

COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

JANUARY 22, 2019

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, roll call was taken with the following members present: Trustee Cox, Trustee Foley, Trustee Hopkins and Trustee Royer. Township Assessor Pete Poletti and Road Commissioner Larry Trucano were also in attendance. Township Attorney Jack Daugherty was absent.

Guest in attendance were Cinda McGrew, Becky Loyet, Marybeth Allan, Paul Loyet, Andrea Fox, Vicky Jackson, Kay Killian, Phil Astrauskas, Mark Achenbach, Reginal Johnson, Carrie Stauffer, David Keough, Doug May, Don Cox, Babette Cox, Al Woolen and Linda Bohnenstielhl.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

DOUG MAY (Collinsville) Mr. May spoke on transparency and integrity. Trustee Cox posted a video of the last meeting which was caption "Illegal Activity". Mr. May commended Trustee Cox for having 4.8 thousand views and 153 angry comments concerning what Trustee Cox characterize as an illegal clerk appointment. Mr. May commented on the posted video and Trustee Cox acknowledge that Mr. May was the only one in 4 thousand who stood up for the process. Mr. May quoted Trustee Cox saying, "this has nothing to do with the supervisor and why would I condone this". Mr. May said for the sake of transparency, as he mentioned in his comment with a link to the state statute regarding an appointment for a clerk, that this is guided by law. If he is wrong, he would appreciate Trustee Cox addressing this.

CARRIE STAUFFER (Collinsville) Ms. Stauffer was unable to attend the last couple of meetings because of the simple fact that every single meeting is the same thing. If more time was spent working together as a whole, maybe things would get done and it wouldn't be the same things every single meeting. Has been coming to the meeting pretty regularly for the last year and has noticed her concerns and certain members of the board only feel more and more disrespected by each time she is here because they don't pay attention to anything she says. Usually Trustee Cox is the one to answer her questions. Also, Trustee Royer. Last meeting may have been he worst meeting yet as she watched it. A complete disregard for voters and anyone in the community. She thought the clerk's position is elected by voters. She feels that the public should have knowledge of vacancy. The board ma not care about the public, but the public holds the power to vote you all out next election.

DAVE KEOUGH (Collinsville) Mr. Keough complemented Road Commissioner Trucano and his crew for the work they did to the roads during the recent snowfall. Mr. Keough feels that the board should work together. Since cameras have been rolling and people have been attending

the word has been getting out. Keep in mind that the board is here for the people. They work for the people. Might be a good idea to get o what we want.

DON COX (Collinsville) Mr. Cox said he didn't know the township board existed until Derrick was on the Board. Didn't know what the board did. Mr. Cox pays his taxes to the township and lives in the city. What benefit does he get out of it? Not happy with the "mudslinging" going around. What does the township do that the city can't do? Township might have been necessary years ago when there was a lot of rural areas.

BABETTE COX (Collinsville) Mrs. Cox attends lots of meetings. She has reviewed older meetings back to 2015. People complain about the transparency. There were meetings where no one or only one or two people attended. As a citizen she feels it is good that people have been showing up. It was said at the last meeting that Supervisor Allan needed to appoint someone as clerk that is on his political views. Bottom line, you ran as an independent. You did not run as a republican or democrat. For that to even come out was not cool. We talk about respect to the people in the audience. Last week Derrick was answering Mr. May's question, Terry was talking to John, Mike was talking to the people in the audience. There were literally three conversations going on at once. It is a respect thing and whether we agree or not, these people are here because of you. We're here for us. As for as appointing people, a question I would have for Terry is if an official can appoint on the spot and no one has to apply, why didn't we do the same for the trustee position? People had to apply for that position for the trustee. I am with Don and we know a lot of people that live in the township too, that did not realize this existed. We know that it existed, but we didn't. Transparency is good because you are getting the public's awareness out of it.

PHIL ASTRUUKAS (Collinsville) Also agrees with the transparency thing. Would like to see the bylaws changed or re-interpreted the appointment of a clerk or trustee any elected official, he would like to see it changed in the bylaws that it is advertised, and person be elected. Not appointed. Mr. Astraukas read comments that were posted on a Facebook site.

