

Meeting Minutes ~ Board of Town Trustees

STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
)
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 July 16, 2026.

PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Aaron McKnight, Chairman
 Sheryl Crowley, Town Clerk
 Ron Esser Town Trustee
 Michelle Lewis Town Trustee
 Lory Seagren Town Trustee

Mr. Aaron McKnight acting as chairman, and Sheryl Crowley as Clerk.

The following official business was transacted:

Others present: Assessor Jon Vaiden, Road Commissioner Ed Tegland, Attorney Gregory Cox, Deputy Supervisor Dawn Frank.

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

Trustee Esser gave the invocation followed by the Pledge of Allegiance .

Roll call was taken, Trustee Gesner is absent and a quorum declared present.

A motion was made by Trustee Esser to approve the June 16, 2026, regular board meeting minutes, seconded by Trustee Lewis. Motion carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

COMMUNICATIONS:

- General Assistance Report – 3 active, 0 pending, 1 application, 0 terminated, 0 denied.
- Financial Reports – On file.

ELECTED OFFICIAL'S REPORTS:

Supervisor: Tennis and Pickleball court done at Schoonmaker Park. Will be looking for sand for volleyball court and put more sand in it. Amy is doing a great job and picking up quickly.

Assessor: The 2026 assessments will be made available July 24th on the Supervisor of Assessments webpage. The PTAX-228 July 27th notice of property assessments will be mailed to taxpayers. Christine and I have been out measuring new construction and building permits. All the 2025 deeds have been recorded and entered into the property record cards and filed.

Road Commissioner: Rented a machine to trim branches on the edge of roads. Used it to also dig an extension of the other ditch that was done recently. We had a major issue with Rock Road invoice. I added 2' wider on the entire subdivision to compensate for butt joints. It saved us \$45,000 in material but the plans did not list concrete driveways that needed to be milled, resulting in an additional \$65,000 with a final cost of \$596,320.34. This is \$24,000 over the original bid of \$572,000. Have done a lot of trimming of trees on various roads this year. Waiting on seal coating for Argyle Road.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Town Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Seagren to approve payment of the Town Fund Bills in the amount of **\$53,637.81**. Seconded by Trustee Esser. Motion Carried.
4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight)

G.A. Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Esser to approve payment of the G.A. Bills in the amount of **\$9,105.36**. Seconded by Trustee Lewis. Motion Carried.
4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight)

Park Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Lewis to approve payment of the Park Fund Bills in the amount of **\$11,877.50**. Seconded by Trustee Seagren. Motion Carried.
4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight)

Road & Bridge Fund: A motion was made by Trustee Lewis to approve payment of the Road & Bridge Fund Bills in the amount of **\$38,592.93**. Seconded by Trustee Esser. Motion Carried. 4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight)

General Discussion

Supervisor McKnight stated a former employee from the Road Department has filed an age discrimination lawsuit against the Township.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Trustee Esser to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Trustee Seagren.
4 Ayes (Trustee Esser, Lewis, Seagren and Supervisor McKnight).

The meeting adjourned at 5:40PM

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheryl Crowley
Harlem Township Clerk