

Regular Township Meeting

DATE: November 10, 2009

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

STAFF PRESENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen

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 October 13, 2009:

Supervisor Buchanan asked that the word "administrator" replace the word engineer on Page 2. Motion made by Supervisor Buchanan to approve the October 13th minutes with change and seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor.

Minutes of Executive Session on September 8, 2009:

Motion was made by Trustee Barnes to approve the minutes as presented and seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor.

Supervisor's Monthly Treasurer's Report:

Supervisor Buchanan asked for questions. With no questions, a motion was made by Trustee Bridgman, and seconded by Trustee Schobert 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 provided a copy of a letter dated October 22, 2009 that was received from the Village of Swansea's attorney regarding the sewer negotiations for Board members to review. In addition, Board members were given a copy of an invitation from the St. Clair County Township Official Association to attend the quarterly meeting to be held on November 19, 2009.

Public Comment:

The floor was opened up for public comment. Dean Wallen said he is concerned about the burning of leaves on the street. He said he has mentioned this to Road Commissioner Burk. There was discussion held around the burning of leaves, and if there were any ordinances in place. Trustee Schobert said there are none and it would most likely be up to the county to enact something like this.

Old Business:

Supervisor Buchanan told the Board that he met with a representative from Swansea to work through the annual sewer adjustment. He said although they spent a lot of time reviewing, it is not complete yet.

New Business:

Board members received a copy of a recommendation from Rhutasel and Associates dated November 5, 2009 regarding the two options that were evaluated: 1) the use of chlorine for disinfection, and 2) the use of ultraviolet disinfection. The recommendation indicated the ultraviolet disinfection method would be more effective. Although the initial construction would be more expensive, the long term operational costs would make up for it. Supervisor Buchanan said unfortunately, Larry Rhutasel nor his associate was available to attend the meeting to go over the recommendation and answer questions. Trustee Bridgman asked about health concerns with both options. Supervisor Buchanan said that both were probably equally healthy. Trustee Trentman wanted to know what other sewer plants use. Supervisor Buchanan said that he knew that Swansea uses ultraviolet in some capacity. He added that ultraviolet is a newer method so it may not be as widely used yet. Trustee Schobert also added that the less chlorine tanks you have, the better off you are as far as safety is concerned. After a lengthy discussion on the pros and cons, it was agreed that Rhutasel and Associates would be invited to the next meeting for further explanation before a decision is made.

Trustee Bridgman asked how this project would affect our budget. Supervisor Buchanan said he felt like the cost of the project should be spread out rather than pay it all at once. This way the current residents would not bear the whole burden of the cost.

The Board was presented with a "Letter Agreement for Professional Engineering Services" also dated November 5, 2009 from Rhutasel and Associates. Supervisor Buchanan said this letter was reviewed by Township Attorney Bill Stiehl and Attorney Stiehl had several recommendations for edits.

Supervisor Buchanan said he reviewed the Agreement's hourly rates and they appeared reasonable compared to other engineering rates. However, he did say he was concerned that the total engineering portion (rate + hours expected) added up to approximately \$50,000 which was 22% of the cost of the construction.

Supervisor Buchanan said he met with the Mayor of Swansea and the administrator and asked them for a proposal with regard to the sewer contract negotiations.

One of Supervisor Buchanan's concerns is that we are paying 20% of billing costs, and the Township should not be paying anything. In addition, there is a lot of excess office space that was added into the project. He feels we should only pay for the operational space, not the extra office space.

Supervisor Buchanan has asked the Township's engineer to review their engineering projections to feel comfortable with the estimates and the size of the plant.

Supervisor's Report

Supervisor Buchanan commended the sewer employees for the great job they did during the recent heavy rainfalls. He said numerous alarms sounded, and the employees responded quickly and efficiently to make sure the water was pumped as needed.

Supervisor Buchanan reported that McBride & Company was issued an invoice for \$10,000 for repair of the manholes. They are in cooperation and working with us. Another firm, Stampson, is also doing some building, but there are no manhole issues. There was a third company that went under, so the Township will be responsible for those costs.

Three insurance proposals have been received by the Township. A proposal from Township Officials of Illinois Risk Management Association (TOIRMA) was received. Supervisor Buchanan noted that TOIRMA

cannot cover the sewer plant, but provided a proposal for everything else along with an additional proposal from another company for the sewer plant. This package is considerably less than our current insurance.

Supervisor Buchanan thanked the Township for allowing him to attend the Township of Illinois Annual Meeting held in Springfield. He said he went for one day of the three day meeting, and he appreciated the opportunity for further education.

While there, he learned that the Bill that would allow Townships to turn off water for delinquent sewer accounts has passed through Legislature and is on the Governor's desk.

He also reported that he attended three informative sessions: 1) Levy Session. He said this will help with preparing the levy for next year. 2) Intergovernmental Grants Session. 3) Communications.

Highway Commissioner' Report

Commissioner Burk said the Dodge Caliber was sold for \$10,000.

He said because the weather has been so good, he was happy to report the road crew has been getting a lot of work done.

Commissioner Burk addressed Mr. Wallen's comments about burning leaves. There was some discussion as to how this can be resolved.

Engineer's Report

Supervisor Buchanan reported that the Piper Hills project is waiting on just one more easement.

Delinquent Sewer Accounts Report

The delinquent sewer account report was provided to the Board for review. There was some discussion about one delinquent payer and how this delinquency is being handled.

Supervisor Buchanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk