

# COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 11, 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 (Trustee Cox brought to the attention of the board that roll call order should start with the most senior member on the board) with the following members present: Trustee Foley, Trustee Cox, Trustee Hopkins, Trustee Sonnenberg and Supervisor Allan. Township Attorney Jack Daugherty and Highway Supervisor Larry Trucano were also present. Township Assessor Pete Poletti was absent.

Also present were Cinda McGrew, Kathleen Hoelscher, Pamela Mumper, Mark Achenbach, Ron Jedda, Al Woolen and Jim Stack.

### APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from regular board meeting held on Tuesday, May 14, 2019 was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Trustee Cox asked if the board would like to make an amendment to the minutes recognizing a motion that was made by another board member. Trustee Hopkins did not feel that it was necessary. Motion was made for the minutes to be approved as submitted. Roll call found the vote three ayes, one nay and one abstained. Trustee Cox voted nay. Trustee Sonnenberg abstained. Motion passed.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Mark Achenbach** - Questioned why the agenda was not posted on the township website. It was explained that the township was experiencing technical issues and were unable to make any modifications or updates at this time. Regarding the budget of the assessor's office, Mr. Achenbach contacted Mr. Phil Byers, Chief Deputy of the Madison County Assessor's Office to find out what the other townships charge. He also wanted to know what the equivalent charge would be if Madison County did our assessments. The General Assessment (Quadrennial) is done every 4 years at \$28.10 per parcel. Building permit assessments are done as needed. There are roughly 16,400 parcels in Collinsville Township. Every year a quarter of those parcels are assessed. That comes to \$115,210 if contracted through the county. For the Building Permit assessment there are around 170 parcels in Collinsville and Maryville. That number times \$81.37 that is charged for those parcel assessments is \$13,832. When added together the total is a little over \$126,000. The township assessor's office is budgeted for \$500,000. Why is the township essentially throwing money away? Mr. Achenbach had heard that his name was brought up at the last meeting regarding appointments. Mr. Achenbach was appointed to fill an empty position on the CARD board. That empty seat, the person who was elected to that seat was Mr. Achenbach. He was appointed to fill a seat to which he was elected. He was the original person. A comparison at the township would be if Pat Presson moved back here and Mr. Sonnenberg decided to resign, and the township appointed Mr. Presson to the position he was elected to.

**Ron Jedda** – Here to talk about the investment and cash management accounts for Collinsville Township. He submitted a FOIA request for information about investments, checking and

money market accounts. He thanked Gabrielle Koonce (from the township office) for her quick and timely response. Based on simple calculations, the township did not get a very good return on its investments and cash accounts for the year ending December 2018 and it looks to be continuing like that into 2019. The township received an average of .75% return when they could have received 2% of a return. As a result of only getting .75% return instead of 2% return the taxpayers lost about \$37,000 of interest in 2018. Which means property taxes had to be higher. They could have been reduced. The FOIA also showed CDs earning .35%, .25% and .4%. It looks like they were automatically renewed with out checking the rates or terms. When you are on a board that is involved in managing money, you have a responsibility to get the best returns with the safest investments. Supervisor Allan and Mr. Jedda serve on the Madison County Transit Board. Recently they put a new investment policy in. They are receiving 2.54% annually on the bulk of cash accounts. The township is only getting .75%. This is a huge difference. Supervisor Allan voted on it. Mr. Jedda has a copy of the minutes where they voted and a copy of the report that shows what the rate is. This is something the township can do with very little trouble. Based on the budget and the income from the Madison County Transit Board's last meeting in May, they are going to increase its interest income by 187% over last year's budget. You get more interest income; you can use that for other purposes or cut peoples taxes. Mr. Jedda encourages the board to come up with a good investment policy.

## **REPORTS BY OFFICERS**

**Trustee Cox** – Trustee Cox thanked Mr. Jedda and Mr. Achenbach for their information. He will be looking into it. Trustee Cox pushed hard at the last meeting for the township board to adopt a bylaw that states if an elected official's seat becomes vacant, that the board should let the public know for 30 days before seating another elected official. In the minutes from that meeting, Trustee Foley said according to what the board did it was legal. Trustee Hopkins said it is state law for everyone in the area. CARD for example. Their board president appoints someone and the board confirms it. Trustee Cox said that is not what CARD does. Same thing with his position on Bi-State. That is an appointed position, these are elected positions by the people. They are also paid positions. Trustee Cox said he just wanted to make it clear that there were some inaccuracies said. Regarding the donating of pay to the senior center if you miss a meeting, Trustee Cox wanted to say the board is getting better with attendance. The PEP Grant money was never available in the past. That money went to CARD. A group with him involved were able to get 7000 signatures to dissolve CARD. The board continued to be against it. The PEP Grant money will be available every year. It was said that it was not none right and that we went around the board to get the money. Emails were sent out explaining how the PEP Grant worked. Trustee Cox said in last month's minutes it states that Trustee Hopkins demands that it now comes through this board. Trustee Cox asked April Hausman, Director of the Collinsville Senior Center if she had made any other purchases and did she let Trustee Hopkins know. Trustee Hopkins said that it is just like the building. The board approved the bid for the building, but every meeting we approve a payout to the contractor. Trustee Cox said that is what was done last meeting. Trustee Hopkins said it was not itemized. Trustee Cox said that it was for the PEP Grant that was already voted on. Director Hausman said she purchased the items on the list. She understands what both Trustee Cox and Trustee Hopkins are saying. She did not submit anything to the board as a whole. She gave Trustee Cox the package of what she wanted for the building and it was given to the PEP Grant grantor was approved. Trustee Cox went to the committee meeting because the grant has never been given to a senior center before. It is for parks and recreation. He had people say this money may not be eligible. He explained to them why the center deserved it. Trustee Hopkins said the list that was presented was for \$28,000. Trustee Cox disagreed. He said it was for \$15,000, but we are eligible for \$28,000 each year. Trustee Hopkins asked if there were other items to be purchased. Trustee Cox said a list was presented for \$15,000. There is probably \$5,000 more stuff. Trustee Hopkins said for the future the board needs to be informed and kept in the loop. Director Hausman agreed that it should have been handled better. Trustee Hopkins did not say anybody did anything wrong; it just gives the appearance. The board did not approve these items individually. Trustee Sonnenberg asked if the county required a line item by line item to pay this out. Director Hausman said they presented receipts for each item. Trustee Hopkins said to do it differently next year. Keep the board informed. Any money spent from the board

