

**COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 11, 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, and Supervisor Daniel Hopkins. Trustee Rob Milam was absent. Clerk Cathy Allison, Road Commissioner Larry Trucano and Attorney Justin Mattea also participated by audio.

Others participating by audio were Kathy Hoelscher, Brandon Loyet, Nina Lindhorst, Mona Wagner, Phil Astrauskas, and Clint Ball.

APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes from the August 11, 2020 board meeting was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Clint Ball – Why are we not meeting in person. On tonight's agenda is a planned executive session to discuss a trash matter with possible litigation. Did the board not follow the law and post a public request for bids? In the April 14, 2020 meeting minutes, Supervisor Hopkins was going to reach out for a bid and wanted to poll the community to get their opinion on the service they were experiencing for the past ten years. Mr. Ball asked if any of this was done. Was Republic contacted by the Supervisor Hopkins for a bid? Mr. Ball is assuming that Supervisor Hopkins didn't public post for bids, did not poll residents and did not get a formal bid from Republic. The taxpayers will be on the hook to pay for the lack of leadership if and when litigation kicks in.

ACTION ITEMS

Board to discuss use and funding of the YMCA's childcare program at the Senior Center – Supervisor Hopkins met with Nina Lindhorst, Executive Director of the YMCA's child facility. The center is not being used at this time. The Governor will not let us have the senior citizens back in there at this time. Supervisor Hopkins has no problem with the YMCA using it. Trustee Foley has had several phone calls from seniors and other residents. They are upset about it and so is he. The center was just rehabbed. We don't need a bunch of kids in there. Trustee Cox asked if Trustee Foley's only concern was that someone other than seniors would be using it. Trustee Foley said it was not his only concern. There's liability, there is an administrative code we have to go by for having kids in the building from the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). We will have to have a rider on our insurance policy. Collinsville school district is opening up. Trustee Foley thinks it is stupid that the district is doing that. You have to play safe with this virus. He has several friends sick with this virus. Trustee Cox asked if any of them were kids. Trustee Foley said yes, one of them was a kid. Trustee Cox said he trust the superintendent. We have already done a program with the YMCA. He asked Trustee Foley if he trust what Supervisor Hopkins worked out with the YMCA. Supervisor Hopkins said he called the Township's insurance company and we are covered. The insurance company wants the YMCA to provide a certificate naming the Township as an additional insured on their policy. All the cleaning, outside what is done by our current crew, will be done by the YMCA. They will provide us with proof that DCFS approves the site. Supervisor Hopkins has received around 20 calls from seniors against it. Even if the district goes virtual, this will be a place for kids to go while parents go to work. Ms. Lindhorst said they work very closely with DCFS. The Township would become a licensed exempt