MARK ACHENBACH (Maryville) It is legal to video tape public meetings in the state of Illinois. Appointment of new clerk was legal but could have been handled different. Return of the taxpayer's money, Mr. Achenbach had asked that the board not levy for the positions not filled in the assessor's office. Would have been an easy way to make the size of our assessor's office, still wouldn't make it the same as Edwardsville, but would be an easy painless way to bring it closer to Edwardsville. Was disappointed that the board still levied for the position. In regard to the money being held in reserves, the attorney said yes, the township was in violation of the state statue of holding too much money. But, because the board is not levying those funds, that the board is making progress in bringing itself back in to compliance. In the same meeting, there was a discussion about levying money for assessor's office for positions not filled. Assessor Poletti said the extra money went back into reserves when positions are not filled. Mr. Achenbach does not understand why board does not want to give money back. He asked that they please reconsider returning the money.

AL WOOLEN (Collinsville) A while back a gentleman came to the meeting saying he had been threatened. Trustee Cox and Trustee Hopkins said they would not put up with anyone in this township being threatened. After the meeting, an employee of the township was bullied and threatened by Trustee Cox. Why did this employee have to put up with this? Was there something to that? A trustee is not a boss. They should go to the supervisor of the department if they have a problem with an employee. If he is for the people like he says, every time that he comes up, I would vote not. But what he does is he seconds or makes a motion and he favor everything that pass on the bills. If I was for the people, I would vote no to show I'm for the

people for them. Not say yes, I'm for you and then turn around and vote yes on almost everything.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS

TRUSTEE COX – In response to Mr. Woolen, he obviously does not know Trustee Cox as a person. Trustee Cox thinks that anybody who meets him or his friends would tell you he is a nice person. Not a bully and has always been nice to Gailyn. On the voting issue, Trustee Cox votes yes to pay the bills. Always agrees when we spend the money, we are supposed to pay bills. If he has a question, he will ask that question. If he (Trustee Cox) does not get an answer to that question or does not agree with the bill, then he will vote no. The board's biggest votes are the budget and the levy. These are the biggest issues. Then other issues come up like when we are against the law, trying to get within the law, that's a big vote. But a lot of these, they are not big votes. We already budgeted the money, to spend the money. That's when the big vote happens. I voted on the levy, I didn't believe we needed to budget for eight people in the assessor's office when Edwardsville only uses three. That's why I voted no. But when the bills come and we spend that money, the board, they won on that. Trustee Cox is going to say yes on that bill because we spent the money. Trustee Cox hopes this helps to explain.

Trustee Cox shared a handout regarding Shelbyville Township rebating money to the taxpayers. Other townships have done this. He said it is a law that was passed by the General Assembly.

Trustee Cox wants the public to know that the other trustees are going around town telling people he is very mean, unreasonable and from the last meeting most disruptive. Anyone who comes or watches the meetings can see that is not the case. What he was asking for last meeting was not unreasonable at all. The clerk is an elected position. Unlike what we heard from someone in the audience, who was interjecting out of order, this clerk position has nothing to do with the supervisor. The clerk can have a completely different outlook on township, etc. This is a separate election. The public, not the supervisor elects this position. All he was asking for was at least give the public notice. Then let anyone apply. Then this board could look at the background and select this at the next meeting. Trustee Cox didn't even know her name who he was voting on. As he mentioned before, the school board had a vacancy, they put it to the public. That was an unpaid position.

Trustee Cox said someone had left flyers on cars demeaning his character talking about an incident he had years ago, saying he was trying to hide it. Anyone who knows him or is a friend of his on Facebook knows that is not true. He explained the whole incident many months before he ran. Trustee Cox explained that he left a client's house after flooding rains. It was foggy, he hit a gate in the road that was not lit. Trustee Cox called the client who also has had issues with the gate. Trustee Cox was the one who reported the incident and paid for the damage. The problem came when my client and the president of the neighborhood association had major bad blood mostly about this gate and wanted to charge him with leaving the scene of an accident. He did not try to hide this as he talked about this on Facebook and explained the story again years ago. This has nothing to do with township. He never went after anyone personally like this bunch does. With threats and now this. Trustee Cox thinks most everyone can see he is trying to do what's right. That is to follow the law. Such as with the union negotiations and the overtaxed excess. He is trying and has been somewhat successful with making things better by pushing this board to invest more on getting a good senior director. By making much needed repairs that were going ignored before.

