

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 10, 2020 7:00 P.M.

OPENING

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the above date at the Collinsville Senior Center, 420 East Main Street, Collinsville, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Township Supervisor Terry Allan at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Trustee Mike Foley, Trustee James Stack, and Trustee Derrick Cox. Attorney Jack Daugherty, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano and Clerk Cathy Allison were also present.

Also present were Becky Loyet, Stephanie Malench, Cinda McGrew, Drew Gitchoff, Robert Milam, Paul Loyet, Matt Guenther, Mark Achenbach, Clinton Ball, Ron Jedda, Scott Rayho, Mead Dowling, Phil Astrauskas, Mark Achenbach, Al Woolen, Linda Bohnenstiehl, Mary Drumm, Justin Mattea and Morgan Hermanson.

MOTION AND VOTE TO APPROVE TRUSTEE PARTICIPATION BY CONFERENCE CALL

None made.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from February 11, 2020 board meeting was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

ACTION ITEMS

Accept resignation of township attorney – Clerk Allison read Attorney Daugherty's resignation letter. Motion to accept the resignation letter was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Discuss and vote filling of township attorney vacancy – Motion to appoint Justin Mattea as the township attorney was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Cox questioned Mr. Mattea if he was aware of the problems the board has had. Mr. Mattea said he had watched the videos. Trustee Cox asked if he was aware when the township unionized that one of the trustees that sat in on the meeting was the head of that union. The board also failed to pass a budget on time. He asked what experience Mr. Mattea had with municipal law. Mr. Mattea said he has spent time reviewing matters in watching the videos and reviewing the materials preparing for today. Trustee Cox said he would be interested in hearing what Mr. Mattea has to say about the items he mentioned. Mr. Mattea said if he is appointed, he would be happy to go over these things in detail with Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

Accept resignation of trustee – Clerk Allison read the resignation letter of Trustee Daniel Hopkins. Motion to accept the resignation letter was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Stack. Motion found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Discuss and vote filling of trustee vacancy – Trustee Cox said this is the fourth time the board has had to do this. He would like to have a discussion since this is an elected position. Attorney Mattea said by rule, it is an appointment now until the next election. Trustee Cox asked how long the board had to fill a vacancy. Attorney Mattea said 60 days but you don't have to wait. Trustee Cox said the board could wait until the annual meeting. He suggests the board hear from people who would like to apply and then vote at the next meeting. Attorney Mattea did not think anybody is applying. It is an appointed position. Trustee Cox would like to ask questions. Attorney Mattea said if Supervisor Allan recommends someone then the board can discuss that person. The board would vote on Supervisor Allan's suggestion. Trustee Cox asked why Supervisor Allan did not suggest Attorney Mattea for his position. Attorney Mattea thought he heard him do it. Trustee Cox said Trustee Foley made the motion. Motion to find out who would like to be appointed as township trustee was made by Trustee Cox. Motion died due to lack of a second. Supervisor Allan nominated Robert Milam. Trustee Cox asked Mr. Milam if he would have a problem with waiting until the next meeting. Mr. Milam said he would because that would be circumventing the Supervisor's roll. We will be having an election and at that time people can vote for who they want. Mr. Milam said the process is the process. If you don't believe in the process, there is probably a legal way to change it. Trustee Cox asked how he felt about the attendance record of the board in the last three years and what should the board expect from him. Mr. Milam said he will be at the meetings. Trustee Cox asked what issues he would like to see addressed. Mr. Milam said the major issue he would like to see addressed is the lot next door to the senior center. Trustee Cox asked how he felt about the Assessor's office charging two times as much as other places with the same parcels. Mr. Milam said he would like to know what the Assessor has to say about it. Trustee Cox asked if he thought it was fair that other people are being shut out. Mr. Milam said if Trustee Cox was the supervisor, that would be his purview. That is the supervisor's roll. Trustee Stack asked Mr. Milam if he intended to run for election in 2020. Mr. Milam said yes. He has lived here for 42 years and is well aware of the issues with this township. Trustee Stack asked if any of his family had been on this board. Mr. Milam said no. His mother was president of the Madison County Regional Board of Education. Trustee Cox does not think it is fair that the board is not allowed to hear from anyone else. Motion made to appoint Robert Milam as trustee was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote. Mr. Milam was sworn in by the Clerk.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Ball (Collinsville) He announced that he will be running for trustee in the next election. The behind the scenes operations on this board are pathetic. Hopefully, Attorney Mattea will be a nice guiding force in keeping the meeting in check and that the entire public will attend next month's meeting.

