

# COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 12, 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 Supervisor Allan. Township Assessor Pete Poletti, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano and Township Attorney Jack Daugherty were also in attendance. Trustee Royer has resigned from his position.

Guest in attendance were Don Sonnenberg, Pam Mumper, Penny Alexander, Sylvia Mitchell, Cinda McGrew, Andrea Fox, Robert Claus, Sr., Ron Jedda, Babette Cox, Don Cox, Mary Drumm, Bart Astrauskas, Phil Astrauskas, Gary Groeteka, Leon Alexander, Corey Garcia and Kaleb.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Leon Alexander** (Collinsville) Interested in applying for the trustee vacancy.

**Robert Claus, Sr.** (Collinsville) Interested in applying for the trustee vacancy.

**Mary Drumm** (Collinsville) Has been watching meetings very closely. Many people never realized in the past that there were township meetings or a township board. She is appalled by some of the behavior of this board. Other issues are the tax rebate and the assessor's office charging more than Edwardsville. Regarding the CARD issue, even though Trustee Hopkins and Trustee Foley voted to block the vote, the dissolution passed with 80% support of the voters. She feels that Leon Alexander would be a good candidate for the board. She asked Assessor Poletti what the exact title of his appraisers was. Assessor Poletti responded, "Certified Illinois Assessing Officers".

**Ron Jedda** (Collinsville) Would like for the board to vote for the PEP Grant Resolution. This will probably put the township in a position to receive on an annual basis money from the county. This is one of the benefits of dissolving CARD.

**Corey Garcia** (Collinsville) He would like to support Leon Alexander as a candidate for trustee. He believes Mr. Alexander is an outstanding young man and hopes the board will consider him for the trustee position.

**Phil Astrauskas** (Collinsville) Questioned the legality of the procedure of resignation, nomination and appointment all at the same time. Trustee Cox asked Attorney Daugherty if he was confident that the board would not be in violation of the Open Meeting Act. Attorney Daugherty said yes, because the agenda does not state a specific individual, especially when it seems like there is going to be more than one person nominated.

## REPORTS BY OFFICERS

**Trustee Cox** Trustee Cox had not received an email regarding the work progress at the senior center. Trustee Hopkins explained that he did not send an update to Office Manager Jackson due to her being out of the office on medical leave. He would be giving an update at tonight's meeting. Trustee Cox said the Empty Bowl Fundraiser was a great success. He wanted to thank the citizens of Collinsville Township for donating \$2500 to the fundraiser. This was the second year the township has donated money for the food pantry. Trustee Hopkins noted that the township had donated in the past. Trustee Cox asked if anyone is interested in what he is paid to work this event, to please ask him and not harass the charity. He does the Italian Fest, Bar-b-que Fest, Horseradish Fest, the Empty Bowl and many other charity events for free. During the last election, he and Pat Presson ran as a team. He was proud that they got first and second. After a year in to Mr. Presson's four-year term, he had to move and had to be replaced. Trustee Cox pushed to have the other candidate that came in 28 votes behind Trustee Hopkins to be his replacement. He believes the board wanted to make sure that he would not have an ally on the board. Trustee Cox reached out to Mr. Royer to work together. Months later Trustee Cox found out that the township employees had unionized with the same union that Mr. Royer is the boss. Mr. Royer sat in on closed session where the board discussed and strategized the union contract. Trustee Cox asked that this not take place and Attorney Daugherty also advised against this. Yet the board majority and Mr. Royer decided to violate the business ethic law. Ultimately the township employees got their union contract with modest raises, great health insurance and back pay (which Trustee Cox was against). After serving one year, Mr. Royer resigned as trustee. Trustee Cox is upset with Trustee Hopkins and Trustee Foley, as Mr. Royer was their pick to replace Pat Presson. Trustee Cox received an email a couple of days before tonight's meeting that Mr. Royer had resigned and a new trustee would be picked tonight. How can the board pick a public official that the public knows nothing about? No time to do background or public input. We have a great candidate here tonight, Leon Alexander. He has served his country and is involved in many activities that better other lives in our community. He would bring a much needed different viewpoint. Trustee Cox would like the board to come together tonight and do the right thing and is very confident that the public agrees that Mr. Alexander deserves this opportunity.