Lastly, now thousands of people are paying attention because they can watch the meetings.

MIKE FOLEY Also wants us to get along. Trustee Cox's performance at the executive session in December when he threw a tirade and he walked out of the meeting. He owes this board an apology in my opinion. No reason to walk out of that meeting.

This goes back to 2017. Trustee Cox does not owe me an apology because I was a candidate, but he owes a sibling of mine an apology. Him and some of his mentors and whatever went after a sibling of mine. To say it was nepotism on my part that she is working at the township assessor's office. Assessor Poletti can speak on that. He hired her long before Trustee Foley was on the board. Assessor Poletti agreed.

Trustee Cox, about a month ago, you had something up on social media because I refused to do your corn on the cob eating contest fundraiser for Partners for Pets. At the funeral home we had a discussion. We were there mutually for a family friend. Then you put on pay per view or whatever at your house. Totally disrespectful, unprofessional, unethical and you don't do that to a fellow board member. Trustee Cox does not need to respond.

AUDIENCE CONVERSATION This is the reason this township needs to disband. All you do is argue. What does that have to do with doing the roads or anything else? Last meeting everybody was talking. I can't take this crap. Good, don't come back. I'll catch you later. That's a threat. Shut up lady. Two threats now.

ASSESSOR POLETTI As far as he is concerned, employees in his office are appraisers. Five years is, by state law, what you need to get an appraiser's license AFTER you graduate from college. If you want to be a legal license appraiser, and he doesn't have licensed appraisers, it takes five years of experience. That is not just the state of Illinois saying this. That is also the International Association of Assessing Officers and the federal government. I consider my employees they need to be appraisers; not licensed but at least understanding the process. So that is why there is five years of training involved. Assessor Poletti said he will be losing a whole bunch of people to retirement and that I need to replace them. So, the two positions will be filled well before the end of the year, because I'm going to need to have them and have it done correctly.

TRUSTEE HOPKINS One of the people out here asked you, Trustee Cox, about your Facebook. Said you (?) illegal activity at the meeting. I don't watch it but is that what he said. Trustee Cox: that is what he said. Doesn't know if that was somebody else. Sometimes I feel that, and it just happened, you get what somebody else does construed with me. There are 5000 people who watch this. All these people comment. I can't control everybody's comments and somebody said. Trustee Hopkins: If they say something that's wrong, do you correct them? Trustee Cox: Yes, I do. Lots of times. Trustee Hopkins: Okay, yes or no. Trustee Cox: Yes. Again, there are a lot of posts on other pages. I just want to clarify this. There are other pages certain people and even in my background with radio that I have blocked, or they have blocked when they say things, that whole thread. I don't see any of that. So, if something is said, I can't do anything about it. Trustee Hopkins: You made a comment about "it's not that way with this bunch". Likes how Trustee Cox lumps us all together. Trustee Cox feels they are as one to him, by the way he has been treated. Trustee Hopkins said he does not vote with Trustee Foley every time. Trustee Cox feels it is 4 to 1. Trustee Hopkins re-watched the meetings from our website which somebody says Trustee Cox mad them transparent. We have meeting on the website that you can watch videos from years back. Your (step)mother said she went back and looked at some before this board took in. What we are doing we are trying to correct what was done before within the state law that went into effect. We kind of got that dumped in our lap. But looking at some of the other meetings talking about the assessor's office, who did you say hired college kinds in the summertime? Trustee Cox: Yes, they are

part-time. They have 3 full time in the assessors; we have seven. Trustee Hopkins: Would not want college kids on a part-time job doing an assessment on his home. Trustee Cox: They are doing a better job. You can tell by the multiplier. Assessor Poletti: Over the last 13 years our average multiplier was 1.0158. Over the last 13 years, Edwardsville multiplier was 1.0214. They are not doing a better job than us. Doesn't believe in the multiplier being the test. Trustee Cox: As a regular citizen, when I get my tax bill on the little white paper, all I care about is how much I'm paying. Do you think I care about how good a job? I just want it to be fair and I don't want to pay more than what I'm supposed to be paying. That is all people care about. So if they can do it with two employees. Assessor Poletti: They can't do it with two employees no matter what she says. Trustee Cox: That is what they are doing and that is what the county says they can do it with.

