

St. Clair Township
Regular Meeting Minutes
Amended

DATE: January 28, 2014
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
LOCATION: St. Clair Township Bldg
107 Service Street
Swansea, IL 62226

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of St. Clair Township Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Barnes with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Present: Supervisor Dave Barnes
Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, Greg Hipkind
Absent: none

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed, Assessor Jim Wilson, Road Commissioner Skip Kernan

Others Present: Brian Buckheit, Engineer
Terry Bruckert, Attorney
There were more than 45 in attendance. The attendance sign-in sheet is attached. Not all signed.

MINUTES

Trustee Wells requested that the list of bills be included with the minutes and posted on the website with the minutes so the public has easy access to the document.
Supervisor Barnes said that would have to be discussed for action at a future meeting.

Trustee Hipkind made a motion to approve the December 17, 2013 minutes with the corrections of omitting the absence of the road commissioner and noting the amount of delinquent sewer bills due was up compared to the previous relevant billing period. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote.
Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Sturgis made a motion to accept the October 22, 2013 and December 17, 2013 Executives Session Minutes. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Roll call vote.
Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

Trustee Wells questioned whether it was appropriate to use the amended agenda Supervisor Barnes provided because it had not been posted 48 hours before the meeting as is required by the OMA. Attorney Bruckert explained a 48 hour notice is required for items on which the board would vote but items to be discussed do not require a 48 hour notice. Supervisor Barnes explained the original agenda included discussion and vote to ratify the employee union contract but due to circumstances beyond his control that would be impossible so he changed the agenda by removing the item to discuss and vote on the contract and adding an item for discussion of union negotiations.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Hipkind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind. Motion passed 4-0.

BUDGET REPORT

Motion to approve the Budget Report was made by Trustee Hipkind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

MONTHLY BILLS

Motion to approve payment of the monthly bills was made by Trustee Hipkind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.

Yes – Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Carroll, Wells. Motion passed 3-2.

Trustee Wells voted no because she was not going to sign one piece of paper to approve all the bills. Mrs. Wells wanted it to be noted that \$149,000 was paid for bills approved since the last meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes shared the thank you note he received from Catholic Urban Programs. Food items donated by attendees of the township open house in December were donated to the organization.

Supervisor Barnes reported that he contacted TOI to get clarification on a statement made by former Assessor Knee at the previous meeting. Jerry Crabtree, Education Coordinator for TOI, said the road commissioner is not required to attend meetings and noting of his absence in the minutes is not required.

Supervisor Barnes welcomed the new township assessor, Jim Wilson.

Clerk Brenda Reed informed the board that the St Clair County Board of Review has received requests from two township property owners for reductions in assessed value of more than \$100,000.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Delinquent Sewer Accounts – The delinquent amount due is down from the previous comparative billing period.
November - > 151 days past due \$107,750
January - > 151 days past due \$105,565
(Billing is bimonthly so a month to month comparison is not relevant)
Delinquent amounts due more than 151 days have increased more than \$10,000 since January 2013.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

- Road Commissioner Kernan welcomed new employee John Tiernan.
- Mr. Kernan commended his crew of three for a job well done on snow removal. He also thanked the sewer department employees for helping the Sunday of the 12 inch snow fall. He thanked residents for being understanding as his crew was dealing with an amount of snow that hasn't occurred in more than 30 years.
- There will be a monthly report of what the road department is doing on the website.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandra Watts - Glen Addie roads are in bad shape.

David Donnelly – Complemented the road department on snow removal. Agreed with Trustee Wells on attaching the list of bills to meeting minutes.

Jim Kopp – Commended road department for doing a good job with a skeleton crew.

Vladimir Halupa – Chenot Place streets need repair.

Jeff Harris – As a road employee, he thinks Skip should have hired two new employees.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Guarantee Electrical Construction representative Dena Schmidt presented a Lighting Proposal for the township that included the township building, sewer treatment plant, Loop Creek Park and Centennial Park. The state of Illinois has incentive dollars available for LED retro-fitting of light fixtures.

Total contract amount	\$ 39,506
Incentive from Illinois taxpayers	\$ 22,667
Cost after incentive	\$ 16,839
Expected annual energy savings	\$ 8,488

Trustee Wells made a motion to accept the Lighting Proposal from Guarantee Electric for LED lighting upgrade. The motion was seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0
- Swansea sewer negotiations – Brian Buchheit, HMG Engineering, Inc. and Terry Bruckert, Bruckert, Gruenke & Long PC, evaluated the latest proposal from the Village of Swansea and determined it is not in the best interest of the township to accept. They

also looked at the effect of the village's threat to bill township users directly. They found it would be beneficial to the township monetarily however, consideration needs to be taken of the fact that township sewer lines are being used for those accounts. A charge would need to be assessed to the village based on the operation and maintenance (O&M) cost of the sewer lines per customer. Mr. Bruckert has drafted a letter to decline the village's latest offer and to inform the village of the necessity of an O&M charge per customer if they bill township users directly.

A motion to approve sending the letter composed by attorney Terry Bruckert to the village of Swansea in regard to current sewer negotiations was made by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Buchheit left the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

- PSOP - A motion to make payment in the amount of \$4,000 to Programs and Services for Older Persons / Retired Senior Volunteer Program was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

- ATS - A motion to make payment in the amount of \$7,750 to SWIC Alternative Transportation Services was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. Motion passed 5-0.

- Mileage reimbursement - There was discussion about how full-time elected officials and employees should be reimbursed for mileage when using personal vehicles for township business. Supervisor Barnes proposed either an accountable (actual mileage at the federal mileage rate) or an unaccountable (providing a receipt for gas) method for reimbursement.

A motion to pay the federal mileage rate to full-time elected officials and employees when using personal vehicles for township business and traveling to and from training classes, etc., according to documentation of miles traveled was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote.

Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed 4 – 1.

- Park Board suggestion – The Park Board suggested putting port-a-potties in Loop Creek year round and Centennial Park during winter months. The vote was tabled until further investigation could be done on the perceived need.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:51p.m., during the Regular Township Meeting a motion that the meeting go to Executive Session pursuant to 2(c)21 to review executive meeting minutes, 2(c)2 to discuss union negotiations, and 2(c)1 to discuss personnel was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The Board returned to the Regular Meeting at 9:51p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:52 a motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk