

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: May 10, 2011

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
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Stiehl
Dave Rodden

OTHERS PRESENT: Skip Kernan Sue Gruberman
Steve Joyce Mike Greenfield
Margy Pearson 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. All present, except Assessor Robert Knee.

At 7:02 p.m. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to go into closed Executive Session for purposes of considering the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of a Township employee, and for the purpose of considering litigation, and the Board finds that an action involving the Township is probable or imminent. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes.

At 7:37 p.m. the Board came out of closed Executive Session and returned to the Regular meeting.

Trustee Schobert made a motion to overturn Supervisor's Buchanan decision regarding employee vacation days being used prior to using banked sick days donated from other employees. Trustee Trentman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-YES, Bridgman-NO, Schobert-YES, Barnes-NO, Buchanan-NO Motion fails.

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on April 12, 2011:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the April 12, 2011 Regular Board Meeting minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Supervisor's Treasurer's Report

Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills

Trustee Barnes made a motion to approve the monthly bills. Trustee Trentman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Buchanan asked if the Board skip to Item 10-D - Ordinance 2011-3 (Sewer Ordinance). He said there was a change to Section 6.12(B) to make the language more clear and 6.12(D) to correct the grammar. He said the document had been reviewed by Dave Rodden, Bill Stiehl, the insurance agent and himself. He said there were numerous changes and the document that was presented was a compilation of all the changes. Trustee Schobert made a motion to read the Ordinance by title only. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes. Clerk Carroll read the Ordinance by title only.

Trustee Schobert made a motion we approve Ordinance 2011-3. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-NO, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-YES, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes.

Communications

None.

Supervisor's Report

- Insurance Claims - Supervisor Buchanan said the claim for the driveway on Cedar Mill Drive had been submitted to the insurance company. He also said that at 11 South Indiana Avenue there was a back-up. He said it will be put on a schedule to clean more frequently.
- Delinquent Sewer Accounts – Supervisor Buchanan noted they are higher than usual.
- St. Clair County Annual Township Meeting - Supervisor said that Mary Carroll, Bob Trentman and he all attended the recent annual meeting. He said the outlying areas are concerned about police protection. He presented a letter from the St. Clair County Farm Bureau regarding hiring special police to patrol.
- Switched from JULIE grids to polygons to save time and money. - Supervisor Buchanan informed the Board that a switch was made which will result in less e-mails from JULIE at a cost of \$1.30 per e-mail. He said this will also save the cost of having to go out to all the sites on the old grid. He said this will be a big savings in time and money.
- Northland Drive Manhole Settling - Supervisor Buchanan gave an update on the mine subsidence problem. He said the sewers were installed in 1970 and the mine subsidence ended in 1980. He said that Ron Stuckel has submitted a request to IDNR for a grant to solve the problem.
- Emergency Answering Service - Supervisor Buchanan said this new service was up and running.
- Audit Questionnaire - Each trustee was provided an envelope with a questionnaire. Supervisor Buchanan asked that they complete the form and return them to the auditor.
- Budget Hearing - Supervisor Buchanan said the Budget Hearing will be held on Tuesday June 28th. He said the Township will also need another special meeting this month for UV sewer plan construction bids approval. He said he will e-mail available dates to the Board.

Highway Commissioner's Report

- Commissioner Burk reported that the grass in the median in the Glen Addie subdivision was removed and it was replaced with plastic and rock. He said it looks better, and it will save approximately \$150 per grass cutting.
- Commissioner Burk said the East Main Street project which is intended to match what Belleville has done on the other side of West Boulevard will be delayed some because utilities need to be moved before the project can start.
- He said there will be a bid opening for the Stookey Terrace project tomorrow.
- He also reported that to save approximately \$8,000-\$9,000 every three years, the Township is working on liquidating one of the Mine Haul Road exits onto highways. He said he has not received word back yet from the County on their final decision.

Public Comments

Skip Kernan said that thanks to Tim Buchanan, he has a lot of free time on his hands and he plans to attend the Township meetings. He said he has a list of questions for the Board, and he will be back with more questions at future meetings. Supervisor Buchanan said he welcomed his input.

He asked Supervisor Buchanan why there was a concrete median built in Chenot place where Supervisor Buchanan has rental property. He thought this was strange, since it was done after Mr. Buchanan had taken office. Mr. Buchanan referred the question to Road Commissioner Burk who makes the decisions on road work. Mr. Burk said that it was actually a new street, and not a median. He said the plans to improve the street had been put in place by a prior Road Commissioner, but they were put on hold until the mine subsidence had stopped. Since the mine subsidence had ended, he completed the project. Commissioner Burk said they worked from the back of the subdivision to the front so as not to move the heavy equipment over the roads they had already worked on. He also added that since the new board has been in office, a variety of subdivisions have had work done on them and others will be getting a piece of the pie in the future.

