

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JULY 14, 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 Robert Milam and Supervisor Daniel Hopkins. Clerk Cathy Allison, Assessor Poletti, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Becky Loyet, Kathy Hoelscher, Brandon Loyet, Carrie Ward, Scott Rayho and Clint Ball.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes the following minutes:

June 9, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion made by Trustee Foley, seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

June 16, 2020 Road District public hearing minutes. Motion by Trustee Foley, seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed

June 16, 2020 Town Fund public hearing minutes. Motion by Trustee Stack, seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

June 16, 2020 Special meeting minutes. Motion by Trustee Foley, seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Ball - We are in Phase 4 of the Governor's plan to restore Illinois. These phone call meetings moving forward should be abandon. He hopes the board will move forward with having in person meetings.

ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and Vote to Approve on Waste/Recycling/Yard Waste Contract – Supervisor Hopkins said prices that have been submitted by both companies are included in the board members packets. He asked that they keep the information between themselves until the contract is awarded. One company came in a little bit less by \$2.37 a month on the trash pickup in the first year and \$6.54 a month less on the yard waste. Not everybody does yard waste, but it is a \$28.44 higher premium for using the existing vendor. Trustee Cox asked if this was both trash and yard waste. Supervisor Hopkins said yes. Trustee Cox asked what non-city residents were paying this year. Trustee Milam said it is right at \$60.00 for three months. Trustee Stack is for taking the lowest bid. Supervisor Hopkins said we are not paying with tax dollars, so we are not obligated to do that. We are locking our residents into a five-year contract for their trash service and yard waste that they choose. Supervisor Hopkins said in talking

with both of these vendors, the Road & Bridge has a 40 yard roll off that they currently pay for. They actually included one dump a month for that 40 yard roll off which is \$400-\$600 a month when they dump it. Trustee Cox asked if both companies included that. Supervisor Hopkins said yes. Trustee Cox in general, unless Larry or anyone else can tell him different, he is probably for the lowest bid. Essentially, we are trying to get the best price for our residents and that is why he solicited another bid. Trustee Cox asked Supervisor Hopkins if he had reached out to our current vendor and say look, we may have a lower bid is there any way this is your very lowest bid you can give. Supervisor Hopkins said it is not ethical to do that. Trustee Cox said Republic has been a partner with us. Before cutting them off, he does not know if it would be proper to say were thinking about going with another one unless you can sharpen your pencil a little bit more. Trustee Milam asked if we do go with Waste Management will we have to sign a contract with Waste Management or does it automatically go into effect. Supervisor Hopkins said whoever we execute the contract with as a Township resident you are getting a lower price than you would if you did it yourself and you are obligated to use that one. Trustee Milam said when will this take effect and what does he do with his Republican containers. Supervisor Hopkins said it will take effect the 1st of September. If we are going to ask Republic to sharpen their pencil, we may have to ask Waste Management. Trustee Cox said why don't we ask our attorney. Attorney Mattea said he didn't think he would give advice during the meeting right now. If the board decides to table the vote, he would be happy to take a look and give his opinion on it. Trustee Cox asked when we would have to know this by. Supervisor Hopkins said it expires the end of August. Trustee Stack doesn't think the board should do that. He doesn't think asking someone to sharpen their pencil is a fair or right thing to do. Trustee Cox said we want the best price for our citizens. He hates cutting off a partner that's been with us for 20 years. Assessor Poletti said Laidlaw was taken over by Republic. Allied took over Laidlaw and Republic Services is basically Allied Republic. But they go by Republic now. Waste management is not affiliated with either of these companies. Trustee Stack asked to table this until the next meeting and go from there. He is all for taking the lowest bid. Trustee Cox said if you're all for taking the lowest bid then why don't you take the lowest bid. Larry Trucano said he has had good service out of the one we have now. He hates to change. But if it's a low bid, you got to go with the low bid. Trustee Milam feels like if you ask someone for a bid, they are going to give you their lowest bid. Motion made to authorize Supervisor Hopkins to execute a contract with Waste Management for their services for Township residents upon Township counsel review was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Reports by Officers, Committees or Special Committees

Supervisor Hopkins received an email from the people doing the phase two on the lot with a 148-page draft report. They will be calling him to discuss the report. Supervisor Hopkins did scroll through and did see that a couple of little samples they took did find some asbestos. That may not be a big deal. When it is complete, he will email a copy to the trustees.

Trustee Cox doesn't understand why we are not meeting in person. We have plenty of room at the Senior Center. The city of Collinsville is doing it. It would be different if we were doing it on Zoom or Skype. It's very hard to follow what is going on. It's unfair to the public. Trustee Foley asked Trustee Cox if he understood what is going on out there in this country and in the city. It is going wild in Collinsville and Maryville. He doesn't appreciate someone saying we should meet in public. Trustee Cox said he has no problems with Trustee Foley staying home if he feels vulnerable. The point is that we are public servants and the way we are doing it now we are going back to 1990 on a phone. Where is the law in this? How long can we not have a meeting in public? It is his understanding that we are supposed to abide by the Open Meetings Act. He was fine with it during March and April. Supervisor Hopkins said he was contemplating on having an in-person meeting but the reports from the Governor's office show that there were 600 to 700 new cases. With the cases is creeping up as they where in the state, he is not putting other people in jeopardy. This is the safest way he can make it for our residents and the board. When it is safe to do so we will be having our annual meeting and it will be held at the Convention Center. Attorney Mattea pointed out that the purpose of making sure it is accommodating of the open meetings act is so everybody can participate. A zoom meeting versus a telephone meeting he feels confident everyone could access a telephone. Obviously, these decisions are ultimately up to the board.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$8922.69** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$271,117.68** was made by Trustee Milam and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$631,811.08**. Supervisor Hopkins said that number cannot be right. Clerk Allison said there was a transfer to the Collinsville Building and Loan account for \$500,000. Supervisor Hopkins said the \$500,000 transfer should not be included in the Town Fund bills. The money for the Town Fund was in Collinsville Building and Loan was only making a small amount in a money market. Supervisor Hopkins called around to other banks to find a better investment for it. We were making 35 basis points. By moving it into FCB, we raised it up to 55 basis points. The total that should be approved for Town Fund bills is **\$131,811.08**. Motion to approve was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Trustee Cox asked who orders our attorney to get involved with FOIA requests and then charges the taxpayers. Supervisor Hopkins said all FOIAs will be reviewed by the attorney before sending out. Supervisor Hopkins will tell the attorney to review because he does not want to send a FOIA out that will put us in legal jeopardy. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$1041.06** was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the Collinsville Woman's Club for our donation to the Empty Bowl Fundraiser was read by Clerk Allison.