facility just like their school sites are. You will not see it overran. They have very strict ratios. Trustee Stack asked how much the YMCA is getting paid. Ms. Lindhorst said they have not figured a price yet. It is all based on what they can use for space and what funding they get. Supervisor Hopkins said the students that will be at the facility will be K-6. The ratio will be nine students to one adult. Trustee Stack said he understood the YMCA was getting \$28,000 every Monday. That is \$112,000 a month. Ms. Lindhorst said she did not know about that. Trustee Cox said the tutoring program used Collinsville teachers and the YMCA did a special deal with them. The whole program was \$14,000. This program will cost a lot more. Mr. Skertich, the superintendent, already said the school is also going to try because they will have extra resources and money to pay for this. All we are doing is giving the YMCA a space to use. Trustee Cox understands that some seniors are upset. The Governor in this case is correct. You want to protect the seniors. Trustee Stack asked but we don't need to protect our kids? Trustee Cox said you have to follow the science. The point is the center is available. We are here to help people. This is a global pandemic. The insurance is going to cover it. We also have \$30,000 in the budget set aside for this type of program. Trustee Foley asked where is there \$30,000 for this. Supervisor Hopkins said there is \$30,000 in the line item that we use to pay for the reading program. He is not a proponent of giving \$30,000 to this. Two meeting ago it was said if we budget it, we will spend it all. Supervisor Hopkins said we only spend 50-60% of every line item. If we give them \$30,000, that will be 100% of that line item. His suggestion is if a Collinsville family needs assistance to pay for this care, they can call the office and the General Assistance person can verify it. Then we can fund the family to help pay for their care while they are in this program. Trustee Cox said Supervisor Hopkins is talking about taking money out of the General Assistance fund. Supervisor Hopkins said he was not going to use General Assistance money. He will have the General Assistance worker qualify them. We will pay the childcare out of the \$30,000 line item. That way we can verify we are helping Collinsville residents' children. Trustee Stack doesn't understand why the school district cannot use the empty gyms and classrooms. Trustee Cox said they reached out to the YMCA and him and this is all their idea. Trustee Cox doesn't know why Supervisor Hopkins wants us to be involved in picking and choosing the families. Ms. Lindhorst said if a family cannot afford care they can apply for financial assistance. She said it will just be Collinsville school district. Maryville is part of the district. Trustee Foley asked if they were paying their fair share. Ms. Lindhorst said they are giving us space for free. Trustee Foley asked who is paying the YMCA to go in there and who is paying the teachers. Ms. Lindhorst said the YMCA pays for it. Trustee Stack said this is a touchy subject for a lot of people and they are asking us to clarify this. Trustee Cox said if half the students go on Monday, that means half the students don't have a place to go if mom and dad work. On those days there will be a group that the YMCA will identify who needs help the most and those kids will go to the senior center. Ms. Lindhorst said they are doing virtual learning. Trustee Cox said we are here to help. There has never been a time that families need more help than right now. Ms. Lindhorst said they will do the cleaning. They will have their own housekeeping crew come in at night as well. Every hour they clean the last 15 minutes and wipe down everything. That is the standards given by the state. Trustee Foley asked if the YMCA received a grant from ICARE. Ms. Lindhorst had no idea what he was talking about. Supervisor Hopkins said they plan on giving the YMCA the \$12,500 for their reading program. A motion to allow the YMCA in Collinsville to use the senior center for the first semester was made by Trustee Cox. Supervisor Hopkins said we don't need that. By our rules, the supervisor has the authority to allow the use of the senior center by people. He has already told them they can use it. He feels that the building is not being able to be used by seniors we need to at least let the community use it for something positive. Supervisor Hopkins spoke to Ms. Lindhorst about the upcoming election and that we will need the room back for early voting and election day. A motion to use the \$30,000 in the budget line item Program for Youth on the program for the YMCA and the Collinsville Senior Center was made by Trustee Cox. Motion died for lack of a second. A motion to give \$12,500 to the YMCA for the first semester and if they go into the second semester, we can maybe fund them for the same amount was made by Supervisor Hopkins. Trustee Cox asked what else was funded out of that line item. Supervisor Hopkins said the year before we spent \$24,157 out of the \$30,000. Supervisor Hopkins asked for a second on his motion. Trustee Cox seconded. Roll call found the vote with two ayes and two nays. Motion failed. Trustee Foley and Trustee Stack were the nay votes.

Reports by Officers, Committees or Special Committees

Trustee Cox wanted to address why we are not having live meetings. He read parts of the Open Meetings Act and how it applies right now. In regards to recordings, it says "In addition to the requirement in Section 2.06(a)21 to keep verbatim recordings of closed meetings, Section 7(e)(9) requires public bodies holding open meetings under the new Public Act to keep a verbatim recording of all the meetings, including the open sessions, in the form of audio and/or video recording. These verbatim records shall be made available to the public". Trustee Cox said these recordings are not playing. The files aren't there. He asked Zak, the IT person, if he could get a copy of the MP3 or audio files of these meetings. Zak replied that they exist and they are kept on the server at all times in the MP3 format on GoDaddy. He asked Trustee Cox to send him an email and he would be glad to send him copies of them or give him direct downloads to them. Trustee Cox asked if Zak could fix the list of officials. It is all messed up with the names. Trustee Cox also read "If a public body determines it is necessary to hold an in person public meeting, consider the following. Hold your public meeting in a larger room than normal. You may consider having a separate room for the public that is video or audio linked to the room where the public body is meeting. This arrangement can promote social distancing by utilizing large spaces while still allowing for open meetings. You may consider recording the entire meeting. Post the open session recording on your public body's website as soon as the meeting is it." Trustee Cox's point is we could easily meet social distance with masks. Have the meeting videotaped. The public could still call in. The public will decide for themselves why we are about the only public body that won't meet in person. Supervisor Hopkins said Madison County board is where he is taking his advice from and they haven't met in person yet. Trustee Cox would like to fill the board in on is called Municipal Aggregation for Collinsville Township. It is a free option for residents to save money on their power bill. The Township can also generate some revenue. We can use that revenue to lower the tax burden. Most all of Madison County is already doing this. Here are the counties that are participating: Alton, Edwardsville, Godfrey, Granite City, Madison, Troy, Venice, Bethalto, East Alton, Glen Carbon, Hamel, Hartford, Maryville, Pontoon Beach, Roxana, South Roxana, Wood River, Edwardsville Township, Wood River Township, Chateaux Township, Jarvis Township, and Venice Township. An email was sent to Supervisor Hopkins with information and to answer any questions. Trustee Cox said he had a meeting to get some details. If anybody is interested in helping out our residents who have a power bill, all we need to do is schedule a special meeting this week to get all the information and then vote to allow it to get on the ballot in November. The deadline is August 17, 2020. Attorney Mattea said it is his understanding that for the townships to get something on the ballot it was August 3rd. Maybe the counties have until August 17th. Trustee Cox said he was told August 17th. He received an email last week. They were trying to reach out to him just to give him the information. He had a 45-minute meeting with them.

Approval of Bills

Motion to approve General Assistance bills for **\$5,645.59** 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 **\$136,925.92** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Town Fund bills for **\$118,097.95**. Trustee Cox said it looks like we have a lot of bills for the sampling of the lot. He said in the township worksheet it says \$10,497. The contract amount was \$15,344. We already spent \$13,920. Are all of those bills a part of the \$10,497 that we are voting on tonight? Supervisor Hopkins said their itemized bills are accumulative into the \$10,497. Trustee Cox asked if this was all a part of that \$15,000 that was awarded during the contract. Supervisor Hopkins said that is correct. Trustee Cox asked if this was put out for a proper bid. Supervisor Hopkins said the law only states you have to advertise in the paper for a purchase, by the township, of more than \$20,000 per item. It was not put out for a bid. It was a professional service. Trustee Cox asked if Teklab was the same as Tetra Tech. Supervisor Hopkins said no. Trustee Cox said this is the same company that he mentioned a year ago. They told him if they do find something, just blacktop over it. Supervisor Hopkins said he talked to them and they said Trustee Cox did not give them all the facts on the lot. They weren't told that there was a former building on the lot. Supervisor Hopkins spoke to

John Riley and he said Trustee Cox did not give him all the facts. He said you cannot asphalt over a lot like that. Trustee Cox said Mr. Riley did not ask for any facts. Trustee Cox said you said that ain't no lab. Supervisor Hopkins said they are an environmental test lab. They are not an environmental testing company. Tetra Tech takes samples and gives them to Teklab. They test them and tells Tetra Tech. The sample they took from the lot next to the senior center showed high levels of lead in the water. They also found asbestos in there. Trustee Cox asked if the \$2,000 was part of the \$10,000. Supervisor Hopkins yes. That is one of the companies they use. Trustee Cox said the taxpayers continue to pay legal fees each month. He asked Attorney Mattea what specifically that we have gotten accomplished. Attorney Mattea said he could go back through the bills and get Trustee Cox some kind of report of what has been done. Trustee Cox said his point is can Attorney Mattea review anything that he wants and then charge us. Attorney Mattea said he understands that Trustee Cox does not want him to do anything. But if he doesn't do anything, you might let the Township be subject to litigation. Attorney Mattea asked Trustee Cox to send him an email and he will respond to him by email. Motion to approve Town Fund bills made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote with three ayes and one nay. Motion passed. Trustee Cox was the nay vote.

Motion to approve Senior Center bills for **\$2509.75** was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Correspondence - None

New Business – None

Unfinished Business – None

Assessor's Comments - None

Road Commissioner's Comments – They had a busy weekend with all the rain. Busy with flooding in several areas. This is the most rain he has seen in years. Trustee Stack had received phone calls about Lake View Acres Road and lots of flooding out there. For years they weren't a flood zone, but now they are. There have been many things built out there and the flooding is getting worse. He has a constituent who want to know if there is anything that can be done to alleviate this flooding. Commissioner Trucano said to have the constituent call him and he will meet him out there and look into it.

Supervisor's Comments – The office is taking LIHEAP assistance with power. They took 63 applications for rent and water assistance from the General Assistance. They helped 38 homeless people with food. They helped 29 senior citizens with license sticker discounts. He commended the office staff on the great job they did with the backpack program. They helped almost 400 kids with backpacks and school supplies. This year it was not held at the senior center. There was a drive through on the parking lot behind the township building. It went very well. The office staff is keeping track of phone calls. Seniors were calling asking us not to use the center for the YMCA program. The tuckpointing is complete on the office building.

Motion to go into executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(a)(1) and 5 ILCS 120/2(a)(11) to discuss possible litigation was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Stack. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:03 p.m.

Motion to go back into regular session was made by Trustee Stack and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed. Time 8:35 p.m.

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 8:36 p.m.