

# Minutes ~ Board of Town Trustees

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STATE OF ILLINOIS,        )  
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Winnebago County,        )  
  )  
Town of Harlem,            )

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THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the Office of the Town Clerk at 819 Melbourne Avenue, Machesney Park, Illinois on December 8, 2021.

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: \_\_\_\_\_ Gary Jury \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman  
  \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew Gabel \_\_\_\_\_ Town Clerk  
  \_\_\_\_\_ Ron Esser \_\_\_\_\_ Town Trustee  
  \_\_\_\_\_ Paul Hofmann \_\_\_\_\_ Town Trustee  
  \_\_\_\_\_ Aaron McKnight \_\_\_\_\_ Town Trustee  
Mr. Gary Jury acting as chairman, and Matthew Gabel as clerk.

The following official business was transacted:

Others present: Road Commissioner Michael Meier, Assessor Jon Vaiden, Attorney Gino Galluzzo, Deputy Supervisor Dawn Frank.

Citizens: Winnebago County Board Member Paul Arena

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM.  
Assessor Jon Vaiden gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.  
Roll call was taken, and a quorum declared present. Absent: Trustee Josh Gesner.

A motion was made by Trustee McKnight to approve the November 10, 2021 regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, Hofmann & Supervisor Jury). Trustee Gesner Absent.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Winnebago County Board Member Paul Arena spoke on Low Income Housing and Tax Abatement Law changes.

## **COMMUNICATIONS:**

- General Assistance Report – 1 active, 0 pending, 0 application, 0 terminated, 1 denied.
- Financial Reports – On file.

## **ATTORNEY COMMENTS:**

None.

## **ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS:**

**Supervisor:** Showed snow plowing routes on a map. Thanked a special Harlem Township couple for donating many of the toys for the toy drive. Will donate some of the gifts to the Walter Lawson Children Home. Discussed budgets, plan for salt shed development and other capital improvements.

**Assessor:** Ten complaints remaining, all over \$100,000.

**Clerk:** Starting to work on Facebook page, looking to go live in Spring 2022.

**Road Commissioner:** Changing some roads back to State of Illinois. Received 200 tons of the 500 tons for salt.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Rescinding Ordinance 13-2021 – Ordinance Adopting New Responsible Bidder Ordinance**

Motion made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Esser. Motion carried. 3 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, & Supervisor Jury). 1 Nay (Trustee Hofmann). Trustee Gesner absent.

*\*Trustee Hofmann added comment: This was a tough vote for me because I regard apprenticeship programs as vitally important. This is the main reason I am inclined to vote Yes and approve this motion. Some may view a No vote as an attack against their futures and livelihood. I hope that I can persuade you that this is not the case.*

*I am a strong proponent of vocational and apprenticeship programs for teaching the vitally important skilled trades. It is my opinion that these programs are outside of the scope of our township. However, it can be and should be a consideration as the bids are evaluated for large building projects. As my July 12 public comments to the Harlem School Board can attest; improving vocational training for students and preparing them for skilled trade type of work should get renewed energy and focus.*

*My No vote is against the concept of legislated mandates that take away local control. Mandates, that I consider similar to product requirements, can add costs and divert attention on a project. I trust that the project team, including the Road Commissioner and the Supervisor, will manage a fair, equitable and proper bidding process and do not need further legislation to govern their efforts.*

**Approval of Bills for Payment – Town – General Assistance – Park – Road & Bridge**

**Town Fund:** A motion was made by Trustee McKnight to approve payment of the Town Fund Bills in the amount of \$38,072.31. Seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, Hofmann & Supervisor Jury). Trustee Gesner absent.

**G.A. Fund:** A motion was made by Supervisor Jury to approve payment of the G.A. Fund Bills in the amount of \$644.00. Seconded by Trustee Esser. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, Hofmann & Supervisor Jury). Trustee Gesner absent.

**Park Fund:** A motion was made by Trustee Hofmann to approve payment of the Park Fund Bills in the Amount of \$3,586.93. Seconded by Trustee McKnight. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, Hofmann & Supervisor Jury). Trustee Gesner absent.

**Road & Bridge Fund:** A motion was made by Trustee Esser to approve payment of the Road & Bridge Fund Bills in the amount of \$19,302.22. Seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, McKnight, Hofmann & Supervisor Jury). Trustee Gesner absent.

**FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TOWNSHIP MATTERS:**

Discussion about bike path near Forest Hills Rd to Rock Cut State Park.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Trustee McKnight to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Matthew Gabel*

Matthew Gabel  
Harlem Township Clerk