**Trustee Hopkins** It takes three votes to appoint someone one. If Trustee Hopkins had let Trustee Cox put his friend on the board to fill the last vacancy, he would have still needed three votes. On the contract, Trustee Hopkins did not remember Trustee Cox mentioning Brandon being there. Trustee Hopkins said that Trustee Cox remarked that the board should have picked a better candidate. Did that mean that Mr. Royer was not a good candidate? Trustee Hopkins was the one who asked Leon Alexander to apply the last time. He has known him for 25 years. Trustee Hopkins said the "Statement of Economic Interest" was not a background check. As far as the senior center building, eight work days were missed by not having a building permit. The only thing they were behind on was the electrical. The contractor screwed up. Trustee Hopkins asked the contractor about it and he said he let it slip through. The contractor had talked to the city but did not finalize it. So far the work is in two phases. The men's restroom, the front foyer, the kitchen, the big room, the storage room and the area where the ice machine is located. They have replaced all the ceiling tiles and installed new LED lights. The projector screen has been installed. The walls have been painted and two doors replaced. New luxury vinyl floor has also been installed. Hopefully by the end of the month the first phase will be done and they will be able to start the second phase. Supervisor Allan said that the kitchen will be reopened on Thursday (March 13). Trustee Cox asked if there was a schedule or timeline when it would be finished. Trustee Hopkins said there was a schedule, but he did not have it with him. It was altered mainly because the glass panels were delayed. Trustee Cox said we all had frustrations. It was his understanding that Trustee Hopkins was friends with Randy of AIE and that Trustee Hopkins was the one overseeing things. Trustee Hopkins said that he did not know Randy before the project started. Trustee Hopkins responded to the public comment regarding him blocking the vote for CARD twice. He tabled the vote; he did not block

it. The reason was that CARD had not live up to their obligation by giving the city their final check. Trustee Hopkins was not going to pass the resolution until CARD lived up to their part of the bargain. They did not write the check until a later date. After the city received the check, Trustee Hopkins made the motion to pass the resolution.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT AND APPROVAL OF BILLS**

The General Assistance bills for **\$7345.52** were read. Motion made by Trustee Foley. Seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

The Road and Bridge bills for **\$115,064.60** were read. Motion made by Trustee Foley. Seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

The Town Fund bills for **\$150,191.22** were read. Motion made by Trustee Foley. Seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Township Officials of Illinois 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Township Topics Day – Clerk Allison asked if anyone will be attending this event. No one will be going.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Vote on employee time card clock** - Trustee Cox said that there had been a discussion regarding the time card clock during the union negotiations. It was agreed before the contract was finalized that the board would have a discussion. Assessor Poletti said that he did not want time clocks. He has never had one. He knows where his people are that work on a salary basis. If he has problems with anybody, that problem is taken care of or they are no longer employed. Trustee Hopkins did not think that the board had the authority to have the assessor or the road and bridge office have time clocks. Attorney Daugherty said that those two offices set their policy. Trustee Cox said they had discussed during negotiation that it was a good policy to have a time clock. Trustee Foley said it was not in the union contract and that they could file a grievous. Attorney Daugherty said that they specifically agreed to a time clock. Trustee Hopkins thinks that the township office should have a time clock so that there would be some documentation instead of a piece of paper that they fill their hours out for the week. With that being said, the board only has the authority to do it for the township office. Sometimes the township employees help at the senior center. He would like to see something that was internet based which would allow them to clock in or out at either location. Trustee Hopkins would also like to have one that uses the bio-metric fingerprint. Trustee Hopkins asked Commissioner Trucano if he had a time clock for his employees. Commissioner Trucano said that he did.

Trustee Cox made a motion to move forward with getting a bid on the time clocks. Trustee Hopkins seconded. Roll call found the vote four ayes and one nay with Trustee Foley being the nay vote. Motion passed.

**Vote on PEP Grant Resolution** - Trustee Cox met with the PEP Grant Committee. They passed through that the senior center would be eligible for up to \$28,000 each year. Trustee

# COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

## SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 22, 2019

### OPENING

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the above date at the Collinsville Township Office, 305 East Main Street, Collinsville, Illinois. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Terry Allan at 4:00 p.m.

### PRESENT

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was taken with the following members present: Trustee Cox, Trustee Foley, Trustee Hopkins, Trustee Sonnenberg and Supervisor Allan. Township Attorney Jack Daugherty was also in attendance.

Guest in attendance was Phil Astrauskas.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Phil Astrauskas** (Collinsville) Asked to submit items for the Annual Town Meeting agenda. Attorney Daugherty explained that it was too late. Trustee Cox asked how the public would submit items for the agenda. Attorney Daugherty said items for the agenda had to be submitted to the township clerk by March 1, 2019.

Motion to approve the agenda for the Annual Town Meeting was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Sonnenberg. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

### ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the board a motion by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins to adjourn. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 4:12 p.m.

  
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Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

  
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Cathy Allison, Township Clerk