Trustee Hopkins: I was sick at the last meeting. It was on the agenda, Mr. Astrauska made a comment "have you ever heard of an agenda". It was one of the Facebook hearsay posts he read, which I put zero credibility in. Yes, there was an agenda. It was on the agenda and it was very clearly on the agenda. Trustee Cox mentioned health insurance. We do not get health insurance. Any new trustee or clerk, we don't get any benefits anymore. In the past, elected officials way back got health insurance and IMRF pension. No more. The last board or maybe the board before that, stopped that. I don't want that to be a misconception. Trustee Cox: Asked if Supervisor Allan gets health insurance. Trustee Hopkins: They were grandfathered in. When they get replaced the next one will not get it. Trustee Hopkins thanked Mr. Astrauska for calling us cronies because Hopkins wasn't even her last meeting. Trustee Cox: Don't you want the public's input? Trustee Hopkins wants to hear. His phone number and email is out there. Anybody who has ever talked to him after a meeting, he has given his them is card and cell phone number. Trustee Cox likes people's comments. Trustee Hopkins doesn't live his life through Facebook.

Trustee Cox made a comment earlier "off camera he was nice to Gailyn". Which translates to me on camera you weren't nice to her. Just reading what I heard.

Mark Achenbach made a comment of our appointment of the clerk that we didn't advertise for it and could have done better. I think when he was put back on the board recently, I don't remember seeing CARD advertise that they were going to reappoint a trustee. Who was appointed that last position, Mr. Achenbach? Mr. Achenbach: That was me. Trustee Hopkins: That was you. Thank you. Mr. Achenbach: That's right. The last time it was right before the vote when CARD was dissolved. I'm sure you are aware CARD is not a paid position. There is no compensation. And the trustees that are on the board at the time of the dissolution are on the board until CARD is totally gone. Which will be somewhere between 15-17 years. Now, you tell me how many people in this room want to volunteer to serve to unwind the political organization that had probably \$25 million worth of assets and unwind it for 15 years. There are no more elections and no more appointments. So, I volunteered, and trust me I did not ask to be on it. They asked me and why did they ask me? Because I had been on the board for six years. They didn't want somebody who didn't know the background or the information. They wanted somebody who knew the job. Trustee Hopkins: Did they advertise? Mr. Achenbach: It's a job that pays nothing. Trustee Hopkins: It doesn't matter if it pays. It's an elected position being filled. Correct? Mr. Achenbach: I was originally elected to the position. The position I was appointed to I was elected to. I was appointed back to the same position I was elected to. Trustee Hopkins: That's fine, but did they advertise for it? Mr. Achenbach: No, they did not. If you noticed when I stood up here, I agreed with Mr. May what you guys did at the last meeting. Trustee Hopkins: Not we, I wasn't here at the last meeting. Mr. Achenbach: I'm sorry, what this board did was in fact legal and was within the law. My only problem was what Terry initially tried to do was not. But what you ended up doing was correct. Trustee Hopkins: Well he

(Trustee Cox) said it was a set-up. If it was a set-up, someone forgot to tell me about it. I didn't know anything about it. I called in sick about 4:15-4:30. I wasn't going to make it. I didn't make the meeting on the previous day for the applications for the clerk's positions. I was sick with the flu. When you want to allocate me as being part of a set-up, I'm not going to take kindly to that, Derrick. Don't make accusations you can't prove. Please don't. Trustee Cox: I'm saying the last meeting; the whole thing was a set-up. That's what I'm saying. The whole thing was an absolute set-up. The whole thing. Trustee Hopkins: Was it on the agenda? Trustee Cox: Yes, I got the agenda and again.... Trustee Hopkins: Kind of like the meeting before that you put the new rules in; with five minutes and you don't have to give your name. When you submitted those rules, I didn't know about those until that night. Those new rules you submitted for that meeting about two meeting ago. That was a set-up too. That's all I have to say. Trustee Cox: This is for the whole clerk. We didn't even know her name. She just happened to be here. Anybody watching clearly understood it was a set-up. Very easy.