New Business – None

Unfinished Business – None

Assessor's Comments - Assessor Poletti said they will be shutting their books off on Friday because they have all their work done in spite of the COVID. All the reassessments are done. We are on schedule for our four-year quadrennial turnaround. Our biggest issue right now is getting out in the field to be able to take photographs of the front and rear of every house in the Township. That is required by law and something new that we never had to do before. Every four years we will have to do this. Trustee Cox asked if he had to photograph every single house in one year. Assessor Poletti said he plans on doing it over 25% per year for the photographs. We probably will not be doing the photographing in the same area where we are doing the reassessing. There will be a crew to go out specially to do that. The pictures have to have the parcel number on them. They will have to be put on manually. Trustee Cox asked when it comes to taking a picture, if he thought that was something a person with a college education could probably figure out how to do. Assessor Poletti said he doesn't want to have more people working than he needs to have working. He has enough people to pull it off. This is the way they learn the neighborhoods and properties and what to look for. They will have the property cards with them as they go out to do this. Trustee Cox asked what qualifications someone would have to have. Assessor Poletti said it takes someone going out there day after day, year after year to understand that stuff. Trustee Cox said he knows a lot of people who can measure something and take a picture and don't have five years of training to do that. Assessor Poletti said you can take someone out, have them hold the dumb end or the smart end of the tape to measure the thing. But that does not replace knowledge of construction, construction materials, good quality or poor quality. That takes a lot of years of just looking at existing houses over and over again. Trustee Cox asked if it was all about accuracy. Assessor Poletti said it is about having accurate information. Trustee Cox said you want to assess the house as close to the actual value, if they go to sell it, as possible. Then at the end

everybody doesn't get slapped with a big multiplier. Assessor Poletti said he doesn't care about multipliers. He cares about equality. Trustee Cox said if the multiplier is off, if it is not an accurate assessment, that affects how much that he is actually going to pay. Assessor Poletti said it does not. There was a court case that says equality is more important than being at 33 1/3. That is a State Supreme Court ruling. The way they calculate a multiplier is based on the sale price of every property, that is not farmed, the sale price is divided into the assessment. If you know that your overall median average is 30%, You can say I know I'm going to get a 10% multiplier. But it isn't quite that simple. They don't look at it on one year. They look at it over a 3-year average. We are probably the only ones around that take the time to figure out what our overall averages are running. Where we are running low, where we need to change things. Taxes are not affected by the tax assessment. Assessor Poletti said he could cut your assessment and it would still go up. Trustee Cox said he is going to pay more because it is assessed higher than a \$30,000 house. Assessor Poletti said the taxes are going to go up depending on what your assessment is in terms of quality of the house. It's based on value. Trustee Cox said all the districts out there can continue to raise their levies every year. Then they will take more and more from everybody. He doesn't think it is fair that we pay so much more to get our houses assessed than some of the other places do. Assessor Poletti said Trustee Cox was using the multiplier as the evidence for that. Trustee Cox asked if Assessor Poletti was saying that Collinsville is the only one that does it right. Assessor Poletti is saying we are about the only one he knows that looks at the median. And that is across the state.

Road Commissioner's Comments - They have been busy with mowing, ditching and asphaltting. Recently paved Mary May on South Wilson Heights Road. The roundabout project is going through the city of Troy. At this time, he does not have any figures that are owed on the Old Troy Road project. Commissioner Trucano will be meeting with Glen Carbon the end of July or the first part of August to get these figures.

Supervisor's Comments - The food pantry is still using the Senior Center for the senior boxes. Milk deliveries are received weekly there. The pantry has also donated food to the Township to hand out to people in need. We have taken in over 100 applications for LIHEAP from people who need help with heating and cooling bills. They have since stopped taking them until August 1, 2020. We have helped 19 people with their license stickers. We have had 48 general information calls and we have taken in 42 applications for general assistance. The Township has helped 72 homeless or needy people with food. We have had 38 housing applications. Mrs. Shimkus's bench has arrived. Supervisor Hopkins will be checking with her family to see what they would like on the plaque. The family of Al Tognarelli asked if possibly they could have a bench dedicated to Al. There is still money from the donations made in his memory so we will order another bench. We will open the lobby of the office either July 20th or July 27th if COVID numbers continue to decline. Trustee Cox asked what numbers Supervisor Hopkins was going by. Supervisor Hopkins said he is using the statewide numbers. An anonymous donation was made to the pauper fund for \$2500 and \$1000 from Hometown Bank.

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 unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:02 p.m.

Supervisor Daniel Hopkins

Clerk Cathy Allison