

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
January 8, 2009
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of January and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. Meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached.

In the absence of Supervisor Howard, Trustee Ted Deery called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a moment of silence for the men and women serving in the United States Armed Forces and for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

Roll call:

Present: Trustees Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, and Ted Deery

Absent: Supervisor Bob Howard and Trustee Dennis Koehn

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess, Assessor Carol Blume, Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer (Meyer arrived at 7:15 pm)

Approval of Town Account Truth-in-taxation Public Hearing Minutes Dated December 1, 2008:

Trustee Deery asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 1, 2008 Town Account Truth-in-taxation public hearing minutes as presented, being none, Deery asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2008 Town Account Truth-in-taxation Public Hearing as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Approval of Road & Bridge Account Truth-in-taxation Public Hearing Minutes Dated December 1, 2008:

Trustee Deery asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 1, 2008 Road District's Truth-in-taxation public hearing minutes as presented, being none, Deery asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2008 Road & Bridge Truth-in-taxation Public Hearing as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated December 1, 2008:

Trustee Deery asked if there were any corrections or additions to the December 1, 2008 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Deery asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes.

Motion passed 3-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy told the board that his mailbox had been damaged again and he presented the Clerk with a picture of the damaged mailbox to put on file. He has also reported the incident to the Will County Police.

Willy also presented the board with a copy of a map and press release from (March 7, 2008) and told the board that the state is moving forward with the proposed third airport and can use eminent domain to secure the rest of the property if necessary. Willy expressed his concern of the damaging effects the airport and the associated air pollution would have on the area if built.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer was not present and Trustee Deery read his attached written report. Meyer arrived at 7:15 and said due to the continued weather pattern of snow and ice, the Road District is using salt at a record pace. The district continues to mix slag with the salt to extend its salt supply but the continued shortage and record high prices of salt could become a problem if the balance of the winter season remains harsh. The Road district is expected to receive one load of salt this week.
2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that after all adjustments have been made the township's EAV would be approximately \$190 million. Also sales of "new" homes within the Village of Beecher totaled 21 in 2008 as compared to 91 new homes being sold in 2007. A new home is defined as never been lived in.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that the Town and Road District levies have been filed with the county as required by state statutes. Activity in the Clerk's office included 17 RTA reduced fare / free permits being issued; 1 wheelchair loaned; two wheel chairs returned to the Medical Closet. The appropriate party chairmen have informed Burgess that the Republican Caucus will be held at 7 pm at the Washington Township Center on January 13 and there will be no Democratic Caucus. Despite the poor weather conditions, approximately 85 seniors attended the Senior Holiday Dinner / Concert on December 16. The event was a huge success.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report, Trustee Koehn was not in attendance.
6. Supervisor's Report – No report, Supervisor Howard was not in attendance.

7. Open Space Initiative Committee – Committee member Mike Stanula addressed the board saying that the Open Space Initiative Plan will be presented to the public as a “Smart Growth” campaign. The presentation includes posters and fliers, which will identify the benefits of smart growth through a cohesive plan that would appeal to all residents while also outlining the goals of the Open Space Initiative Plan. Mike pointed out that the land being considered as open space fits the goals of the plan as it includes flat land for possible construction of recreational complexes, walking or biking paths, picnic areas and sporting fields while it also includes acres of wetlands and mature trees. There is also a creek running through the property. The committee has set up a fund raising drive named “Friends Of Open Space” or “FOOS” to raise money to help publicize and promote the Open Space Initiative. The group is asking for a \$10 donation and in return, the donor will receive a green wooden tree that can be displayed in their yard showing them as a supporter of open space. Several trees have been sold and donations will be deposited into a local bank and all monies will be properly accounted for. The “Friends OF Open Space” will not be a “not for profit” organization and donations are not tax deductible. Initial money raised will be used to produce and mail informational fliers to the public. Members of the Open Space Committee are also making plans to attend the meetings of all local organizations to present the Open Space Plan to each group. The committee believes the next step is to prepare an “offer letter” to the landowners of the property in question that would include a contingency clause indicating that the offer would only be valid if the voters approved BOTH Open Space referendum questions on the April ballot. Trustee Deery agreed that a letter is needed but recommended that this letter be requested by Supervisor Howard and be drafted by the township attorney. Clerk Burgess will contact Supervisor Howard regarding this matter. The next meeting of the Open Space Committee will be at 6 pm at the Washington Township Center on January 21.
8. Transportation Report – No report, Transportation Director Pat Peters was not in attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – There was no information to report at this time but Trustee Waterman is looking for sample policies to be used as a model for the township’s handbook.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Consideration of Double Faced Lighted Message Center for Township Center Signage – Trustee Koehn had requested a proposal from All-Right Sign to install a lighted message center on the current township signage on Indiana Avenue. Clerk Burgess read the attached proposal to the board, which included several options for a message center and prices ranged from \$19,000 to over \$28,000. Trustee Deery recommended that this item should be discussed at the February meeting in front of the full board. There were no objections.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Clerk.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the **Town Account** totaling **\$17,929.55**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Road Commissioner Jerry Meyer.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$42,656.65**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN. **Motion passed 2-0.**

Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. February 2, 2009 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Deery made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____