

## COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP BOARD

### TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROVAL MEETING AMENDED MINUTES

**JULY 23, 2019 1:00 PM**

#### OPENING

The temporary budget approval 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 1:00 p.m.

#### PRESENT

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

Also present were Matthew Guenther, Clinton Ball, Kathleen Hoelscher, Gabrielle Koonce, Cinda McGrew, Ron Jedda, Pam Mumper, Mark Achenbach, April Hausman.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Ron Jedda** (Collinsville) does not think the board can vote on a temporary budget. The Board could vote on a continuing resolution which allows the board to spend on a monthly basis what was spent previously in the prior year.

**Clint Ball** (Collinsville) said the community is going to start holding the township board accountable. What he has seen is completely unprofessional. He would like to see more rules and self-control.

**Mark Achenbach** (Collinsville) was glad to hear Attorney Jack Daugherty say that he had called the Township Officials of Illinois regarding the budget. The only point he would like to make is that they are a lobbying organization and not an official part of the government. Still it is useful to get their opinion. Mr. Achenbach looked up the statutes and there is no mention of temporary statute. The actual ordinance talks about having a continuing resolution. The attorney general's office might be the one to check to see if that actually is the right way. Mr. Achenbach watched the last meeting online. He had to laugh when Supervisor Allan said, "we never spend more than we have to". Mr. Achenbach said the township does spend more than they need to. Not all the time, but they do.

**Phil Astrauskas** (Collinsville) thinks it is horrible that we only have two trustees and Supervisor Allan to vote on the temporary budget. Regarding holding meetings earlier, the meeting should be held when the residents can attend. The working people should not have to take off work to attend.

**Matt Gunther** (Collinsville) is attending the meeting because of the recordings. It is embarrassing and rude that people get up and leave and answer phones. He works in a corporate professional environment. As a resident of Collinsville, it is an embarrassment. He asked if the township board was comfortable with blind approval of the temporary budget numbers. Collectively as a group, we are doing a terrible job.

## **TEMPORARY BUDGET APPROVAL**

**Vote to approve temporary budget increase for Collinsville Township General Assistance for 2019/2020.** Gabrielle Koonce (General Assistance) spoke on the temporary budget increase request for the General Assistance Fund. Trustee Cox said he met with Gabrielle, Office Manager Vicky Jackson and Clerk Cathy Allison to go over the numbers. Gabrielle is asking for less than 15% of the budget. Moving forward he would like to see the general assistance helping more people and not 80% going toward administration.

Motion to approve the temporary budget increase of **\$12,601.32** for the General Assistance Fund was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Trustee Cox said the board has not approved any bills since June 11, 2019. That is the board's number one duty. He is to look at the numbers to make sure everything is right. If he doesn't see anything until right before the meeting, then he cannot do his job. Communication needs to be better to make sure this township is within the law. Attorney Daugherty said after the last meeting it is obvious that more aggressive intervention needs to be taken. He feels that he needs to have a couple of hours a week to sit down to make sure everyone is on the same page. Sometimes we are not really communicating. Attorney Daugherty would like to meet one or two hours a week with everyone at the same table. He does not plan to do this permanently. It is not the lawyer's job to do the elected officials' job. Trustee Cox asked if the attorney general had been contacted. Attorney Daugherty said he had not drafted a letter. He needs to get a letter together and have the trustees approve. He is considering having the state's attorney contact the attorney general for us. Trustee Cox is okay with the Road and Bridge bills. He said we are still in violation of the law. Road and Bridge Manager Kathy Hoelscher thought the bills had been approved at the June 11, 2019 meeting. Trustee Cox said those bills were tabled because we did not have a budget to pay the bills. He said Office Manager Vicky Jackson said all bills are withheld of payment until approved. It is a violation of the law if bills were paid. His point is he does not have the bills from the general town fund. Attorney Daugherty said those bills are not on today's agenda. Motion was made by trustee Foley to approve General Assistance's bills for \$12,601.32. Trustee Cox said that amount was incorrect. That was the budget increase amount. Gabrielle Koonce said the correct amount for bills is \$5793.95. Trustee Foley rescinded his motion.

Motion to approve General Assistance Fund bills for **\$5793.95** was made by Trustee Foley and seconded by Trustee Cox. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Road and Bridge bills for **\$19,749.80** was made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Foley. Roll call found the vote unanimous. Motion passed.

## **ADJOURN**

There being no further business to come before the board, Supervisor Allan asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion made by Trustee Cox and seconded by Trustee Foley to adjourn the meeting. Roll call found the vote unanimous on the motion. Time 1:30 p.m.

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Terry Allan, Township Supervisor

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Cathy Allison, Township Clerk