

St. Clair Township Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 25, 2014
TIME: 7:41 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 7:41 p.m. by Supervisor Barnes.

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

Others Present: Sue Gruberman Jeff Carmack
Ruth Dehne Terry Carroll
Curtis Williams Dean Wallen
Sandra M Watt Tonda Van Hoose
Doris Rebenstorff Cletis L. Cox
Sue DonCarlos

APPROVE MINUTES

Motion to approve the January 28, 2014, Amended Regular Board Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Wells. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve the corrected February 25, 2014, Regular Board Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve the corrected March 5, 2014, Special Meeting Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve the January 28, 2014, Executive Session Minutes was made by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Trustee Hipkind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve the February 25, 2014, Executive Session Minutes was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve the corrected March 5, 2014 Executive Session Minutes was made by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Trustee Carroll questioned what the \$138,998 that appeared to be moved from the Road and Bridge Fund to the Permanent Road Fund might have been for.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Trustee Sturgis, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

Trustee Wells questioned attorney fees in general and an invoice from Mr. Lowenbaum.

Motion to approve the Budget Report was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

MONTHLY BILLS

Supervisor Barnes stated the monthly bills lists will be posted on the website. Trustee Wells questioned using multiple attorneys as opposed to using a designated Township Attorney. Trustee Carroll questioned whether it was necessary for residents to opt in before they receive robo-calls from the road district. Trustee Wells expressed great dissatisfaction with the change in website and email services. She is concerned about email security.

Motion to approve payment of the monthly bills was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Carroll. Motion passed 4-1.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes received a letter from the city of Belleville informing of a modification in sewer rates. Mr. Barnes responded to let the city know the township is interested in negotiating an updated agreement.

Supervisor Barnes provided letters from and to Swansea in regard to sewer negotiations. Current negotiations are as follows:

Swansea will be billing township residents who use the Swansea treatment plant directly for the service. The township determined the operation and maintenance costs for the use of township sewer lines needing to be billed to those residents is \$7.34 per month. Swansea will add that amount to each township residents' bill and forward to the township. Supervisor Barnes and Mayor Mueller are scheduled to meet Monday, March 31, 2014 to finalize the sewer agreement.

Supervisor Barnes shared information about the four-phase plan proposed for Loop Creek Park. The plan includes a .39 mile walking trail, a pavilion, permanent restrooms, and improvements to the ball field.

Trustee Hipskind said he will not be at the April 22, 2014 meeting.

Supervisor Barnes asked that no one approach the board desk without first requesting permission.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

- Delinquent Sewer Accounts – Sewer accounts past due more than 151 days as of March 21, 2014 were \$113,065 compared to \$85,221 in March 2013. One sewer account owes about \$75,000 of the \$113,065. Liens have been filed on that property.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Duff agrees with Trustee Wells on email security issues. Mr. Duff also suggested paving the area around the hockey rink at Wolf Branch to eliminate parking on grass.

John Frazier also agreed with Trustee Wells on email security issues.

Ruth Dehne wanted to know if the township is going to have a large item pick-up.

Mrs. Dehne's question prompted Supervisor Barnes to announce there will be an electronic recycling event at the township building April 5.

Trustee Wells said it was brought to her attention that the county will perform the duties of the assessor at no charge to the township. Supervisor Barnes said it is unclear if the county would never charge the township for assessing mobile homes and expressed concern that there could be charges in the future.

Assessor Wilson responded by saying he is in the process of discovering the responsibilities of his position. There are 1,275 homes in St. Clair Township he is responsible for assessing. He said much of the recorded data on those homes is currently incorrect. After getting a thorough understanding of the position he will make suggestion as to whether eliminating the position is the right course to take.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Service contract for five generators – Three year service contract proposals were presented to the board last month for consideration. Trustee Sturgis called Mid-South and Luby to request some service history on each of our generators. Mid-South did not provide any information. Luby provided the information requested. After discussion about the two proposals and the response and lack of response about information Trustee Sturgis made a motion to accept the proposal from Luby for a 3 year planned maintenance agreement, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind.
- Annual Township Meeting Agenda – Supervisor Barnes provided a copy of the proposed agenda for the annual town meeting. Corrections were made to dates on the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Carroll. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Cafeteria Plan for full-time employees – So employees will be able to pay their share of insurance costs with pretax dollars Supervisor Barnes investigated options for setting up a cafeteria plan. One option would cost \$900 to set up the plan. Another option offers

free set up. Supervisor Barnes requested permission from the board to move forward with setting up the cafeteria plan. Motion to approve going forward with a cafeteria plan for employees was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Trustee Hipskind. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed 4-1.

- Transfer of Appropriations –

Motion to approve transfer of appropriation in the General Assistance Fund was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve transfer of appropriation in the General Fund was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve transfer of appropriation in the Sanitary Sewer Fund was made by Trustee Carroll, seconded by Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve transfer of appropriation in the Road and Bridge Fund was made by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Wells. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Motion to approve transfer of appropriation in the Permanent Road Fund was made by Trustee Wells, seconded by Hipskind. Roll call vote. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:18 p.m. by Trustee Hipskind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: April 22, 2014