Carroll
Dewey Hays
Dawn Vandewalker
Raymond Vandewalker
Jewel Frazier
Brenda Reed
David Donley
Lisa Williamson

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 was taken. All present.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting on February 9, 2010:

Mary Carroll noted a correction needed on Page 3 in the first paragraph to change the name Bridgman to Buchanan. Motion made by Trustee Schobert to approve the February 9, 2010 minutes with correction on Page 3. Second by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor

Supervisor's Monthly Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Trustee Barnes, and second by Trustee Bridgman to accept the Supervisor's monthly treasurer report as presented. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

Supervisor Buchanan asked if there were any questions regarding the monthly bills. There were none. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Barnes second the motion. Roll Call vote. All in favor.

Communications:

Supervisor Buchanan pointed out a letter dated March 3, 2010 from the Southwestern Illinois Planning Commission asking for a donation. After a brief discussion by the Board it was agreed that a contribution would not be made.

Supervisor Buchanan also mentioned that a hand delivered letter was dated March 9, 2010 was received today from John J. Kurowski, the attorney for the Village of Swansea regarding the sewer contract. It was noted this would be discussed later in the meeting in further detail.

Public Comment:

Lisa Williamson asked to address the board regarding her sewer bill. Ms. Williamson said that she received a notice of lien on her property for unpaid sewer bills. However, she never received the bill. She found out through the Belleville Post Office that a scanner had mistakenly read her the sewer account number on the postcard and it misinterpreted it to be the zip code. Hence, her sewer bill was sent to an address similar to Ms. Williamson's address in Texas, and then forwarded to an APO address in England. Ms. Williamson was surprised when she received the lien notice. She suggested that the Township review the postcard for formatting so that this does not happen again. Also, rather than send a lien notice immediately, she recommended contacting the resident first to make sure they have actually received the sewer bill. Supervisor Buchanan said these were good suggestions, and he would follow-up on the current process and ways to improve the procedures that are used. He thanked Ms. Williamson for attending and expressed how much he appreciated her input on this matter.

Business Items:

Supervisor Buchanan asked Ron Stuckel to update the Board on the flow monitoring. He said that he sent specifications to two local companies known to conduct this type of work, ADS Environmental & RJN. He said that RJN declined to bid on the proposal. He said they told him they do flow monitoring but would prefer to bid on larger projects that also included the hydraulics. There was discussion on ways to keep project cost effective, the timing and whether we need to have someone from the Township on site to oversee the project. It was agreed that ADS is experienced and reputable company that could perform the work adequately. Trustee Schobert made a motion to use ADS Environmental to perform the flow monitoring work. Trustee Barnes second the motion. Roll call vote. All yes.

Supervisor Buchanan said he was approached by Nettemeyer Engineering who is encouraging BFI to run their proposed force main sewer line extension up to Concordia Road and then run regular lines off of that for possible development of that area. They would like the Township to support this extension. Some of the questions and issues that were raised were as follows:

1. Is there any support the Township can give in this project?
2. Once collector line is built, we would have ownership and maintenance.
3. It would open up that area for development. There are no sewers in that area currently.
4. There would be no cost to the Township except for ownership and maintenance.
5. Would it overload the existing sewers?

Supervisor Buchanan asked Engineer Ron Stuckel to review this matter and to inform the Board of his findings.

The next agenda item was the citizen's concerns about Loop Creek Park. Supervisor Buchanan told the Board that he had attended a meeting last week at the home of Mr. Hays in Old Lincolnshire. He said it was a good meeting of concerned citizens who got together after what they considered the final straw when they heard gun shots in the park. Some suggestions that were made were more lights, cameras, removing the bridge, cleaning brush from the creek area, gate and lock the park at night and putting a fence around the park. Supervisor Buchanan said the residents had a good attitude and were working together to come to some resolutions. There was one police sweep completed where the Belleville Police and County Sheriff Dept. picked up some kids.

Supervisor Buchanan contacted Capt. Steve Johnson, the officer in charge and thanked him. Capt. Johnson said they were going to assign an officer to patrol the park every day after school.

Resident Dawn Vandewalker attended the neighborhood meeting. She said that she walked the park at dusk and said that two more lights would be helpful for better visibility. She suggested one by the bridge and another one near New Lincolnshire area. She thanked Supervisor Buchanan for clearing the brush already. She said it made a big difference. Trustee Schobert suggested using a solar light. Trustee Buchanan reviewed the map that was provided and asked Ms. Vandewalker to point out the areas she was referring to that needed more lighting.

Resident Dewey Hays addressed the Board. He said he wanted to thank Mr. Buchanan because he has done more in a week for the neighborhood than the police have done in ten years. He said that most of the problems occur at night. Some of the issues at the park are drinking, drugs, vandalism, and harassment.

Dawn Vandewalker added that the kids don't worry about curfews and when the police are called they don't show up at all or too late. The kids can run out the back part of the park.

Ray Vandewalker also expressed his appreciation to Supervisor Buchanan. He is upset with the police because when they do respond, they don't seem to care even when there were shell casings found in the park. He mentioned that car windows have been broken out. While at the meeting, Mr. Vandewalker's son called from home and said there was an issue at the park at that time. He called the police and left the meeting to get home.

Trustee Schobert said that removing the bridge would not be a solution because the sewer line is under it and people had been walking across it. He said it was considered a liability by the insurance company and the bridge had to be constructed.

The proposed Hydro Services contract was included in the Board packets. He reminded the board it was a three year contract. The base fee was the same but the hourly fee went up from \$45 to \$50 per hour. He figured this to be about \$1,000 per year increase. He also said the changes must be reviewed and agreed upon before approval. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the contract. Trustee Bridgman second the motion. Roll call vote. All yes.

Supervisor Buchanan provided a detailed summary report he prepared regarding the Swansea Sewer Contract. The board reviewed the contract summary. Supervisor Buchanan said that he had a productive meeting with Dave Thacker of Swansea regarding the contract, but he had not heard back from Swansea since then. He said that today, he received a hand delivered letter indicating the Village was providing notice of termination of the contract because the negotiations have not been fruitful. Supervisor Buchanan said it appeared we were in a holding position. He indicated that he would respond to the letter.

Supervisor Buchanan reported that Attorney Stiehl spoke with Brian Smith of Township Officials of Illinois (TOI) and that Brian said that sewer fund should reimburse the Town fund for work the Supervisor does for the sewer business.

Supervisor Buchanan reported the easement machine the Sewer District has is very old and it is falling apart. He said it dies when the operator makes a turn with it. He is interested in purchasing a new one and estimated the cost to be in the \$50,000 range including the trailer. It was suggested it go out to bid. Trustee Schobert made a motion to accept sealed bids for an easement machine. Trustee Barnes second the motion. Roll call vote. All yes.

Supervisor Buchanan said that he would be preparing an agenda for a Special board meeting on March 30 at 7:00 p.m. for appropriation transfers, the annual town meeting agenda and tentative 2010-11 budget.

The dues for the Swansea Chamber is \$60. Supervisor Buchanan asked the Board if they felt this is something the Township should continue to be a member of. It was agreed that because we are part of the Village of Swansea that we should continue to maintain the membership. Trustee Schobert made a motion to pay the \$60 dues. Trustee Barnes second the motion. Roll call vote. All yes.

The next agenda items is the proposed amendment to the Swansea loan contract on the 201 Service Street building. Supervisor Buchanan said the Township did receive the interest check but we are still waiting to hear back on the contract.

Supervisor's Report

1) The daily sewer logs were given to all board members for review. 2) Supervisor Buchanan reported that the largest delinquent sewer customer paid \$17k/27k in back fees. 3) A \$10,000 business tap in fee was received, and 4) Swansea paid their December interest fee for the loan on 201 Service Street.

Highway Commissioner' Report

1) Commissioner Burk reported that the road department had to purchase a used power screed for \$2,000. It will be a good asset with more repair capability. He stated it will double the concrete pouring effort. Initial uses will be in Old and New Lincolnshire and in Chenot Place. 2) In August or September they expect to start overlaying the asphalt in the Weatherstone neighborhood. 3) Commissioner Burk commended the road employees for the good job they are doing. He said they are more involved in the operations than they ever have been.

Engineer's Report

Manhole on Vicksburg is sinking again due to mine subsidence. Ron Stuckel said that Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has grants available due to subsidence. It would require a write up why it is a hazard and health issue. Maps would need to be provided and the cost associated with the problem. The Township would need to get on their books and they will review it for possible award money. Ron said that if it keeps sinking it could cause problems with the sewers. Supervisor Buchanan and Engineer Stuckel will work together to prepare a letter and gather the information to submit to IDNR.

It was agreed that Ron Stuckel, Bill Stiehl and Supervisor Buchanan would meet regarding how to proceed with the last easement at Piper Hills. This project is at a stand still until they get the easement.

Delinquent Sewer Accounts Report

Delinquent Sewer Accounts were presented.

Trustee Barnes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Trentman. Roll call vote. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk