

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 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. Supervisor Hopkins started the meeting with a moment of silence for Road Commissioner Larry Trucano. Mr. Trucano passed away on October 4, 2020.

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, and Supervisor Daniel Hopkins. Trustee Milam was absent due to work. Clerk Cathy Allison, Assessor Pete Poletti, and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Clint Ball, Scott Rayho, Albert Woolen, Mike Recklein, Chuck Oberkfell, Stephanie Malench, Amy Bridges, Jim Trucano, Shelly Trucano, Zak Kasberg, Denny Ferraro, Kathy Hoelscher, Susan Halwachs, Blake Trucano, Becky Loyet, and Kevin Weigers.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from the September 9, 2020 board meeting was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Halwachs – Ms. Halwachs is concern about what is happening in the township. She had ordered trash service in the township and still does not have the proper cans. She was told when they delivered the cans that they were completely out. They had a truckload of cans and they delivered the little ones. She is paying for the bigger ones. The person told her they were out and can't deliver them. He said he would bring them back to her. Three weeks later she still doesn't have them. The person that delivered them told her to put her bags out on the street. She knew this was not the right thing to do. She called the company and told them she needed her trash bins. They said they would deliver on Monday, but they didn't. They said they would bring them on Friday, but she still has the same cans. On her Monday morning pick-up, she took her bags out and stopped the driver. She told him she was supposed to put the bags out. He told her she couldn't do that. She asked what was going on and he told her there were issues with Collinsville Township. He couldn't tell her when she would be getting her cans due to the issues. She doesn't think this is fair. She called the company and asked if they could bring them out. They said they would bring them out on next Monday's run. Her issue is that some of the things that are happening in the township are not fair to Collinsville residents. Attorney Mattea said he would like to contact Republic Services on her behalf. He offered her is office number so she could call him. Mrs. Halwachs said she would look his phone number up. Supervisor Hopkins documented her number to give to Attorney Mattea.

Clint Ball – Mr. Ball had questions on the action items. He said Supervisor Hopkins unilaterally opened the Senior Center for the YMCA Childcare Program. Why are we discussing and voting on continuing to allow the childcare program? We are still unable to use it for the seniors due to the COVID restrictions. He thinks it would be a travesty to kick the kids out. He hopes the board will clarify what the vote is about and vote to continue allowing the YMCA to use the facility. He would like to know the clarification on why we are voting to rebid the trash contract.

Mr. Ball has been attending the meetings for a couple of years and he hasn't heard the board discuss the investments that the township has. He would like to make sure the board is continuing their quarterly process for reporting those investments.