Matt Guenther (Collinsville) He will also be running for township trustee in 2020. He would have liked to have had an opportunity to speak and at least understand who was being put into this important position. Regarding the agenda, it is still lacking. No update on the lot. Nothing on the budget. As a taxpayer and township resident he is curious about this.

Mark Achenbach (Maryville) Mr. Achenbach read from 60 ILCS 1 60-5) Sec. 60-5, "Filling Vacancies in Township Offices". There is not a single word that says the supervisor appoints.

Ron Jedda (Collinsville) Requested a FOIA asking for the mileage records for various people in the township. He received mileage reports on Supervisor Terry Allan and Office Manager Vicky Jackson. Supervisor Allan travels from Collinsville to the Glen Ed Food Pantry in Edwardsville. His mileage sheets show 48 miles roundtrip. Google maps show 18.4 miles. Some of the reports show 32 miles and some 38 miles. There is an inconsistency. There are sheets with dates and with miles, but no destinations. These are signed and approved by Supervisor Allan. There is a sheet showing Supervisor Allan went to Glen Ed Food Pantry for 48 miles. Another sheet shows on the same day

Office Manager Jackson going to the pantry for 48 miles. Other dates show Office Manager Jackson going to the pantry for 38 miles and 32 miles. She also turned in on the same report she went to Edwardsville for training for 23 miles. There are a lot of inconsistencies. It is required by IRS that you document where your mileage is at and what you are getting reimbursed for. There is no oversight. It is a poor accounting system. Supervisor Allan's mileage should be approved by someone other than himself. Attorney Mattea asked if Mr. Jemma could get him copies of the mileage sheets.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, COMMITTEES OR SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Trustee Cox – He would like to put on the agenda for the next meeting to call for an audit of the travel expenses. It might not seem like a lot but over the years it adds up. Trustee Cox said the Township book is by Township Officials of Illinois and is basically a lobbying group. It is not the actual law. Trustee Foley said they do lobby, but that is set by state statute by the legislature. Not by TOI. Trustee Cox said he met with Carrie Ward of Republic Services. The township residents' trash contract is coming up. Trustee Cox and Ms. Ward met for breakfast to discuss what a new contract would look like. Attorney Mattea asked if Trustee Cox had shared this with the other trustees. He said that was what he was doing right now. Attorney Mattea asked if he had discussed it with them before the meeting. Trustee Cox said no. He and Ms. Ward discussed a price freeze or maybe a price deduction. Ms. Ward said she would get all those numbers to the board. He would like to get the board moving before the contract ends and maybe put it on the next agenda. Trustee Cox would like to hear from residents if they like the service. Attorney Mattea asked if he could give Ms. Ward's contact to the other trustees so they could contact her too. Trustee Cox said he would. He feels like Attorney Mattea thinks he is doing something illegal. Attorney Mattea said he was just asking because Trustee Cox was bringing it up now when earlier Trustee Cox had mentioned not sharing stuff before the meeting. He was just curious if he had shared this with everybody before the meeting. Trustee Cox said that is why he was doing it now. He said if the residents of the township like their trash service or if they want any changes, please let the board know. One suggestion is would the residents be interested in cutting back to two times a year for bulk pickup if it potentially decreased the cost. Ms. Ward said last year only about 50 people took advantage of the pickup.

Senior Director Loyet – We have four new bingo sponsors. Some of the sponsors will bring prizes at no cost to the senior center. He has added chair yoga. The instructor is 71 years old and is certified in chair yoga and has four other certifications. Chair exercise attendance has increased. There are 29 people attending. The craft club meets once a month. There have also been monthly educational presentations such as the Cahokia Mounds. Director Loyet has been organizing and cleaning the center. Every hour he has been sanitizing the door handles, bathroom faucets and wiping down tables. If there is something that needs to be addressed in the bathrooms and he would not be available, there are slips of paper that can be filled out and left at his office and he will check on the problem. He said that our cook, Cinda McGrew, has been doing a really good job with the food. Cinda has been here longer than him and has been giving him good advice on things he is not familiar with.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$7,777.04** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one abstain. Motion passed. Trustee Milam was the abstaining vote.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$608,162.98** was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Cox said the amount is excessive because Road & Bridge Office Manager Hoelscher had to move money from one account to another. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one abstain. Motion passed. Trustee Milam was the abstaining vote.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$111,866.37** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Cox asked if this included the assessor's care. Clerk Allison said it was

included in the bills. Assessor Poletti said the old one was ten years old. At that age they stop making parts for them. Trustee Cox questioned if the board would be seeing travel expenses from the assessor's office. Assessor Poletti said occasionally someone may use their personal car. All the mileage and where they go is logged in the car. Trustee Cox questioned all the clothes that were bought. Assessor Poletti said they are for when they go out in the field. So people know they are from the assessor's office. Trustee Cox asked if they would have a logo. Assessor Poletti said yes. Trustee Cox asked how often we do this. Assessor Poletti said every three to four years. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one abstain. Motion passed. Trustee Milam was the abstaining vote.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$6,487.17** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one abstain. Motion passed. Trustee Milam was the abstaining vote

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note to Director Loyet from Retired Teachers' Association, Madison County Ill for allowing them to hold their meetings at the Collinsville Senior Center.

Thank you note from Susan and Missy with First Student for helping the community.

Thank you note from Chief Steven Stelter and Jim Fitzpatrick with Special Olympics Illinois for the monetary donation.

Letter from Associated Bank regarding the transition of accounts from First National Bank to Associated Bank. Attorney Mattea explained that Associated Bank bought out First National Bank and accounts are being transitioned over. Trustee Stack asked if routing numbers were being changed. Attorney Mattea said Associated bought the routing numbers so they should be the same. But we should check for sure.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Bid for Tarco Windy 100 Leaf Machine – Bid received for the Tarco Windy 100 Leaf Machine has been cancelled. Commissioner Trucano said they will revisit it in the fall.

Discuss and Vote to Approve Annual Town Meeting Agenda – Trustee Stack sees no problem with the agenda. Trustee Cox asked if there were any petitions submitted. There was a letter from Attorney Philip Rarick explaining why the petitions were not used. The letter stated that "none of the foregoing items are matters within the power granted to the electors at the Annual Town meeting". Attorney Mattea explained that the petitioned items, at least as to salary, are specifically statute given to the board and are not given to the electors. Those are board matters. The supervisor is the supervisor of the General Assistance Fund and there is no authority to delegate that function. So, the contracting of the General Assistance Fund with the food pantries is also not a proper item for the electors under the statute. Trustee Cox asked if Attorney Mattea could give him guidance regarding what they could have voted on. Attorney Mattea said he would. Trustee Cox said they were asking for lowering of the supervisor and assessor's salary and the assessor's budget. Attorney Mattea said the statute gives the board power, so the electors do not have the power to override what the board does. The electors have decisions in other matters. Trustee Cox said the public will be able to stand up and talk at this meeting. The regular board meeting will be after that. Motion to approve the Annual Town Meeting agenda was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote with three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

ASSESSOR POLETTI'S COMMENTS

They have been doing homestead exception for seniors. One of the reasons seniors sign every year is to make sure they are still alive. If someone dies and the property doesn't get transferred hands, the assessor's office doesn't know about it. The law has changed, and they will be doing it by transfers going through this office. They will be spending more time going through the obituaries. There are a lot of different exemptions such as military exemption. We will have to administer them as well as the tax freeze. They will be reassessing some areas. We are starting to see a little bit of change in relative pricing between us and Edwardsville Township. Edwardsville looks like they probably hit top and are probably a little high above us in pricing. It used to be about a 15% difference between a house in Edwardsville and one on Collinsville Township. Especially towards Maryville. People like to see their house go up, but then they have to be reassessed. We are required now to go out and look and photograph every house every four years. That is the new law. We will be doing a lot more field work. Trustee Cox asked if that law was for every township. Assessor Poletti said it is supposed to be.

ROAD COMMISSIONER TRUCANO'S COMMENTS

They have been trimming trees and opening ditches.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Allan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack to adjourn the meeting. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:09 p.m.

Daniel R Hopkins, Township Supervisor

Cathy Allison, Township Clerk