

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

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

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 Barnes
Trustees Mary Carroll, Jaynie Wells, Keith Sturgis, Greg Hipskind
Absent: none

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

Others Present: Dean Wallen Terry Carroll
Jill Halupa Vlad Halupa
Jeff Carmack Sue Grueberman
Bob Buechler

APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Wells pointed out Park Board President Dean Wallen was mistakenly referred to as Secretary Wallen in the Park Board Report. Clerk Reed pointed out Trustee Carroll was mistakenly referred to as Supervisor in seconding the motion to approve monthly bills. Trustee Carroll pointed out the ending balances in the General Town Fund and the Sanitary Sewer Fund reported in the minutes under the Treasurer's Report are not the same as the amounts listed as beginning balances for the current Treasurer's Report. Supervisor Barnes explained even though different, the numbers are correct because of a five week month and a delay in the transfer of funds for payroll.

Supervisor Barnes made a motion to accept the minutes with the trustee and president title corrections. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of September.

	<u>September 1, 2014</u>	<u>September 30, 2014</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 439,739.04	\$ 466,419.16
General Assistance Fund	\$ 66,681.55	\$ 75,097.04
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 164,741.64	\$ 176,554.66
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 584,063.29	\$ 538,160.92
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 859,623.18	\$ 1,130,629.20
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 4,414,483.37	\$ 4,592,881.30

A motion to approve the treasurer’s report was made by Trustee Hipkind, seconded by Trustee Sturgis. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

BUDGET REPORT

There were questions and comments about a few line items. Trustee Carroll then made a motion to approve the budget report. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor. Motion passed.

MONTHLY BILLS

A few questions were answered before a motion to approve the accounts payable board list was made by Trustee Hipkind. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Carroll.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes provided a copy of the letter from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources informing the township the grant for Loop Creek Park had been denied.

Supervisor Barnes informed the board a sewer department employee will be off from November 24 until February or March.

Engineer Ron Stuckel provided a map of Centennial Park and explained the township owns about 2/3 of the park starting from Rt. 161 and Swansea owns about 1/3 of the park starting from Old Collinsville Road.

Engineer Ron Stuckel explained the township has an easement agreement with Neal Trentman which was necessitated by the relocation of the sanitary sewer line at Loop Creek and Carlyle

Avenue. The agreement called for rock to be left on site for Mr. Trentman to use when construction was completed. There was no excess rock left after construction so it would be necessary to pay Mr. Trentman \$250 for rock to comply with the terms of the agreement. Additionally, Engineer Stuckel said Mr. Trentman is claiming the construction caused dirt to accumulate on his patio and his asphalt driveway was damaged during construction. Engineer Stuckel said there are photographs of the site to show both conditions were present before the construction project. Engineer Stuckel said a few small trees along the creek on Mr. Trentman's property were damaged and need to be removed by the contractor. Engineer Stuckel also has requested a price quote from the contractor for a remedy to alleviate a possible erosion problem on the easement.

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes explained the amounts listed on the past due sewer bill list include the cost of liens filed. He also said approximately 55% of the delinquent accounts will be in Swansea's billing jurisdiction when they start direct billing township residents. Supervisor Barnes also provided the breakdown of a recent \$9,062 sewer bill write-off due to a foreclosure. Approximately \$5,900 of the write-off was penalties and monthly service fees for months with no usage. \$1,664 was for usage. \$1,312 was water company shut-off fees and \$160 was for lien fees.

Supervisor Barnes said a police report was filed after a delinquent sewer customer, whose water had been shut off, threatened a township employee over the phone.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Road Commissioner Kernan said work on Phlox and Gerri Ann should start by the end of this week.

The road commissioner reported the cost of salt has increased significantly. Last year he was able to get salt for \$45 per ton. This year salt ordered before December will cost \$115 per ton. Salt ordered in December or later is expected to cost from \$150 to \$170 per ton. He is gathering information on alternative road treatments.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen shared his board's priorities for improvements at Loop Creek Park. Their highest priority is restrooms followed by a drinking fountain then cameras.

Mr. Wallen said he has heard requests for port-a-potties at Centennial Park when the permanent restrooms are closed for the winter.

Mr. Wallen gave a report on the October 11 clean-up event. More than 50 volunteers (Swansea Rotary members, Whiteside School Girl Scouts, and members of the community) worked for about three hours to clear the area from the restrooms to the creek. Representatives from Heartland Conservancy provided guidance. The Salvation Army provided snacks.

Mr. Wallen shared some history he knew about the park. He said the park was purchased in the early 80's, when he was on the township board, at a tax sale.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Carmack, Township Sewer Foreman, thanked the park board for the work done at Centennial Park. Mr. Carmack said the township needs to take responsibility for the maintenance at Centennial Park so it can be restored to the condition it used to be.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Centennial Park Agreement – Trustee Wells made a motion to cancel the Centennial Park Agreement. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Discussion followed about how the agreement with sharing maintenance of the park may not have been a good idea because the general condition of the park grounds has deteriorated over the life of the agreement. Supervisor Barnes called for a vote. A roll call vote was taken. All in favor. Motion passed.
- Addendum to Centennial Park Agreement – The addendum to Centennial Park Agreement that corrected the years for the township and Swansea to have maintenance responsibilities was not discussed because the township board voted to cancel the agreement. If Swansea does not accept cancellation of the agreement the board will address the addendum.
- Addendum to Contract with Neal Trentman – To be addressed next month because cost was unknown.
- Loop Creek Park Improvements – Supervisor Barnes said his first priority for park improvement, like the park board, is restrooms. The engineer expects the cost to be near \$75,000. Supervisor Barnes will get bids.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Wells questioned whether it was necessary to go into executive session to discuss the Collective Bargaining Agreement because the union had accepted it. Supervisor Barnes said it was necessary.

At 8:18 p.m. during the regular meeting Trustee Sturgis made the motion to go into executive session pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) of the Open Meeting Act regarding union negotiations. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Wells, Hipkind. Motion passed.

At 8:41 p.m. the regular meeting resumed.

Trustee Hipkind made a motion to vote on the Collective Bargaining Agreement. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Wells, Hipkind, Barnes. No – Carroll, Sturgis. Motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:42 p.m. Trustee Hipkind made a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: November 18, 2014