

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 9, 2020 7:00 P.M.

OPENING

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the above date by audio conferencing. The meeting was called to order by Township Supervisor Daniel Hopkins at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Pledge of Allegiance was suspended due to format during COVID-19 pandemic. Roll call was taken with the following members participating by audio: Trustee Mike Foley, Trustee James Stack, Trustee Derrick Cox, Trustee Robert Milam and Supervisor Daniel Hopkins. Clerk Cathy Allison, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Becky Loyet, Kathy Hoelscher, Brandon Loyet and Clint Ball.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from May 12, 2020 board meeting was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Milam. Trustee Cox asked how Clerk Allison came to the decision to add her comments in there about the March 20th meeting but then failed to leave his comments out about Mr. Allan out of that meeting. Clerk Allison had no comment. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION ITEMS

Vote to approval Larry Trucano as authorized person to sign IL Commerce Commission agreement - Road District Office Manager Kathy Hoelscher explained what the board would be voting to approve. The Road District has received grants through the ICC to do safety improvements for the Rolek Road rail grade crossing. They said that they are now authorizing that the trustees just vote for the commissioner that is there at the time as the person who is in charge to sign them. Our out of pocket cost will be zero dollars. They are covering the whole cost of the project which is around \$409,176.00. Supervisor Hopkins asked where the project is at. Office Manager Hoelscher said it is located at Rolek Road and Lebanon Road. The road district has applied for this grant for years. Motion to approve Larry Trucano as authorized person to sign ICC agreement was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Board to discuss and vote to approve updated Sexual Harassment Policy – Supervisor Hopkins said the state law has changed that requires all employees and elected officials to attend the Sexual Harassment Training. We must put it in policy as required by state law. Motion to approve the update to the Sexual Harassment Policy was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, COMMITTEES OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Supervisor Hopkins reported that the Phase II study on the lot next to the Senior Center is completed. He has not received the final report yet.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$1,042.11** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$133,590.01** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$36,582.07** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$2847.14** was made by Trustee Milam and seconded by Trustee Stack. Supervisor Hopkins said the other day the gutters on the east side of the building were overflowing. Lakeside Roofing came over and clean the gutters, resealed them, and caulked them. Supervisor Hopkins wanted to make everyone was aware that that had been done. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board to discuss 2020/2021 Budget - Trustee Cox Asked if anybody budgeted double what they bring in annually in salary. Supervisor Hopkins asked what his point was. Trustee Cox said nobody in their right mind would budget to spend double the amount that we bring in for the taxpayers. This is wrong. The taxpayers are already being put through the wringer in the state of Illinois. How are you going to explain to the public that you are going to budget to spend double the amount that we bring in. It is reckless because it will have to raise the taxes at some point. Supervisor Hopkins said what is reckless is you saying that we are spending double of what we are bringing in. What you are trying to say is that we budgeted more then what our tax levy is. We are going to spend surplus instead of taxing the taxpayers. Trustee Cox said he wanted supervisor Hopkins to stop spending all the taxpayer's money on things like a desk for yourself. Supervisor Hopkins said that we have a surplus that we are spending down. Trustee Cox said that is the taxpayer's money. Supervisor Hopkins said the budget is less than what it was last year. We have moved money around from different lines like General Assistance. We also increased some line items with some of the money that we moved around. As soon as the governor's order is gone peoples rent money is going to be coming due. we will probably be seeing an influx of people requesting rent assistance. Supervisor Hopkins said what we have done with the budget pretty much is left the way it was last year. Trustee Cox asked Supervisor Hopkins if he was saying that we are not spending double the amount that we are bringing in in tax revenue. Supervisor Hopkins asked what line item that is. Trustee Cox said that he was talking about the overall budget. Supervisor Hopkins said that we have budgeted more money than is levied because we have a surplus. Trustee Cox made a motion that we prepare a backup budget that is a balanced backup budget in case Supervisor Hopkins' budget fails. No second was made on the motion. Motion died.

Trustee Foley said that no one has received a raise. Trustee Cox said we don't deserve any money. Trustee Foley talks to a lot of constituents every day. Trustee Cox said this is taxpayer's money and it needs to be a balanced budget. supervisor Hopkins said it is a balanced budget because we have the money in surplus. We are not allowed to deficit spend according to Illinois law under the Township code. We are not spending more than we have. It is the taxpayer's money. It is all for services that we provide. Trustee Milam asked out of the budget last year how much was actually spent versus what we budgeted. Supervisor Hopkins said we budgeted \$1,942,248.00 and spent \$1,385,425.00. We spent \$556,823.00 less than what was budgeted last year. Trustee Milam said just because you budget something doesn't mean you have to spend it. Supervisor Hopkins said and we have not done it the last three years that we all have been on this board. Trustee Cox asked if we vote to approve this budget then you have the authority to write checks all the way up to the budgeted amount? Supervisor Hopkins said yes, but that is not the goal. The goal is to spend as little as possible and buy the best services for our taxpayers. Trustee Cox said his point for the taxpayers, the goal is to use their taxpayer dollars as wise as we can. Trustee Milam asked if this was time to talk about the salaries for our positions. Supervisor Hopkins said no, we will probably do that next month or in August.

ASSESSOR POLETTI'S COMMENTS

None

ROAD COMMISSIONER TRUCANO'S COMMENTS

Once a week they have been spraying for mosquitos. They are going into neighborhoods where the covers are old and replacing them. They are paving Holiday Hills subdivision. They are going to pave Lou Drive and Lakeview Acres this year. His crew has been helping the Collinsville food pantry load trucks at Aldi's and take it to the food pantry to unload in the basement of the facility. The food pantry is supporting 16 communities. Supervisor Hopkins thanked Road Commissioner Trucano for sending his workers to help the food pantry.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Trustee Hopkins reported that the office staff has been doing a tremendous job still helping the community and being engaged with them. Vicky, Gabby, Lauri, Kelly, and Jennifer are doing a great job by working at the office and answering phones at home. They help people with LIHEAP, the Energy Assistance Program, with their power bills.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Hopkins asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley to adjourn the meeting. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 7:44 p.m.

Daniel R Hopkins, Township Supervisor

Cathy Allison, Township Clerk