has to be approved. Trustee Sonnenberg said they could present the numbers one month for review and then be available to vote the following month.

**Trustee Hopkins** – In response to Mr. Achenbach, yes I did say that. In the words of one of our other trustees, “there could have been a better person”. You resigned for whatever reason and then automatically get put back on the board. Trustee Hopkins said that he did not disagree with Mr. Jedda about making more money. The township board has no control over that. According to the township code, the supervisor is the treasurer. We do not dictate policy for that. Trustee Hopkins would also like to see our taxes lowered by \$37,000, but if you look at your tax bill recently the Town Fund taxes are the lowest thing that we pay taxes for. Can they be lower? If they can, we will. We are lower than the library. We are lower than any other taxing body on the tax bill.

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

The General Assistance bills for **\$7,362.66** were read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Motion passed.

The Road and Bridge bills for **\$86,586.22** were read. A motion to approve the bills as read was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

The Town Fund bills for **\$106,032.28** 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.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Motion to approve Road and Bridge 2019/2020 budget was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the Town Fund 2019/2020 budget was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Sonnenberg. Trustee Cox questioned why we are overspending on the Town Fund budget by \$813,000. Trustee Hopkins said in the last two years we have budgeted more but the amount spent is less. We only levy what we budget. Trustee Cox said we can budget for a little more, but when you give the office almost double as much as last year, they have free range to do whatever. He said the assessor’s office is asking for over a 30% increase over last year. He presented graphs to the board comparing our assessor’s office with other townships. He said our assessor’s office is bloated and it was not fair to taxpayers. Trustee Cox asked if the board would be open to tweaking these amounts. Trustee Hopkins said last year’s budget was also higher. Trustee Sonnenberg asked if he was talking about the over all budget. Trustee Hopkins said if you look at last years expenditures, we budgeted for more but did not spend that much. There is some kind of adjustment that comes later in the year. Trustee Cox said the assessor was budgeting for an extra employee. They did not hire the extra employee and that money went back into the General Fund. That is where we got in trouble on other funds. Trustee Hopkins said that has been corrected. Trustee Sonnenberg said they will only get what they levy for. But with large numbers like these over other entities would raise a flag anytime. Trustee Cox fear that if we give them an opened check book, we just gave them permission to overspend and spend all the cash reserves we have in one year. Trustee Foley said everyone has to hold by their budget. Trustee Sonnenberg asked if there was an issue with a time limit when the budget has to be formally approved. Attorney Jack Daugherty said we were right up against the deadline of June 30<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Hopkins said as an example, the actual amount for Road and Bridge that was already approved was \$1,361,000 for 2017/2018. They only spent \$1,162,000. They budgeted \$1,050,000. They budgeted around 30-40% more than actual. They cannot spend more because it is all based off the levy. Trustee

Cox asked if the money is in there and it is budgeted, can they legally spend it. Attorney Daugherty said it depends what fund the money is in and what it is being spent for. If it is an item that can be paid for with a particular fund and it is in the budget, yes, they can spend it subject to those restrictions. It is a mischaracterization to say they get to go have a spending spree at Macy's. Subject to certain restrictions as long as it is in the budget and the money is there. The levy is usually less than the budget and if the money is not there, but it is in the budget, then you have to make an adjustment. Trustee Cox would like to see the budget close to what we think we will actually spend. Trustee Hopkins would like for next year to have a special meeting for discussion only. We can make sure that everyone is there. Trustee Sonnenberg agreed. Roll call vote showed four ayes and one nay. Motions passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

**Senior Center Director April Hausman** – Students from SIUE Drawing and Painting Association came and painted a mural on the side of the senior center building. The response to the mural has been very well received. A clear coat is still needed to protect the mural. Trustee Hopkins asked what the cost was so far. Director Hausman said it was about \$500. We were also able to receive a rebate on the paint. Trustee Hopkins said he is going to check into the cost and how many gallons are needed of the clear coat.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Cox wanted to bring up Mr. Jedda's comments about the money. He would ask the board, if it is not our call, maybe guide our chairman to make better. Supervisor Allan said we will look into it.

### **ASSESSORS COMMENT**

### **ROAD COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

**Larry Trucano** – The township is redoing the driveway entrances on California Avenue. The city will black top their part to the city limits and the township will black top the rest. All the way to the end. All of California will be black topped. Will be starting paving on Meierwood.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Supervisor Allan asked for a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion to adjourn was made by Trustee Hopkins and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Motion passed.

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Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

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Cathy Allison, Township Clerk