

Regular Meeting St. Clair Township

DATE: October 25, 2016
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 and Greg Hipkind

Officials Present: Clerk Brenda Reed

Others Present: Ron Stuckel, Engineer, KdG
Terry Brukert, Attorney, BG&L
Cletis Cox
David Donley
Dean Wallen
Vladimir Halupa
Jill Halupa
Bob Buechler

APPROVE MINUTES

Trustee Sturgis made a motion to approve the September 27, 2016 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Trustee Hipkind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Sturgis, Hipkind, Barnes. Abstain – Carroll, Wells. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes read the beginning and ending balances of each fund for the month of September. Four residents were given help from the general assistance fund in September. Five more applications have been received and are expected to be helped next month also.

	<u>September 1, 2016</u>	<u>September 30, 2016</u>
General Town Fund	\$ 462,244.72	\$ 481,306.79
General Assistance Fund	\$ 86,900.10	\$ 91,781.97
Park Maintenance Fund	\$ 183,382.35	\$ 201,788.74
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 467,296.02	\$ 514,903.50
Permanent Road Fund	\$ 613,189.67	\$ 667,636.40
Sanitary Sewer Fund	\$ 4,939,436.75	\$ 5,048,576.56

Trustee Sturgis made a motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report as read. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

BUDGET REPORT

Supervisor Barnes noted that line item 04-00-533.2 in the Road and Bridge Fund for Attorney Fees is showing 212% of the budgeted amount. He stated checks were cut but not signed and sent because there were not enough funds in that line item. He explained when a check is cut the program automatically carries the amount to the budget report. As he recalled the amount of the check being held was about \$4,000.00. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to approve the Budget Report. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind. Motion passed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Supervisor Barnes reported he received the letter from the county confirming the \$30,000.00 grant for Loop Creek Park playground equipment.

ROAD COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Trustee Hipskind read a note from Road Commissioner Kernan. The road crew has poured about 80 yards of concrete, put in a culvert on State Street, and repaired and filled holes and cracks on streets. County prisoners picked up trash throughout the township.

Trustee Sturgis stated he lives on State Street and was aware of 250 feet of ditch work along the road but was unaware of a new culvert.

SUPERVISOR’S REPORT

Supervisor Barnes reported the total amount of sewer bills past due more than 151 days is down a bit from the previous billing period. He stated 99 shut-off notices were sent this billing period.

Sewer pipes have been lined on Williamsburg Dr., Vicksburg Dr., Salem Dr., Roanoke Dr., and Bunker Hill Rd. Videos of the pipes pre-lining and post-lining were provided by the contractor. The roof project at the sewer plant is completed. Centennial Park parking lot expansion is not yet completed. The contractor, Gleeson, has been contacted and given a deadline of November 11 for the job to be completed. The temporary employee's last day will be November 11, 2016. Supervisor Barnes stated the sewer plant parking lot project will start and end next week.

PARK BOARD REPORT

Park Board President Dean Wallen reported the St. Louis Zoo might hold a seminar about butterflies and bees in the township. He stated they had eight volunteers October 22 for the clean-up at Centennial Park. He said township employees with power equipment will be needed for some clean up in the park. Supervisor Barnes expressed his appreciation for all the Park Board does.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vladimir Halupa questioned why the public is not allowed to have input throughout the meeting on business items.

David Donley stated he would like to be able to make comment after business items are discussed also.

BUSINESS ITEMS

- Engineering services for Loop Creek Park playground equipment – Ron Stuckel explained the \$30,000 grant from the county requires an engineer to prepare site plans and a specification set for installation of the playground equipment. Trustee Wells made a motion to use Ron Stuckel to prepare the necessary engineering documents for the installation of playground equipment at Loop Creek Park. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Donate used playground equipment – Donation of used playground equipment to a not-for-profit organization or another governmental entity is allowed if the equipment is valued at less than \$2,500.00. Trustee Carroll made a motion to donate the used playground equipment at Loop Creek Park to a not-for-profit organization. Trustee Hipskind seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.
- Ordinance 2016-5 - Salaries for term starting May 2017 – Supervisor Barnes provided a list of the current compensation amounts for elected officials. There was discussion that the township supervisor should be paid more than the road commissioner because the supervisor has more administrative responsibilities. A suggestion was made the supervisor's compensation should be \$30,000 with no insurance. A suggestion was

