

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 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 Milam and Supervisor Daniel Hopkins. Clerk Cathy Allison, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano, Assessor Pete Poletti, and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Mary Meadows, Scott Rayho, Brandon Loyet, Vicky Jackson, Becky Loyet, and Stephanie Malench.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Trustee Stack requested people who call in to please use their last name. Trustee Foley agreed and if they are a resident to give their address. Trustee Cox said this was discussed a couple of years ago why we didn't think that was necessary. Trustee Cox asked if there is someone else on the line that wants to make a public comment, are they allowed to or do they have to go through the process. Supervisor Hopkins said the process is on the agenda. He is assuming they can speak if we know their name and they are showing up on the list for the conference. Trustee Cox said to be clear, under Supervisor Hopkins, you have to pre-register. He doesn't think that is fair at all that a citizen has to pre-register. Trustee Foley said you have to do it at the City Council and the Village of Maryville. That is how the rules run. Trustee Cox said at the regular meetings they would show up and sign in and be allowed to speak. Supervisor Hopkins asked Attorney Mattea if the thought it would be ok by changing those rules mid-meeting here. Attorney Mattea said the procedure set up isn't that much different than the Madison County Board procedure. They require people to email in their questions ahead of the meeting. That makes the procedure easier if people read the agenda and sign up in advance. It makes the meeting flow a lot smoother. We are not asking them to disclose the content of what to discuss. Trustee Cox said we are just making another step that he does not think is necessary.

Mary Meadows – She has an issue with the salaries that are going to be discussed. The salaries and the pension plans are out of control. The board members should consider the retirees and the amount of real estate taxes that you are literally taxing us out of our homes. She would like to see the budget balanced and reduced by 25%. She feels the resignation of Mr. Hopkins as the trustee and then later appointed as the supervisor was strictly an underhanded and non-transparent deal.

ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and Vote to approve donation to Junior Service Club Golf Scramble – Supervisor Hopkins said the Junior Service Club is having a golf scramble on October 4, 2020. They do a lot of good in the community. They are a 501c3, so we are allowed to donate to them. A tee sponsor is \$100, a snack sponsor is \$200 and there are other ones. Trustee Cox asked if we did this last year.

Supervisor Hopkins said we have donated in the past. Motion to donate \$200 for a snack sponsor was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Stack was the nay vote.

Discuss and Vote to Adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard for IMRF Participation, Resolution 2020-R01 – Supervisor Hopkins said the purpose of this resolution is to save the township money. Currently, we have been under a 600 hour standard and there is an option to have a 1,000 hour standard. Part-time employees, mainly at the Road & Bridge, that work more than 600 hours requires the Township to start paying into the IMRF pension. This is a savings to the Township because it puts our standard at 1000 hours. If they work less than 1,000 hours, we do not have to pay for a pension. It is a saving to the taxpayers. Motion to adopt the Annual 1,000 Hour Standard for IMRF Participation, Resolution 2020-R01 was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Stack asked if at the 600 hours right now, do we have to start paying into IMRF. Supervisor Hopkins said the Township starts paying at 601 hours. Trustee Stack asked how many people we have done that for before. Supervisor Hopkins said as far as he knows there have been none. Road and Bridge is asking to do it. Commissioner Trucano said he wants to do it, so they do not have to pay into IMRF. If he gets the 1,000 hours, it will help a lot. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion Passed.

Discuss and Vote Setting of Compensation of Township Officials for the Four-Year Term beginning May 17, 2021, Resolution 2020-R02 – Supervisor Hopkins said he is proposing the supervisor's salary be reduced to \$52,000. Trustee Cox asked what the current annual salaries were. Supervisor Hopkins said currently they are \$68,109.08 for the supervisor, \$6,963.25 for the trustees, \$62,245.82 for the road commissioner, \$60,145.80 for the assessor, and \$15,309.82 for the clerk. Trustee Cox said to make it fair to cut 25% across the board. That includes trustees, supervisor, assessor, highway commissioner. Everybody. That would save us over \$60,000. He thinks 25% across the board is a smart start. Trustee Milam asked if the board was going to vote on each individual one. Supervisor Hopkins said the board will vote on the resolution. We need to come to a consensus of what numbers to put in there. Technically, this is one document with all the salaries on it we are supposed to adopt. It will be one vote. Trustee Cox said they have always been raised or stayed the same. Trustee Milam thinks the trustees should be paid nothing. If you're doing it for the money, you are doing it for the wrong reason. Trustee Cox wished the trustees would show up. Trustee Milam wished some of us had jobs like Trustee Cox. Supervisor Hopkins said he explained at the last meeting that Trustee Milam was working and that he was called out on a nighttime job. Motion made to cut all salaries by 25% was made by Trustee Cox. Trustee Milam proposed they go to zero for the trustees. That is why he thinks there should be a vote on each one. Supervisor Hopkins asked Trustee Cox if his motion was for every elected official. Trustee Cox said it was for every elected Collinsville Township official. Supervisor Hopkins said you have to look at the assessor and the road and bridge commissioner. They have a whole lot more responsibilities. Supervisor Hopkins proposal is \$52,000 for the supervisor, clerk stays the same, \$300 for trustees, and assessor and highway commissioner would stay the same. Commissioner Trucano said the last four years the wages have been frozen. He feels the commissioner position is a different situation than the supervisor or the assessor. Trustee Foley said if all a trustee does is attend a meeting once a month, then shame on you. He takes a lot of phone calls in a month's time over things happening in the township. Assessor Poletti said Trustee Cox has people upset about the taxes. His office has not heard all the complaints that Trustee Cox keeps coming up with. Trustee Cox said you don't have them because you are not there. Assessor Poletti said he does not hear it from his employees. He said Trustee Cox came by one time to talk about the multipliers and Edwardsville. Trustee Cox found out that our multipliers have been better about 75% of the time than Edwardsville. He was told that, but he would never tell that to the public. Trustee Cox said we are talking about salaries. Assessor Poletti said he wanted to correct Commissioner Trucano. They have not received a raise in the last 8 years. Assessor Poletti thinks the board should put a 5% raise on and 2.5% per year. He said somebody is going to replace him one of these days. Supervisor Hopkins asked for a second on Trustee Cox's motion. No second was made. Motion died for lack of a second. Motion to make the supervisor's salary \$52,000, the clerk stay at \$15,309.82, road commissioner \$62,145.80, assessor \$60,145.80 and the trustees be \$3600 was

