

Meeting Minutes ~ Board of Town Trustees

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

THE BOARD OF TOWN TRUSTEES met at the Office of the Town Clerk at 819 Melbourne Avenue, Machesney Park, Illinois on October 12, 2022.

PHYSICALLY PRESENT:	<u>Gary Jury</u>	Chairman
	<u>Sheryl Crowley</u>	Town Clerk
	<u>Ron Esser</u>	Town Trustee
	<u>Paul Hofmann</u>	Town Trustee
	<u>Aaron McKnight</u>	Town Trustee
	<u>Josh Gesner</u>	Town Trustee

Mr. Gary Jury acting as chairman, and Sheryl Crowley as clerk.

The following official business was transacted:

Others present: Assessor Jon Vaiden, Road Commissioner Mike Meier, Attorney Galluzzo.

Citizens: Mr. Jerry Roberts.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM.

Trustee Paul Hofmann gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken, and a quorum declared present.

A motion was made by Trustee Esser to approve the August 10, 2022, regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried. 5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Supervisor Jury read a statement regarding public comments.

Mr. Jerry Roberts addressed the board regarding Pierce Lake Drive and Ambleside Drive regarding his concerns on the deterioration of the corner of this road. This road is now maintained by Loves Park, and he has called them and Harlem Township on and off for years. He's talked to Loves Park Mayor Jury, Alderman Jim Pucket, County Board member Paul Arena and Road Commissioner Meier. He's always been told there's no money in the budget to repair the road. He asked the board to look at it and address it with the City of Loves Park and County to see if it can be repaired. He's hoping that between the entities they can reach a solution.

COMMUNICATIONS:

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

ATTORNEY COMMENTS:

Comments below under Road Commissioner's discussion

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS:

Supervisor: Gave an update on the salt shed. The roof material came in, will take two days to complete. Dawn is recuperating and coming in four to five hours a day. Wendy is learning Quick Books. We have a CDs coming due and it's time to transfer them.

Assessor: They had 63 complaints filed and a third of them are processed. Attended seminar on appeals process seminar in East St. Louis (Collinsville) IL, it was a good training course . They are hoping to have most of them completed by the Christmas Holiday. Working on the Toys for Kids program. Supervisor Jury and I will be sending out letters asking for donations for the Toys for Kids program. Trustee Hofmann asked why there were more complaints, Assessor Vaiden explained process and the fact that assessments values went up with the equalization factor of 1.0752. Discussion.

Clerk: No Report.

Road Commissioner: He has talked to Mr. Roberts and said he's talking with Carlos to see what can be done about the road. Discussion. Trustee McKnight stated that roads were part of their campaign promise. Why were we not addressing this in the Spring? Discussion.

Road Commissioner Meier issued a typed statement addressing some concern. Attached is statement on some issues addressed from the August 10, 2022, board meeting. Also attached is Relationship with Other Township Officials from the General Administrative Duties of the Township Highway Commissioner (July 2013) book. A letter from Supervisor Jury dated August 18, 2022. This letter addresses the Road Commissioner's statement that it's "his sole responsibility to run that government entity and no one else" . (Will become a permanent attached to the Minutes once approved by the Board).

The seal coating was questioned at the August 10th board meeting and though there was some disappointment and "my job performance was questioned I have submitted the duties of the road commissioner. At this point Trustee McKnight asked why this wasn't addressed in the Spring? Also "What happened to the truck that was \$67,000. By waiting the price has increased, the ball was dropped and the truck was sold. Commissioner Meier was asked about the log book (tape inaudible) and said you can see the log book. Ordered Salt and it's here.

Trustee McKnight asked about the red truck Commissioner Meier said he gave the bill to Supervisor Jury. Supervisor Jury asked Road Commissioner Meier to get the payoff four meetings ago (July). He has not given the payoff to Supervisor Jury or the board who also asked for the payoff four months ago as of today. Road Commissioner Meier said he would get the payoff. Discussion on the bidding process.

Trustee McKnight told Road Commissioner Meier based on his performance he's asking for his resignation. It's not fair to the township residents so you really need to resign.

Trustee Esser asked why you are looking a new plow truck when you can get a used one? You've known you need a plow truck why have you waited so long? Discussion. "I'm not going to say it but I am "this close" to recommending that you should resign because of these inadequacies" .

Trustee Hofmann stated that "you've not performed your job maybe the best solution is to resign".

Attorney Gulluzzo stated that you need to work as a team, if you need help you need to ask for it. Roads need to be safe. It sounds like you need help, do you need an engineer to come in and prioritize your work for you? You need a plan and you need to execute the plan. It appears you can't do the this job without help. Supervisor Jury asked Road Commissioner Meier if he talked to Shirley Harper about her taxes? Road Commissioner Meier said he didn't recall talking to her. Supervisor Jury discussed the call that came in from

These minutes are not official unless signed by the Township Clerk.

Shirley Harper about her taxes and she wasn't turned over Assessor Vaiden at that time to help her. When she called back she said she talked to Mr. Meier, Assessor Vaiden took the call and went out to help her and save her mone on er taxes. I agree with Trustee McKnight it would be best if you resigned.

Road Commissioner Meier discussed the water bill and costs he's paying. He attached a copy to his report. The amount due is \$329.96.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Resolution 7-2022 – Transfer of funds for \$150,000 from Harlem Township Account to Harlem Township Road & Bridge.

Motion made by Trustee Gesner. Motion to approve fails for lack of a second.

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

Town Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Gesner to approve payment of the Town Fund Bills in the amount of \$34,161.39. Seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried.
5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

G.A. Fund: A motion was made by Trustee McKnight to approve payment of the G.A. Fund Bills in the amount of \$5,820.13. Seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried.
5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

Park Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Hofmann to approve payment of the Park Fund Bills in the amount of \$5,487.22. Seconded by Trustee McKnight. Motion carried.
5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

Road & Bridge Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Esser to approve payment of the Road & Bridge Fund Bills in the amount of \$15,515.56. Seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried.
5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

FURTHER DISCUSSION OF TOWNSHIP MATTERS:

Trustee Esser Road Commissioner Meier how he washes the trucks, is it a fire hose? How much water is being used. Trustee Hofman said it appears to be costing about \$300 a month. Discussion on water bill.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Trustee McKnight to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Hofmann. Motion carried. 5 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Hofmann, McKnight, Gesner & Supervisor Jury).

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Crowley
Harlem Township Deputy Clerk