

**COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

NOVEMBER 10, 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 Pete Poletti, Road Commissioner James Trucano and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Kathy Hoelscher, Zak Kaesberg, Vicky Jackson, Brandon Loyet, Al Woolen, Babette Cox, Stephanie Malench, and Scott Rayho.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Supervisor Hopkins asked for a motion to approve minutes from the **October 13, 2020** board meeting. A discussion ensued. A motion to approve changing “motion to rebid for a trash service contract” to “motion to bid for a trash service contract” was made by Trustee Cox. Motion died for lack of a second. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dana Callahan – Made a request that the board continue their financial support of the Homework, Help and Hoops Program at St. John’s Church. The program has been able to reach out to 91 kids in Collinsville. During the summer, the program was able to provide 1130 meals. Supervisor Hopkins asked what the board had donated in the past. Ms. Callahan said the amount was \$3200. Trustee Foley said he was proud of what the program does. Trustee Cox said he appreciates the work she does and fully supports continuing it.

Babette Cox – Had questions regarding the vacant lot. This is something that has been talked about for years. In 2018, there were seven meetings where the vacant lot was brought up by Terry Allan to buy. The reason why the board was not buying it was because of the price. She doesn’t understand when we were able to get the lot for a grant free, everyone was worried about the testing to make sure there was no contamination in the ground. If everybody was worried about that when Trustee Cox brought it up, not one time in any meetings prior to Trustee Cox bringing it up was it ever said no because of contamination or getting the ground tested. This just shows a lot of bias on the board. The senior center was brought up again by several people about the kids being in the building and how it could affect the seniors and the seniors don’t want the kids being in the building for the YMCA. The state is saying the seniors can’t be there because they are in that classification that they are high risk. As far as any senior catching something or with COVID, that should not even be the issue because seniors should not even be in the building, which is a liability for the township. When she has been at meetings in the past, whenever questions were asked, no trustees could answer questions because they can’t do it. Last meeting, the attorney spent a lot of time answering people’s questions and he is not even on the board. He is there as an advisor. Not to answer questions from people calling in.

ACTION ITEMS

Discuss and vote on continuing to allow the YMCA Childcare Program the use of the Senior Center – Supervisor Hopkins said Trustee Stack and Trustee Foley asked for this to be on the agenda. Trustee Stack

asked Trustee Foley what his feelings were regarding this. Trustee Foley said they should not be in that building. The YMCA has a big building. There are other places, such as CARD, that have big rooms. The YMCA also said they would fumigate the center. They did not. Trustee Stack agreed. Trustee Cox feels that they are against it is because he worked so hard to bring it to the board. He thought that we could do something good for Unit 10 families in the middle of a pandemic. The building has not been used all summer. We are supposed to be here for people when there is a crisis. Supervisor Hopkins thinks they should continue to use it. He said he did find out that the Maryville Senior Center offered them to use their building and the only time it was used was during the election. Trustee Milam wanted to know why the seniors are not allowed to use it. Who said they were not allowed? Supervisor Hopkins said it was from the Governor's office. Trustee Milam's opinion is that it should be shut down. Nobody should have been allowed in there to vote, nobody should have been allowed in there for daycare, nobody should have been allowed in there, period. If you are going to allow one segment of the population in there, then you should allow them all. It is written on the door "senior center". It is for seniors, not a daycare and not for voting. A motion was made to not allow the YMCA back into the building was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote to be three ayes and two nays. Motion passed. Supervisor Hopkins and Trustee Cox were the nay votes.

Discuss and vote on donation request from HHH (Homework, Hoops and Help) Program – A motion to donate \$3200 to HHH (Homework, Hoops and Help) program was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Discussion ensued. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Discuss and vote whether to participate in the Gathering of Trees Winter Market – Supervisor Hopkins said it will be different this year. They are only allowing 200 attendees so they are limited on how much they will make. This year the beneficiary of the Gathering of Trees is the Kahok's Strong Program for the school district. They help needy families or families that may have had a fire or other problems. There are tree sponsors and wreath sponsors. A motion was made to spend up to \$250 on creating the tree to be auctioned off was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Trustee Milam added that the office ladies did it two years and their tree won the contest.

Resolution #2020-R03 – Resolution in support of issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Refuse Hauling and Recycling Services – Supervisor Hopkins said the RFP was in the trustees' packets. When we advertise, the companies will be able to pick up a copy of the RFP. Discussion ensued. A motion was made to approve Resolution #2020-R03 – Resolution in support of issuance of a Request for Proposal for Refuse Hauling and Recycling Services was made by Trustee Milam and seconded by Trustee Hopkins. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

REPORTS BY OFFICERS, COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Trustee Cox – Thinks we should be having in person meetings again. Trustee Cox asked why on October 24th the senior center was not open on time for early voting. He received a text message that people were standing in line and the election folks could not get in. Supervisor Hopkins said two of the employees he spoke with both told him it was taken care of, but they got their wires crossed. It opened about eight to nine minutes late. Everyone that was in line got to vote. Supervisor Hopkins apologized to anyone who did not. He said he is not going to say any more about it because it is a personnel issue. He is not going to speak on personnel issues at an open meeting. Trustee Cox said it is not fair that someone had to stand in line ten minutes longer.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Motion to approve **General Assistance** bills for **\$3,114.93** was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Milam. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve **Road and Bridge** bills for **\$165,501.37** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve **Town Fund** bills for **\$87,209.42** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Discussion ensued. Roll call found the vote with four ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

Motion to approve **Senior Center** bills for **\$1,377.19.** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Discussion ensued. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk Allison read a thank you cards from the Collinsville Jr. Service Club and from Dana Callahan. Supervisor Hopkins wanted to clarify that the donation to the Jr. Service Club did not come from the Township. He made the donation and paid for it himself.

NEW BUSINESS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

ASSESSOR'S COMMENTS

There is such a thing as the Senior Citizens Assessment Homestead Freeze. There are certain qualifications to sign up for the freeze. It is based on income. A person could qualify one year and the next year they may not qualify. The assessor's office put out and filed the forms on time. The county turned around and sent the forms to their IT department to have them put into the computer. But the county IT Department seems to have lost those things and put them in improperly. They are all messed up. The county, because of time constraints, is now going to issue to anyone that has had the freeze in the past will receive it again. Whether they qualify are not. The result of that is a number of people will be paying for some people who should not have an exemption. The tax bills will be affected by that issue which was created by the county IT Department. All the townships are on top of this issue. It was the county that totally failed.

ROAD COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Mowing is almost completed. They are getting the equipment and supplies ready for winter. Leaf vacuuming will take probably two more months to finish. The leaf vacuuming does help with the drainage issues. We are able to keep the ditches clean. There is a yard waste dumpster at the Highway Department building. Anybody from the township can bring down yard waste, but not tree limbs. It is open from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. We are going to try to pick a couple of Saturdays for people to bring leaves. We will post on the township website when the dates are available.

SUPERVISOR'S COMMENTS

Regarding the short delay of getting the Senior Center opened, Supervisor Hopkins said he had addressed the communication break down and it should not happen again. The office is still fielding calls from people needing assistance.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Hopkins asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:03 p.m.