made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Cox. Trustee Cox wanted to clarify what Supervisor Hopkins said. He said \$300 a month is 25% less. It is actually more than 25%. Supervisor Hopkins said it is a bigger decrease. Trustee Cox is trying to save the most money. The bigger salaries are not being touched. Supervisor Hopkins said his motion was \$16,000 off the supervisor's salary. Clerk Allison reread the motion: to make the supervisor's salary \$52,000, the clerk, assessor and road commissioner stays the same and the trustee's salary \$3600 annual. Roll call on the motion found four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Foley was the nay vote.

Reports by Officers, Committees and Special Committees

Trustee Cox – He does not think it is right to make our citizens pre-register to talk in an open meeting. It is a shame that we couldn't be of help for funding the Collinsville Unit 10 families for childcare. Last year we did not do the tutoring program. Trustee Cox wants families to know it is still happening. The number to call is 346-5600 if your family needs help with childcare. Trustee Cox asked who was doing the trash. Supervisor Hopkins said currently the attorneys for Waste Management and our attorney are working out the contract. Trustee Cox said the contract we voted on started on September 1, 2020. Supervisor Hopkins said we still have Republic Services doing it. Trustee Cox asked who he should call to get trash. Supervisor Hopkins said currently Republic is still the trash service.

Trustee Stack – He is bothered by the whole situation of having children in the senior center. We never had a vote on it. He would like to make a proposal that we put this on the agenda for next month's meeting that we vote whether or not this continues. Trustee Foley said we did have a vote and it was a tie. That means it goes down. Trustee Stack said it was also said we could not do that. That it could be who decides they want to do this. He wants this to go to a vote. Trustee Foley said someone deciding to do it is not how it works. Supervisor Hopkins said the board has the right to override the supervisor for the use of the building.

Trustee Foley – The lady from the YMCA said they were going to clean up the Senior Center. He did not mean to just wipe down things. We have a contract with the county for early voting and people voting shouldn't have to go through that. The YMCA should have to pay for total fumigating it. Supervisor Hopkins said they will not be using the room we are using. It will probably be a moot point in about a week or two because they will probably be going to full time learning. Trustee Stack said he spoke to the attorney who wrote the Red Book and she said you have to put anything like that in front of the board. Trustee Cox said the supervisor took unilateral action and allowed that to happen.

Trustee Milam – He finds it ironic the voters use the senior center and kids are now using the senior center, but seniors are not allowed in there. It is their center. If they want to come there at their own risk, then they should be able to use it. Supervisor Hopkins has a call in to the health department to find out what our choices are now. Trustee Cox said if you follow the science and the statistics, this discriminates against seniors. If a senior gets sick, they are much more vulnerable for bad things to happen. He does not think it is safe. Trustee Milam said but it is safe to have kids running around. The senior center was built for seniors, not a daycare center.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$6,185.73** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Trustee Stack had become disconnected from the meeting.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$147,884.78** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Trustee Stack had become disconnected from the meeting.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$120,367.99**. Motion to approve Town Fund bills made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Milam. Trustee Cox asked if the tuckpointing was ever bid on. Supervisor Hopkins said he got two bids. Trustee Cox asked if the board never voted on that. Supervisor Hopkins said no. He had told the board that it needed to be done right away. Trustee Cox asked why didn't the supervisor tell us the bids. The board deserves to know instead of unilaterally make decisions that affect the taxpayers. Roll call found the vote with three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox voted aye but rescinded his vote to nay. Trustee Stack had become disconnected from the meeting.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$1461.01** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Trustee Stack had become disconnected from the meeting.

Correspondence – Clerk Allison read a thank you note from the Collinsville Building and Loan Association and from Lauri Fischer with Twin Echo School.

New Business – None

Unfinished Business – None

Assessor's Comments - None

Road Commissioner's Comments – Rock and chipped some our roads and the Village of Maryville roads. Cleaning up and repairing washouts from the flooding that occurred. We will be blacktopping Bill-Lou Drive in Lake View Acres. No word yet on Lebanon Road project. We were going to begin the right-of-way purchases, but then COVID hit. We are now waiting.

Supervisor's Comments – The brick work is done on the office. The office is still working at 50% capacity. Citizens are still being served.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Hopkins asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Milam and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Trustee Stack had become disconnected from the meeting. Time 8:02 p.m.

Supervisor Daniel Hopkins

Clerk Cathy Allison