ACTION ITEMS

Board to discuss and vote on continuing to allow the YMCA Childcare Program the use of the Senior Center – Supervisor Hopkins said the YMCA has told him they will be done using the facility as of this Friday. They will not be present while we have early voting. Trustee Cox said a lot of people are not aware of what is going on concerning the YMCA. The Senior Center sat empty all spring and summer. When school was to start for only a couple of days a week, that left some Unit 10 families that work in a real bind. The Collinsville Superintendent wanted to help these families with much needed tutoring and lunches. The Collinsville Unit 10, working with the YMCA, was providing all the teachers, the childcare, the cleaning and even the insurance that was necessary. This was not costing Collinsville Township extra. If we cannot help now, then when. Trustee Stack said he asked for the vote to be on the agenda. These seniors are upset that kids are being able to use the facility, but they can't. It's not fair. He wanted to have a vote to basically override Supervisor Hopkins on this situation. He is not going to pursue this tonight and would like to have it pulled off the agenda because they do not have enough votes. Trustee Foley said he is not against the YMCA, the kids or parents, but that is not what the center is for. The YMCA has plenty of room at their place. Trustee Cox said we have to protect the vulnerable. He said we can't be doing what Trustee Stack is pushing for to just pack the center with elderly folks. Trustee Stack said there are a lot of limitations to using the facility. They cannot come in without a mask and stay six feet apart or better. Trustee Cox said if a senior gets it and is in our center and spreads it to other seniors, this is a disaster waiting to happen. Trustee Stack asked why the schools aren't opening up and why are they contracting to the YMCA and paying the YMCA. Trustee Cox said Collinsville Unit 10 was fully supported of this program and were offering to help with some of the teachers and childcare. Don't say that Unit 10 has just kicked everybody to the curb. Trustee Foley and Trustee Stack both said they did not say that. Trustee Stack asked Trustee Cox where he got that. Supervisor Hopkins asked if Trustee Stack wanted to table this item until the next meeting. Trustee Stack said yes. Motion made to table the vote until the next meeting was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Trustee Cox asked if it is saying they can stay as long as they want to. Supervisor Hopkins said yes, but they already have told him they were leaving this Friday. Trustee Cox asked if the board is saying the seniors can go back in. Trustee Stack said no. Supervisor Hopkins will look into it after the election. Roll Call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Vote to approve a memorial for Larry Trucano – Supervisor Hopkins said the family of Larry Trucano suggested three different places for a memorial: Anderson Hospital, their church and the Illinois Center for Autism. Supervisor Hopkins would like Anderson Hospital, since it is in our township and they help our residents with healthcare. A motion to donate \$300 to Anderson Hospital for a memorial for Larry Trucano was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Vote to approve rebidding of trash service contract for Township residents – Supervisor Hopkins said there were a couple of issues with the contract. Trustee Cox asked how it could be a rebid. Supervisor Hopkins said Waste Management could not provide the service in time and we could not come to an agreement on the contract. Republic Service is saying we should have advertised in the paper. We are only required to advertise the public bid in a newspaper if the township will be spending more than \$20,000. We are spending nothing. Trustee Cox said people deserve to have their trash pick-up on a timely basis. Why are we rebidding? Why are we cancelling Waste Management's contract? Supervisor Hopkins said we are not cancelling any contract because we never executed a contract with Waste Management. Motion to approve to rebid for a trash service contract for township residents was made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Cox said we already voted to execute a contract with Waste Management two months ago. Trustee Foley said no, we did not. Attorney Mattea said Republic Services will not continue service at this point unless the township approves to rebid. We were not able to consummate a contract with Waste Management and they were not able to provide service in time. If the board votes not to rebid, you may put the township residents at risk of actually not having any service for a period of time. Attorney Mattea asked the board to consider this when you consider your vote. Trustee Cox asked if we would get sued from Waste Management. Attorney Mattea said Waste Management has said they would like to know when the rebidding would be and they would be happy to present a new bid, along with Republic Services. Trustee Cox said we voted as a board to accept Waste Management's contract and conditions and to execute the contract. Supervisor Hopkins and Trustee Foley said that was not correct. Attorney Mattea said his recollection was the vote was to give Supervisor Hopkins authority to execute a

contract consistent with the bid amount that Waste Management gave. We were never able to agree to the terms of the contract, so no contract was ever signed. Republic Services in the meantime is continuing service. He was disappointed to learn how Republic Services treated Ms. Halwachs. He has already attempted to contact Republic Services. Trustee Cox said his fear is that Waste Management will turn around and sue us. Attorney Mattea said Waste Management has indicated to him that they are ready to rebid and participate in the rebidding process. They have not threaten to sue the township like Republic Services did. Trustee Cox said Republic Services threatened to sue because we never bid the contract out legally. Attorney Mattea said no, Republic Services made a claim that the statute applied in our situation which required publication. He is not sure if that statute does apply. Regardless, if everybody today votes to rebid the trash contract, he thinks it is a good idea to go ahead and publish this time even though he doesn't think the statute applies. That makes everybody happy, nobody is complaining and gives everybody a chance. Even other companies we haven't specifically notified. Trustee Cox said we are doing what we should have done five months ago. Attorney Mattea said those are the words you are using. He is not sure if we should have done it that way. But if we are going to redo it, let's do it that way. Roll call found the vote with three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Foley was the nay vote.

Fill Vacancy of Township Road & Bridge Commissioner – Motion to nominate Jim Trucano to fill Larry's position for the rest of his term was made by Supervisor Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Trustee Stacked asked if Supervisor Hopkins had talked to Jim. Supervisor Hopkins said yes, he had. Trustee Foley had also spoke to him. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Trustee Cox – Wanted to address the personal attack Trustee Milam made on him at the last meeting. When Trustee Cox had said what bothers him is that when we only have one meeting a month, you just simply have to call in. He said Trustee Milam then stated a couple times he has a job unlike me. Trustee Cox pays more in taxes and maybe that is why he cares more than Trustee Milam, Trustee Foley, Trustee Stack and Supervisor Hopkins. He does have a job and he cares that we the taxpayers are treated fairly. All the work he has is scheduled around Collinsville Township. It wasn't right to make a personal attack and claim that Trustee Cox didn't have a job like him.

Clerk Allison – Said she had sent out an email regarding the 113th Annual Education Conference of Township Officials. She asked if anyone was planning on attending. It would be a Zoom meeting. Trustee Cox asked if we had to pay for this. Clerk Allison said that was correct. Trustee Cox said he would pass.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$11,213.69** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Supervisor Hopkins said they have been helping a lot of people with rent. The COVID help is starting to come through. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$149,397.18** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$120,567.99**. Motion to approve Town Fund bills made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Trustee Cox asked about the bills from Brewster-Alexander. Supervisor Hopkins said there were some cameras that were broken. Back door cameras were not adequate. We added a couple of cameras and monitors so employees can see people outside and around the building when they are leaving. Trustee Cox does not agree on spending like this during a crisis. Supervisor Hopkins said it is security for our employees. Trustee Cox said we also pay \$300 a meeting to put the recording on the website. He sees thousands more dollars for soil testing. Supervisor Hopkins said those are the final two bills for the Phase II study. Roll call found the vote with three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$3,418.20** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Allison read a thank you note from the family of Carl Cory.

NEW BUSINESS

Randy Mitchell from AAIC spoke on the building bids for the Road & Bridge building addition. On September 15, 2020 bids were taken for the 3500 square foot addition to the building. The addition will house a wash bay for cleaning salt out of the trucks. There will also be a small breakroom and restroom facility. The low bidder was R.W. Bunker at a price of \$483,400. This was slightly under the estimate of \$500,000. AAIC recommended to the township to award that bid. Trustee Cox asked Mr. Mitchell if he could explain why this is needed at this time. Mr. Mitchell said it is primarily safety. They get the trucks in and out of the weather to clean the salt out of the beds. Previously they were working off an outdoor tower in winter conditions spraying water. This will allow them to do this indoors in a controlled climate. Trustee Cox asked what kind of piece of equipment and what does it do. Mr. Mitchell said it was a building. It is not a piece of equipment. It is a climate control building. It is a 3500 square foot steel building. Trustee Cox asked what would be in the building. Mr. Mitchell said it would be a wash bay for the trucks. Trustee Stack asked if the bid had already been awarded. Supervisor Hopkins said the bid had been awarded by Highway Commissioner Trucano. He had opened the bids before he passed. Mr. Mitchell said this was correct. Supervisor Hopkins said they are just reporting to us that they are going to go with R.W. Booker for the bid. This is a Road & Bridge purchase. Trustee Cox asked why are we voting. Supervisor Hopkins said we are not voting. Mr. Mitchell said this is just informational purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ASSESSOR'S COMMENTS

Assessor Poletti said Trustee Cox had said the assessor's salary is the highest in the state of Illinois and higher than the city of Collinsville. He asked Trustee Cox if he contacted every assessor in the state of Illinois with a FOIA to find that information out. Trustee Cox said no. Assessor Poletti asked if Trustee Cox looked in any journals provided by the Appraisal Institute or the International Association of Assessing Officers. Assessor Poletti said you don't know that answer, but yet you put it out there at the last meeting. Trustee Cox is going to stand by that assumption. Assessor Poletti said what you put out was a statement of falsehood to the board. You did not do any research on any of this to be able to say that with fact. Assessor Poletti said he is not the highest paid township assessor in the state of Illinois. Trustee Cox stands by his assumption that Assessor Poletti is one of the highest paid assessors in the state. Assessor Poletti said he is nowhere near the highest in the state. If Trustee Cox would have made a few phone calls locally, he would have found out that he is not the highest assessor in Madison County. Granite City, Alton, Wood River and Edwardsville all pay their assessors more than him. Assessor Poletti said why don't you do your research.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

None

Attorney Mattea wanted to let the board know that Waste Management has been listening to the meeting tonight. They contacted him to say that it is not their intention to file suit against the Township because they are rebidding.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Early voting starts next Monday. No matter who you vote for, just make sure you go out and vote. The office has been busy. They had over 300 LIHEAP calls helping people with power bill assistant. General Assistance had 97 applications for rent and water. There is a new food box in the back of the building to help people who need food. We help seniors with the license plate discount. They can get a discount for one vehicle if they qualify. We currently have 85 applications for Christmas baskets. We have helped 17 other people with housing assistance beside general assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

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. Roll call found the vote with fours ayes and no nays. Motion passed. Time 8:20 p.m.

Supervisor Daniel Hopkins

Clerk Cathy Allison