

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: September 14, 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
Dave Barnes, Trustee
Greg Bridgman, Trustee
Richard Schobert, Trustee
Bob Trentman, Trustee
Robert Knee, Assessor

STAFF PRESENT: Dave Rodden
Bill Stiehl

OTHERS PRESENT: Dean Wallen Brian Wells
Dave Hogshead Joyce Johnson
Jewel Frazier Keith Sturgis
Sue Yaekel Bob Buechler
Mike Greenfield Dennis Milam
Jeff Harris Luke Potts
Jeff Carmack Dale Haas
Pia Hacker Gianna Hacker
Rhonda Burk Steven Joyce

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 board members were present.

Supervisor Buchanan notified the meeting attendees that at 7:30, the Board would be going into an executive session with the professional staff.

To accommodate the visitors at the meeting, he said he would offer public comment at this time.

Public Comment:

Joyce Johnston who lives at 2 Sundew Court said that she is a realtor and she is concerned because there are high weeds along the fence on East "B" Street Road. She said she does not live there, but is concerned if she would have to sell homes near there. She said she has contacted four different jurisdictions, including Mark Burk at the Township and found out that the residents are responsible for the area along the fence line. She wanted to know how far on "B" Street Road will be cut, and will the residents be notified they are responsible for cutting the rest of the grass? Road Commissioner Burk reminded Ms. Johnson that they already discussed this on the phone, and that she would need to contact Tom Jackson who works for the County. He should be able to tell them how far. He also said that the residents have already been notified what is their responsibility. Ms. Johnson, then asked how many times a season does the grass get cut? Road Commissioner Burk said that the Township cuts 4-5 times a season, whereas the County only cuts 3 times per season and the State does the same.

Dean Wallen of 2225 Monterey asked if the lights at Loop Creek Park have been installed yet? Supervisor Buchanan said they had not, and that trees have to be removed first. Mr. Wallen said he heard there was an unprovoked attack on one of the streets in the subdivision near Loop Creek Park.

Sue Yaekel of 6 Minden Drive said that she lives in the area near where Commissioner Burk lives, and that she thinks the roads look nice. Her concern is that when it rains, it floods near their driveway because their lot is much lower than the rest of the street. Commissioner Burk said that to resolve that problem, they would have to dig ditches on Minden Street. Commissioner Burk said he was worried that some residents will not want ditches. Ms. Yaekel said that she will talk to the neighbors about ditching, and she was sure she could convince her neighbors. Commissioner Burk asked Ms. Yaekel to give him a call after she talked to her neighbors.

Bob Buechler of 408 Winslow Road said he was concerned that people could not see the "dead end" sign on his street. He also wanted to know when it would be oil & chipped? Commissioner Burk said he would take a look at the "dead end" sign, and that the road would be oil & chipped next year.

Pia Hacker of 42 Fenwood Drive said that she read in the paper that three people were laid off. She is a nurse who works nights, and she is afraid there will not be enough people to plow the snow if we get any this winter. Gianna Hacker (Pia's daughter) who also lives at 42 Fenwood Drive, said that she is concerned about snow. She does not want to be late for work. She said that because we are in a recession, everyone needs to be careful about saving. Commissioner Burk said that as always, the Township will do the best they can with plowing any snow that may fall.

Steve Joyce who is the Union Representative for Local 148 Operating Engineers said that the Township cannot use sewer employees for road work.

Jewel Frazier who lives at 19 Boulder Court said she wanted to let everyone know that she has no complaints, and they love their roads.

There was no further public comment. Supervisor Buchanan reminded everyone that the Board will have to go into executive session at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting held on August 17, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the August 17, 2010 minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Supervisor's Treasurer's Report

Trustee Schobert said it seemed there was a lot of money in the Bank of Edwardsville account. Supervisor Buchanan said that at this point in time, he is concerned about getting caught short and is reluctant to move it. Trustee Bridgman made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Trustee Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Monthly Bills:

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

Engineer's Report:

Supervisor Buchanan said this would be discussed later in the meeting.

Supervisor's Report:

- Insurance Claims - Supervisor Buchanan said that areas along Anderson Lane are sinking around two manholes and Shiloh believes the sewer manhole or lines are causing the problem. He said it has been turned over to insurance. An insurance claim was denied for a driveway sinking over a sewer line on Cotswald Circle.
- Delinquent Sewers - The members were presented with the delinquent sewer report. Trustee Bridgman asked why there was what appeared to be a negative sign on the 31-60 day delinquencies. Supervisor Buchanan said he would look into this.
- Hockey Nets - The nets that had been destroyed are being replaced with new ones made of stronger material.
- Tree Work in Loop Creek Park - Supervisor Buchanan stated that Ameren will be putting up the light in Loop Creek Park, but eight trees will need to be removed. He said four companies bid on the tree removal and Meurer Brothers was the low bid. Once the ground is firm enough, they will remove the trees.
- Weed Killer Purchase from Road District - The Road District had 15 gallons of weed killer they did not need and there was an internal transfer of funds from the Sewer fund to the Road fund to pay for the weed killer. Trustee Schobert asked if you had to be licensed to spray weed killer. Supervisor Buchanan said he would find out.
- Scout Drive Lift Station Infiltration Review - Supervisor Buchanan said there is backup problems when there is heavy rain. He said they are looking finding ways to reduce infiltration. Trustee Trentman asked if there was an alarm when there was a backup. Supervisor Buchanan said yes there is. He said first responder, Hyrdro Services, goes out when the alarm sounds.