Trustee Foley: Trustee Royer didn't get to speak. Trustee Royer: I would just like to move on and get some of this business taken care of that we got tonight. I was just informed as to where we stand. So I'm ready, let's go.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS

The General Assistance bills for **\$9889.14** were read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Royer. Trustee Cox had a question about a mileage claim. Office Manager Vicky Jackson responded to his question. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Motion passed.

The Road and Bridge bills for **\$84393.76** were read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Trustee Foley comment on what a great job the highway department did during the snow storm.

The Town Fund bills for **\$48130.52** were read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Royer. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

The 2019 Township Government Education Network (TGEN) is providing educational opportunities for elected township officials and their staff. They will be held at the Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon, Illinois on March 22, 2019. Please let Cathy Allison know by February 12, 2019 if you plan on attending.

Receipt from AAA Swing City Music for placing the organ from the Senior Citizen Center on Consignment.

Receipt from Matt Thomas for sale of the pool table from the Senior Citizen Center for \$100.00.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Vote one meeting per month instead of two. Trustee Foley made a motion to table the vote. Trustee Hopkins seconded. Trustee Royer asked for a discussion on why we are tabling. Feels like we keep tabling and tabling it. Either vote and not do it or do it. Trustee Foley: When you get elected, before you run, you know there are two meeting, the 2nd and the 4th Tuesday every month at 7:00 p.m. When we only meet once, we tried that a couple of time dur to unforeseen circumstances or a holiday. And then this pile of paperwork is through the roof. Trustee Hopkins: In the past four weeks I have attended one extra meeting and we had another extra one before the last regular meeting. So technically we should be on our 4th meeting this month. If we need extra meetings, we can schedule them. If we go to one meeting a month, that's going to be a given we will have other meetings. Trustee Poletti: Was that just to be something while the construction was going on her? Trustee Cox. This came up a year ago and one reason was sometimes we meet to argue. Seems like that's kind of what we are meeting for. The other thing was when talking to our office manager about the bills and trying to get them rights, it's hard every two weeks and it was easier for once a month. Trustee Royer: Why table, let's just vote on it. Trustee Foley rescinded his motion. Trustee Hopkins rescinded his second. Trustee Hopkins ask for comments from Supervisor Trucano who said the can pull it off. Assessor Poletti said it would be easier for them in terms of putting bill together. Office Manager Jackson said whatever you guys want will be fine. During construction time it would be a wise choice. Senior Center Director Hausman said it would be easier for her, because she was able to put yoga in the big room one more time. But by next Tuesday she may not have access at all to that room. Which means whenever this room is in use, she has to dismantle the cafeteria for our temporary cafeteria setup. That's really is only going to be a problem until the kitchen is closed down. Which should be the week of February 15th as far as we know now. Trustee Cox asked if everyone would be opened to, if we make it one meeting a month for the next election, at that time also cutting the salaries of all elected officials. Trustee Hopkins said agreed to discuss. His is opened to anything. Trustee Foley agreed to be opened to a discussion. Trustee Hopkins would like for the meeting to be the 2nd Tuesday of the month and then schedule extra meetings as needed. Upon roll call vote to move to one monthly meeting, the following voted: AYES: Trustee Cox, Trustee Hopkins, Trustee Royer, Supervisor Allan NAES: Trustee Foley. Motion passed

ASSESSORS COMMENT

ROAD COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

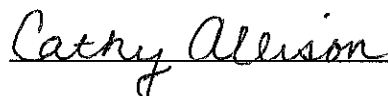
Repairing everything that was broken during ice storm.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board a motion by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox to adjourn. Time 8:08 p.m.

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Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

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Cathy Allison, Township Clerk