made to keep supervisor pay at the current level, \$59,850, because it was reduced four years ago. A 10 % reduction to \$53, 865.00 was suggested. An amount of \$55,000 with insurance was also suggested. Supervisor Barnes made a motion to cut the current Supervisor annual salary by 10% to make the compensation \$53,865.00 plus health insurance. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind. Motion passed.

The road commissioner salary was discussed next. A suggestion was made the road commissioner salary should be \$30,000 without insurance. It was also suggested to keep the salary the same it was the previous 4 years at \$63,000. It was also suggested the salary be lowered 20% to \$50,400 because the position did not have a cut in pay when the salaries were last set and it would bring the amount below the supervisor's compensation. It was suggested the salary be reduced by 10%. It was suggested the salary be increased by the cost of living percentage. Trustee Carroll made a motion to set the road commissioner salary at \$50,400 plus health insurance. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Wells, Sturgis, Barnes. No – Hipskind. Motion passed.

The town clerk salary was discussed next. It was suggested the clerk salary remain the same at \$8,748. It was suggested the present annual salary be cut 10% to \$8,748. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to set the town clerk annual compensation at \$8,748. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

It was suggested trustee compensation be reduced by 50%. It was also suggested the trustee compensation be lowered to \$4,500. A 10% reduction was also put on the table. Trustee Hipskind made a motion to lower the annual compensation of trustees to \$4,500 per year. Trustee Wells seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

The assessor salary was discussed next. Currently the township has an intergovernmental agreement with St. Clair County for the county to perform the duties of the township assessor. In the case that agreement would not be renewed it was suggested a salary be set for an assessor. It was suggested compensation be set at \$4,500. Trustee Wells made a motion to set the salary for the assessor position at \$4,500. Trustee Sturgis seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

Supervisor Barnes brought it to everyone's attention that the last paragraph of the ordinance states insurance premiums for the supervisor are to be paid by St. Clair Township and insurance premiums for the St. Clair Road Commissioner are to be paid by St. Clair Road District at the same rate that the Township pays for employees covered under the collective bargaining agreement. To further clarify Supervisor Barnes said insurance expenses for the supervisor are to be paid out of the General Town Fund and insurance expenses for the road commissioner are to be paid out of the Road and Bridge Fund. Trustee Wells made a motion that health insurance costs for the Road

Commissioner will be paid out of the Road District Fund for the next 4 year term and the Supervisor's health insurance costs will be paid out of the General Town Fund. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Roll call vote. All in favor.

- Road District Transfer of Appropriation – A Transfer of Appropriation of line items within the Road and Bridge Fund was presented. The transfer is for the attorney fees line item in the road and bridge fund. There was discussion about whether it was appropriate for the Road District to sue the Township and expect taxpayers to pay the bill. Trustee Hipskind made a motion to approve the presented Transfer of Appropriation for the Road District. There was no second on the motion. Supervisor Barnes stated the motion died for lack of a second.
- \$76,082.24 owed by USA Enterprises – Supervisor Barnes stated USA Enterprises has sold the property associated with the sewer debt of \$76,082.24 and the person behind USA Enterprises cannot be found. He presented the idea of writing off the debt to get it off the books. Because of the slim possibility of eventually collecting the debt the board wanted to leave it as is.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:35 p.m. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations under 2(c)2 and a personnel issue under 2(c)1 of the OMA. Supervisor Barnes seconded the motion. Roll call vote. Yes – Carroll, Sturgis, Hipskind, Barnes. No – Wells. Motion passed.

At 9:11 p.m. the regular meeting reconvened. Roll call found all members present.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11 p.m. Trustee Sturgis made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Carroll seconded the motion. Voice vote. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted:

Brenda Reed
St. Clair Township Clerk

Approved: November 15, 2016