- Tennis Court Light Repairs at Wolf Branch - Supervisor Buchanan said a timer, contacts, and transformer were replaced along with all the bulbs. He said the Township has not received the final bill yet. Joyce Johnson asked if these courts were open to the public. Supervisor Buchanan said they were.

At 7:35 p.m. Trustee Barnes had made a motion to move that the Board go into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of a specific employee of St. Clair Township, and discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under the Open Meetings Act, whether for approval by the Board of Trustees of the minutes or semi-annual review of the minutes." It was seconded by Trustee Schobert. Roll call vote. All in favor.

At 8:45 p.m. Trustee Barnes made a motion to come out of closed session. Trustee Schobert seconded it. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Review of Minutes of Prior Executive Sessions:

A motion was made by Trustee Bridgman that all prior Executive Session Minutes remain closed. It was seconded by Trustee Barnes. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Minutes of Executive Session held on August 17, 2010:

A motion was made by Trustee Schobert to approve the August 17, 2010 Executive Session Minutes. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Continuation of Supervisor's Report:

- Centennial Park Bridge Repairs - Supervisor Buchanan said he has asked Swansea to share the cost and/or labor of the bridges that need repaired.
- Bank of Springfield (BOS) - Supervisor Buchanan said this was not on the agenda, but he wanted to make everyone aware of some good news. He said the Bank of Springfield (BOS) contacted the Township and is willing to agree to no monthly fees on the Township's account. He said this will save over \$5,000 in fees per year. Supervisor Buchanan said he did go back to the Township's current bank and asked if they could do this also. Supervisor Buchanan is looking into this to further to find out if the no fee arrangement is temporary and to make sure he gets the best deal. He said he is also looking at other banks to get the best offer on interest rates.

Highway Commissioner Report:

Commissioner Burk said all the projects for this year are finished.

Business Items

Salt Barn Property (Scott Wilson) - Supervisor Buchanan has researched selling a portion of this property to Township neighbor Scott Wilson. He said it would have to be appraised before being sold. A Special Town Meeting would also need to be held. Supervisor Buchanan asked if there any objections to asking Mr. Wilson to provide us with a written proposal. There were none.

Use of Sewer or Park Employees for Road Work - Supervisor Buchanan said that Trustee Schobert asked that this topic be addressed. Everyone received a copy of verbiage from the union contract: Section 3.04 that stated in cases of emergency,

employees from the Sewer Dept. will provided assistance to the Road District. Supervisor Buchanan read the entire section out loud. Supervisor Buchanan said he wanted to give an account of work that has been done since he has been in office. He said the Road District did some exploratory digging at the sewer plant. And that also the Sewer Dept. has used the vactor truck to clean out some culverts. He does not recall any other work that crossed lines. Supervisor Buchanan said that if the Sewer Dept. did not help with the culverts, they would have had to contract it out at a big expense to the Township. Trustee Schobert asked what would happen if there would be snow plowing needed. Supervisor Buchanan said the union contract specifically states that laid off employees must be allowed 10 days notice in order to call them back to work. In the case of snow, it would appear to be reasonable to have the Sewer Dept. assist with plowing in an emergency situation.

Centennial Park Agreement - Supervisor Buchanan shared with the Board a Centennial Park Agreement dated 9/2/1986 between the Village of Swansea and the Township. The agreement states that the land is owned by the Township, but jointly administered by an appointed Park Board consisting of representatives from Swansea and the Township. The agreement allows for the sharing of costs between the two parties for Centennial Park. Trustee Schobert said he was aware of the agreement and it was put in place to apply for a grant. He did not believe expenses have been shared in the past, and there was never a park board formed as stipulated by the agreement. Supervisor Buchanan asked for permission to end this contract and reissue a new one. It was agreed that the Board members would think on it, and it would be addressed at the next meeting.

Discontinuance Agreement with Illinois American Water - The Board was presented with a Discontinue Agreement between the Township and Illinois-American Water Company. The agreement spells out what needs to be done to cut off water in case of payment delinquency. Supervisor Buchanan said it has been reviewed by Township Attorney, Bill Stiehl. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the Discontinuance Agreement. Trustee Bridgman seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

RSVP & ATS Agreements - Supervisor Buchanan said that he has received an agreement with RSVP, but he is still waiting on ATS. A copy of the agreement with RSVP was provided to the Board for review. Trustee Schobert made a motion to approve the agreement. Trustee Barnes seconded the agreement. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Blue Star Energy Contract - Supervisor Buchanan said that the electric rates are expected to rise, and he asked the Board if it was okay to lock in a two year agreement for power since the rates are at a historical low. He provided a spreadsheet for the Board members to review. The current one year rate is 0.4583 for the sewer plant and 0.04757 for the two year rate. The one year rate of the others accounts is 0.04977 and the two year rate is 0.05155. Trustee Barnes made a motion to purchase electricity with Blue Star Energy for two years. It was seconded by Trustee Bridgman. Roll call vote. Trentman-Yes, Bridgman-Yes, Schobert-No, Barnes-Yes, Buchanan-Yes. (4 Yes and 1 No) Motion passed.

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

Meeting was adjourned at 9.15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Mary Carroll
Township Clerk