

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

SPECIAL BUDGET VOTE MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 23, 2019 1:22 P.M.

OPENING

The special budget vote 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 Supervisor Terry Allan at 1:22 p.m.

PRESENT

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Trustee Foley, Trustee Cox, Trustee Hopkins, and Supervisor Allan. Township Attorney Jack Daugherty, Clerk Cathy Allison, Township Assessor Pete Poletti and Accountant James Ferris were also present. Trustee Jim Stack and Road Commissioner Larry Trucano were absent.

Also present were Eva Giovando, Bart Astrauskas, Clinton Ball, Kathy Hoelscher, Mary Drumm, Linda Bohnenstiehl, Mark Achenbach, M. Ramone Clark, Irene Wentzel, Carla Buckhannon, Al Woolen, Brandon Royer, and Scott Rayho.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Ball – Just an observation: Trustee Hopkins will make a motion and Trustee Foley will second it. Trustee Cox will vote no, Supervisor Allan will vote yes, Trustee Hopkins will vote yes, Trustee Foley will vote yes. There is your meeting.

Mary Drumm – Asked Attorney Daugherty if it was legal for the township to take the money out of the general assistance fund to by the door. Attorney Daugherty said yes. Ms. Drumm said if it is legal, it is immoral.

Mark Achenbach – In response to Trustee Hopkins and the purchase of the door. You calculate the social security; you make the social security payments out of that building. You do the same for IMRF. You do Road and Bridge out of that building. Did you take money out of all of those to help pay for that? He is sure you did not. Trustee Hopkins argument is not very good. If in fact the attorney is correct and it is legal, which Mr. Achenbach doubts it is. If that is correct, then you are doing it because your want to. Approving the bills is part of your job as a trustee. If the supervisor is pulling the money from the wrong fund and spending it, you should vote no. Of you do vote yes and it was done and was a mistake then put it back. The county assessor said other townships have a person in the township office to handle that. You can keep the money to do that. Someone would be in the office to help with walk-ins and phone calls.

Phil Astrauskas – Always led to believe the general assistance fund was a restricted fund and could only be used for assistance, salaries and the needs of the person working there. Has rent been charged in the past? Does not think it is right to take money out of this fund. Meeting time should be held in the evenings. IMRF we are paying \$70,000 for retirement fund. If you are under budget you can meet again and ask for 10% over what your office or facility was budgeted for.

VOTE ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES FOR COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP TOWN FUND, GENERAL ASSISTANCE AND ROAD DISTRICT FOR 2019/2020.

Discussion as to whether “tentative budget” is correct. Attorney Daugherty said at this time we are making the tentative budget the actual budget. Motion to approve Town Fund budget made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Trustee Cox requested to amend the motion to vote on the real budget and separate by different funds. No second on the motion. Attorney Daugherty ask if Supervisor Allan was asking for a motion to approve the Town Fund budget. Supervisor Allan said yes. Trustee Cox wants to amend the line items that can go into the IMRF. Trustee Hopkins does not want to move the IMRF money because that is a restricted fund. Once we put money in the IMRF fund it cannot be use for anything else. That is why Trustee Cox wants to put the money there. So someone cannot go out and buy a new car or another new door. Trustee Hopkins said the door was not \$40,000. That money was for the \$300,000 in improvements both buildings. It was not just for a door. There was also a new roof, safety glass, and new locks on the doors. Supervisor Allan asked how that started that it was for a door. Trustee Cox said the account said it was for the entrance way. Supervisor Allan said it was for the whole entranceway, not just a door. Trustee Hopkins said that Trustee Cox is saying things in public that are not true. Trustee Cox has a problem with it coming out of general assistance. Trustee Hopkins believes it is legal. If not, he will make the motion to transfer it back. Trustee Cox said on the assessor’s budget, he is just asking to budget what we had last year. We are already spending double compared to Edwardsville and other towns. Roll call found the vote four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

Motion to approve the General Assistance fund was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Attorney Daugherty explained that that is part of the Town Fund. Trustee Cox asked why Trustee Hopkins would second the motion made by Trustee Foley. Trustee Hopkins said it was not Trustee Cox’s purpose to question him. You serve as one member on this board. Questioning what he does or how he votes is not Trustee Cox’s responsibility. Trustee Cox said Trustee Foley made a motion to vote on the general assistance and Trustee Hopkins seconded it. You didn’t know what you both just voted on and made a motion on. Trustee Foley asked Mr. James Ferris is we had always voted for the town fund, general assistance and road and bridge separately. Mr. Ferris’ recollection is that we voted for the town fund, which includes general assistance, in one vote. Then voted to approve the road and bridge. Motion to approve the Road and Bridge budget was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PENDING OR THREATENED LITIGATION

Motion to go into executive session was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 1:47 pm.

Motion to return to regular meeting was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Voice vote found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 2:20 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Allan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Hopkins to adjourn the meeting. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Motion passed. Time 2:21 p.m.

Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

Cathy Allison, Township Clerk