Mr. Kernan asked how a taxpayer gets a copy of the budget. Supervisor Buchanan said that it will be available on May 27, 2011, and he can get a copy at the Township office. It will also be posted on the Township website.

Mr. Kernan wanted to know if Supervisor Buchanan had considered getting rid of the pensions for full time Township officials. Supervisor Buchanan said that he did not believe they could be dissolved. He said he would be happy to discuss it with Mr. Kernan after the meeting if he would like.

Mr. Kernan asked how the negotiations with Swansea were going. Supervisor Buchanan said he was not a liberty to discuss the negotiations, but he is hoping it will be resolved soon.

Mr. Kernan said he understood there was a dispute from the Road District workers who were laid off, and he wanted to know how that was going. Commissioner Burk said they are still waiting on a final outcome of arbitration.

Mr. Kernan asked if the Board has ever discussed video taping meetings. Supervisor Buchanan answered that it has never been discussed, but he will put it on the agenda.

Mr. Kernan announced that he will be back next month with more questions.

Dean Wallen informed the Board there was a proposal to but in a bank near the Greystone Estates entrance on Greenmount Road. Mr. Buchanan thanked him for the information.

Business Items

A. Hydro Services Request for Fuel Surcharge - Supervisor Buchanan directed the Board to the 3/21/11 letter with additional information on how Hydro services would like to charge the Township for a fuel surcharge. The charge would be in addition to the charges outlined in the contract in place. Before the vote, there was some discussion. Trustee Schobert said a lot of businesses are asking for more money because of gas increases. Trustee Trentman added that he sometimes has to pay a fuel surcharge. Trustee Barnes said that he polled some of the Township residents, and all those he spoke to said no this was not right. He said they felt that everyone is experiencing hard economic disadvantages. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to deny the fuel surcharge request. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote was taken. Trentman-NO, Bridgman- YES, Schobert-NO, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes.

B. Medical Assistance Catastrophic Insurance Program for General Assistance - Supervisor Buchanan explained that the Township was required to purchase this insurance for general assistance participants in case of a catastrophic emergency. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the annual invoice in the amount of \$2,360 for the insurance. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

C. ATS Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan said an agreement for transportation services with ATS was finally received. He said the agreement is asking that we pay both last year's fee and this years. He reminded the board that it was budgeted for last year, but it was never paid because we had not yet received the agreement. There was discussion around how the fee was determined. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Agreement with ATS. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

After the vote, Trustee Trentman added that he still thinks we should provide a donation to the Human Society. Trustee Bridgman replied with why should the Township pay for two services when animal control service is already being adequately provided by St. Clair County.

E. Township Audit Agreement with JW Boyle - Supervisor Buchanan distributed a copy of a service agreement with J.W. Boyle Co., Ltd. He said he has been very pleased with their service. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the agreement. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

F. Supervisor's Bond. - Supervisor Buchanan said it is time to renew the Supervisor's annual bond. He provided a spreadsheet with costs outlined in it. He said it will be a little more expensive this year because of higher sewer rates than last year. The premium is \$2,891. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the payment of the Supervisor's Bond. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

G. Stookey General Assistance Service Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan reminded the Board that St. Clair Township provides general assistance work for Stookey Township. About one year ago, Supervisor Buchanan asked Stookey for an increase in fees after doing an cost analysis and it was determined they were too low. They would not agree to pay more, so Supervisor Buchanan allowed Stookey one year to find another source to provide the service.

In addition Supervisor Buchanan recommended someone who could train the Stookey personnel. At this time, Supervisor Buchanan asked for approval to send a letter terminating the agreement on August 31, 2011. Trustee Barnes made a motion to end the General Assistance service that the Township provides to Stookey Township on 8/31/11. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Trentman-YES, Bridgman-YES, Schobert-NO, Barnes-YES, Buchanan-YES. Motion passes.

H. Health Insurance - Supervisor Buchanan said the effort to reduce health insurance costs for the Township employees was not successful. Both the carriers that were to provide bids said they cannot compete with the current premiums. One of the agents said that the health insurance the employees receive is one of the richest government plans he has ever seen. Supervisor Buchanan said it is unfortunate that we are not able to save some money for the Township in this area. He said we will have to continue with the current carrier.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9.28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Carroll". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk