

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019 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 Supervisor Terry Allan at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Supervisor Allan asked for a moment of silence for Al Artimisi, former director of the Collinsville Senior Center, who had recently passed away. After the moment of silence, roll call was taken with the following members present: Trustee Foley, Trustee Cox, Trustee Hopkins, Trustee Stack and Supervisor Allan. Township Attorney Jack Daugherty, Clerk Cathy Allison, and Highway Supervisor Larry Trucano were also present. After the roll call, per the agenda, a motion and vote to approve trustee participation by conference call. Trustee Cox read from the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Sec. 7. "Attendance by a means other than physical presence. (a) If a quorum of the members of the public body is physically present as required by Section 2.01, a majority of the public body may allow a member of that body to attend the meeting by other means if the member is prevented from physically attending because of: (i) personal illness or disability; (ii) employment purposes or the business of the public body; or (iii) a family or other emergency. "Other means" is by video or audio conference." Trustee Cox also read "A majority of the public body may allow a member to attend a meeting by other means only in accordance with and to the extent allowed by rules adopted by the public body." Trustee Hopkins said we have them and Attorney Daugherty agreed. Trustee Cox asked if vacation was not a reason to call in. Attorney Daugherty said that was correct.

Also present were Cinda McGrew, Kathy Hoelscher, Dawn Barton, Matt Guenther, Clinton Ball, Mary Meadows, Alan Lickan, Carla Buckhannon, Irene Wentzel, Ramona Clark, Vicky Jackson, Mary Drumm, Al Woolen, Linda Bohnenstiehl, Debra Oberkfell, Lawrence Oberkfell, Mark Achenbach, Phil Astrauskas, Scott Rayho and Babette Cox.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Clerk Allison said there were minutes for the August 13, 2019 meeting and two for the August 23, 2019 special meeting for the budget. Trustee Cox asked that we vote on them separately. Motion to approved August 13, 2019 meeting minutes was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to amend one section of the August 23, 2019 special budget hearing was made by Trustee Cox. It says that Trustee Hopkins noted that this meeting was scheduled before Trustee Stack was appointed to the board and that Trustee Stack is currently out of the country. Trustee Cox would like added that this was not the case and he asked what month the budget vote was scheduled. Trustee Hopkins said in July. Trustee Cox said why was Trustee Stack paid in June if he wasn't appointed. Trustee Hopkins said that he meant that Trustee Stack's travel was scheduled before he was appointed to the board. Trustee Cox said that the minutes do not have to be verbatim. They just have to tell the right story. Trustee Cox would like to just strike everything that trustee Hopkins said. Trustee Hopkins said he was trying to note the fact that Trustee Stack had his travel scheduled before he was appointed

to the board. Trustee Cox said if it was him and he had two to three months to change his travel plans, then he would change them. That is his point. Trustee Hopkins would like to have the minutes amended that the travel was scheduled before Trustee Stack was appointed to the board. Trustee Foley seconded the motion. Attorney Daugherty said Trustee Cox already made a motion and that motion needs to be entertained. Trustee Foley said it did not get a second. Attorney Daugherty said there was not an opportunity. Trustee Cox would like added that he noted that that was not the case what Trustee Hopkins said on the minutes and what actually occurred. No second was made. Motion failed. Motion to approve the special budget hearing minutes of August 23, 2019 was made by Trustee Foley. Clerk Allison asked what was being amended. Trustee Foley said he backed Trustee Hopkins' amendment. Attorney Daugherty said the agenda item was the minutes. Trustee Cox began discussing an amendment. Trustee Foley said Trustee Cox did not make a motion for an amendment. Attorney Daugherty said he did. Trustee Hopkins said Trustee Cox made an amendment for striking that line and Trustee Hopkins was not going to second that strike. Attorney Daugherty said either there is a motion to amend minutes or a motion to approve the minutes as they stand is what's in order. Motion to approve the minutes as submitted was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one nay. Motion approved. Trustee Cox was the nay vote. Motion to approve the August 23, 2019 special budget vote minutes was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Trustee Cox would like one thing amended. The minutes state that Trustee Foley made a motion to vote on general assistance and Trustee Hopkins seconded it. Trustee Cox said this is the same motion that he just made and was ignored. Trustee Hopkins said that has no relevance to the minutes. No second on the amendment. Motion failed. Roll call on the motion to approve minutes as submitted found the vote with four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Matt Guenther – Asked how soon the agenda is published online. Clerk Allison said it is posted 48 hours before the meeting. Mr. Guenther spoke about how the board paid approximately \$600 for a 38 second meeting when Trustee Stack joined in June. It is his understanding that it will now be an ongoing thing that the board wants to approve attending by phone. He feels that this is being done to impede votes. He asked if the bylaws are reviewed every year and when a candidate is recommended for a position, do they make sure that they are able to fulfill the obligations. Mr. Guenther also asked if there is a supervisor pro-tem to fill in for Supervisor Allan if he is absent. He asked the board members if they feel like they truly earn their pay.

Phil Astrauskas – In regard to some of his properties being over assessed, he just wanted to say that this was taken care off as good or better that what his taxes were prior to the re-assessment. He encourages anybody who has an issue with being over assessed to have the assessor come out and look at their property. Mr. Astrauskas said any motion made must be put in the minutes and then stated that it died for a lack of a second. President pro-tem is usually the elected official with the most seniority. He asked if the board had voted tonight on participation by conference call. Attorney Daugherty said that this was not a question and answer period, but he wanted to comment so people understood what the board is doing. This motion will be a rolling agenda item and will be on every regular meeting agenda going forward in case this topic comes up and a trustee wants to attend by phone or other conference method and if it is an approved reason to be absent.

Mary Drumm – Feels that it is rude that board members do not speak up or look at you when you are speaking to them. She said she has been waiting five months for an answer to her question that she had asked at the annual town meeting regarding what reason the board had choosing Don Sonnenberg over Leon Alexander. She was told by the moderator, Marleen Suarez, that she would get her an answer to that question. She asked if the reason was because Trustee Cox voted to have him on the board. She would like an answer by the end of tonight's meeting.

Carla Buckhannon – How can the board vote on a budget that allows you to spend twice the money that you have coming in. The taxpayers trust that the board will manage the money well. When Trustee Cox suggests something, he is always voted against. She feels the board is not here for the people.

Linda Bohnenstiehl – She thanked the board for what they do. As far as attendance and the money the board makes, this is one segment of government. She trusts the board to represent her.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

Trustee Cox – Thanked everyone for attending the meeting. The absences have been a problem. He spoke before that perhaps there should be a recommendation that if you miss a meeting that you donate your pay to the Collinsville Senior Center. This is only a recommendation. He hoped that would fix the problem. He just wants it to be better than 50% attendance. Trustee Cox takes his position very seriously. If his family has a vacation planned that falls on a meeting night, then he would just not go on vacation. There are tough decisions to make but being here should not be one of them. He asked who made the decision to add the motion on the agenda for every meeting. Attorney Daugherty said he approved it. Trustee Cox does not understand how a trustee can approve the prior meeting minutes when he doesn't know what happened at the meeting. Trustee Cox said he signed up to make this board better. He would like to have by the next meeting a calendar of yearly events for the trustees that we can all review.

Jim Stack – One of the big issues during the budget meeting was the fact that it was said that this was a tentative budget. A constituent had commented that a tentative budget is not really the budget. Trustee Stack read the meaning of a tentative budget refers to the budget before it is adopted. He said there was nothing wrong with being stated that it was a tentative budget. It was tentative until voted on and approved by law. Trustee Cox asked Attorney Daugherty if he had any comment on that. Attorney Daugherty said he had a similar conversation with the concerned citizen. He said the budget and ordinance were properly adopted. Trustee Cox asked if it was worded properly on the agenda. Attorney Daugherty did not think the wording of the agenda in anyway impacted the appropriate reason.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for \$12,237.19 was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for \$149,400.60 was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Equipment Fund bills for \$44,900.00 was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for \$122,814.01 was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Trustee Cox asked if the board thought it would be good to separate out because we have different budgets within the town fund. Maybe meet with Office Manager Vicky Jackson. Supervisor Allan said we could meet. Trustee Cox asked if the \$3000.00 was for new computers. Office Manager Jackson said it was for the computers. She said it was passed last year during the GASB54 Plan. Trustee Cox asked Attorney Daugherty if he was still going into the township office. Attorney Daugherty said yes, and he has tried to do it on a limited basis. He said his invoices have been saying just legal services and he does not think that is adequate. He has instructed the person

preparing his invoices to describe specifically what he has done. The invoices are public record. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Township Senior Center bills for \$4,660.07 was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Thank you note from Karen Garner, First United Methodist Church for helping with the summer Tote Me Home bags. Thank you note from Jessie Hoskins, Commander, American Legion for donation of a cabinet. Memorandum from Bryan Smith, Executive Director, Township Official of Illinois (TOI) regarding 2020 Legislative Survey. Memorandum from Joe Bolt, Program Coordinator, Madison County Community Development regarding payments for Outreach Services October 1, 2018 – May 31, 2019. Invitation from Chanelle Smith, Italian Fest Committee to attend opening ceremonies at the Italian Fest. Letter from Amy Lyerla, Community Services Planner, Madison County Community Development regarding 2019 Community Service Block Grant Program (CSBG) monitoring of senior meals.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Update on PEP Grant items for Township Senior Center – Office Manager Jackson said a grant was submitted last year to the county for \$11,759.89. The first disbursement check was received in May for \$9,361.79. The next group of bills were re-submitted in June. After not receiving a response, Office Manager Jackson contacted the county. She received an email from James Arnold saying that the accounting department wanted our bank statements to show where the funds had been paid. Copies have been submitted. That will be another \$1,584.78. This leaves a grant balance of \$813.32. Mr. Arnold also stated that whatever was turned in at the time of the grant, that is the only items they will pay for. They will not pay for anything extra. Trustee Cox said the number we submitted and was approved was \$15,000.00. Office Manager Jackson said the email Mr. Arnold sent showed \$11,759.89 was approved. Trustee Cox said he talked with Mr. Arnold last week and he said we have \$5000.00. Trustee Cox said new equipment was ordered for the senior center but there were still three or four items that we haven't received. When he had asked when we were going to order these items, there was a blow-up with the board. He did not know if that was why it was not able to be ordered. Trustee Cox asked Senior Center Director April Hausman if it was for \$15,000.00. Director Hausman said she could not remember the exact dollar amount. She said we received a discount on a couple of items ordered. It was going to end up being less. Trustee Cox asked if all the items that were approved had been ordered. Director Hausman said they have not because of all the stuff with the board and with the budget not being approved. Office Manager Jackson said once Mr. Arnold sends the check for \$1584.78, he will send a balance of what is left. Trustee Cox said he would check with Mr. Arnold tomorrow. Office Manager Jackson said we have started compiling a list for next year to turn in another grant. We have come up with a list and tried to come up with exact figures. Trustee Cox has a letter signed from Mr. Allan that he is the designated person in charge of this account. He wants Director Hausman to know that this board already voted to approve it and that she could go out to get those items that the county said we could do. Director Hausman said that at the time it was ordered it was then the board blew-up asking why we were ordering items that the board did not vote on and it was only her and Trustee Cox discussing things. Trustee Cox told her not to be nervous about that. Director Hausman stopped ordering things until the board was on the same page with each other. Trustee Cox will check with Mr. Arnold to see what items we still have. Office Manager Jackson said she has a list of the items that were submitted.

Office Manager Jackson also wanted to say that before school started the township held a backpack program at the senior center. The township helped over 400 students with school supplies for the year.

We had very few volunteers to help. We have the same volunteers come in every year and we have asked several times for help. There were a couple of people who contributed school supplies like Collinsville Building and Loan and the Collinsville Food Pantry. It was posted on the township website and flyers handed out. Office Manager Jackson said that the township will be doing Christmas baskets. Anyone is welcomed to volunteer or donate. Every year the township does 200 families. Supervisor Allan said the township has done both school supplies and Christmas baskets for many years.

NEW BUSINESS

Donation Request from Collinsville Kahok Boys Soccer Program

Clerk Allison had received a donation request from the Collinsville Kahok Boys Soccer Program. She had received an email that their representative would be unable to attend tonight's meeting but that Mr. Clay Smith would be attending. Trustee Cox said Mr. Clay is the athletic director and that he spoke with him and that they would like the request stricken from the agenda.

Discuss Township Investments

Trustee Cox said a few months ago a citizen had brought up information about what we were getting in return on our investments. The township was in violation of holding too much of the taxpayer's dollars which he wanted to give back. If we could get a good investment on it as far as interest rates, that would save the taxpayers money. The citizen's FOIA request showed we were getting far less than the other board Supervisor Allan sits on. Trustee Cox said even at FCB Bank a regular citizen can get 2.5% right now. Office Manager Jackson said that is what the township is getting. Trustee Cox asked if we have looked at things and where are we standing with the investments. Supervisor Allan said if you look at the differences the others may have a lot more money invested. Trustee Hopkins said he has said before that it is not the board's decision on investments. The supervisor, by state law, is the treasurer of our funds. It is his decision and his decision alone. The board has no say so in it. Trustee Cox asked Trustee Hopkins if someone came to him with a problem with their township road, was Trustee Hopkins saying it's not his duty to say to the road commissioner that we have a problem with this road. Trustee Cox said his point is that a citizen came to the board with FOIA information from the township. He had information that we were getting far less in investments. Trustee Cox said this board deserves the right to know how much we are getting on interest. We can make a recommendation to our supervisor. Then he can say "no, I'm not going to listen to my board" and just keep getting a half-percent at FCB. Trustee Cox wants to know how much we are getting on interest and if we make changes. Trustee Hopkins asked Trustee Cox if he had a copy of the monthly fund report in his packet. Trustee Cox said yes. Trustee Hopkins said so we are informed. He said putting words in his mouth if a road collapsed that he wouldn't call anybody is not true. Trustee Hopkins has talked to Road Commissioner Trucano about three different issues in the last month. After it was brought up at the last meeting and Mr. Jedda spoke on it at the meeting before, Trustee Hopkins spoke to Supervisor Allan after that meeting and the next day and gave him some options. He talks to them on a one to one basis. He does not make a spectacle of it. Trustee Cox said his job is to make sure we are getting the right investments. Trustee Stack asked if we are comparing apples to oranges. Are we talking about fixing a road and/or talking about investments? Supervisor Allan said everything is always checked. Stop by the office if you have any questions. Trustee Cox said the basic job of the board is to make sure we are getting the right interest rate. Trustee Foley said he probably talks to several hundred people who have questions in a years' time. If it is a comment about an assessment, he directs them where they need to go. If it is something with township, he directs them to Supervisor Allan. If it is something with the roads, he directs them to Road Commissioner Trucano or Office Manager Kathy Hoelscher. Trustee Foley does not want to be accused of not helping anyone.

Executive Session To Discuss Pending Or Potential Litigation

Trustee Foley recommended going to the assessor’s and road commissioner’s comments so the public would not have to stay during executive session. Motion made to amend the agenda and move the executive session to the last item so we can complete the other items on the agenda made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

ASSESSOR POLETTI’S COMMENTS None

ROAD COMMISSIONER TRUCANO’S COMMENTS We are in line with everything. Mowing, oiling and chipping. There are a couple of intergovernmental agreements that will be signed with Maryville and Pontoon Beach. We will give them a hand on hard surfacing some roads. We have a good relationship with Maryville and Pontoon Beach.

Phil Astrauskas asked about the resignation letter. Trustee Stack said it would be handled in closed session.

Motion to move to executive session was may by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Motion approved by acclamation. Time 7:50 p.m.

Motion to return to regular meeting was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Voice vote found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:17 p.m.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Allan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Hopkins to adjourn the meeting. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Time 8:19 p.m.

Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

Cathy Allison, Township Clerk