

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees

February 2, 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.

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at 7:04 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: Supervisor Bob Howard; Trustees Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Dennis Koehn and Ted Deery Absent: none

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated January 8, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the January 8, 2009 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy voiced his concern about the Village of Crete's ongoing attempt to annex the northwest area of Washington Township into their village. Willy claimed that Crete was telling residents that they could offer sewer and water to that area while Beecher could not. Village Mayor Paul Lohmann said that he had received a letter from the EPA "today" and the letter said that the EPA would not grant water or sewer rights to this area to either Beecher or Crete and that it would only consider any action based on the growth of the area and who the end users of the property would be.

Lohmann also said that the village's Economic Developer has contacted Elements Markets to inform them that the Village of Beecher will support the development of a wind farm in the Beecher / Washington Township area. Lohmann said that Elements Markets would like to have more support from the community regarding this project and that a resolution supporting this project is being prepared and will be presented to the Village Board for approval. The mayor asked the Township to consider such a resolution and said he was going to approach other community organizations and boards to consider a resolution of support as well.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report Meyer said the quality of the salt received was excellent and he was going to order more slag to mix with the salt. The district is also putting a new box on their 1996 Mack truck and this project will be complete in the coming weeks.
2. Assessor – No report, Assessor Blume was not in attendance.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that the Certification of Ballot for the Open Space referendum questions was filed with the Will County Clerk’s office on January 29. The county has requested that this paperwork also be filed “electronically” on or before February 5th. Activity in the Clerk’s office included issuing 9 RTA reduced fare / free permits and 1 temporary parking placard. Medical Closet activity – 3 items loaned, 2 items returned and 2 items donated.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard attended an RTA meeting last month with Transportation Director Pat Peters and reported that the RTA is excited about our Dial-a-ride program and is looking to Washington Township for suggestions to enhance area rider-ship programs. Howard will be meeting with members from River Valley Metro, the transportation system that serves the Kankakee area, on Friday February 5. They will be discussing how the township’s Dial-a-ride service could meet River Valley Metro buses at a designated location so Washington Township riders could change buses and continue on to Kankakee or be taken to the METRA train station in University Park. The Supervisor attended the Joint Intergovernmental Meeting last week and the group spent most of the meeting reviewing survey results that were sent to all board members of the attending entities. The goal is that the results of the surveys will aid in the development of a five-year growth plan for the entire community. Howard attended the recent PAKT meeting and watched as kids put on a karate demonstration for the attendees and he suggested bringing these types of demonstrations to a senior function to bring the groups together. Illinois State Representative Lisa Dugan was in attendance at the PAKT meeting and donated \$500 to the group.
7. Open Space Initiative Committee – The Open Space Committee invited Beth White from the non-profit firm, The Trust for Public Land, to speak to the Board. Ms. White gave a brief overview of her firm’s programs which include assisting entities in the conservation, planning, and acquisition of properties to be set aside for open space. They also have resources to assist in land development and park design. She told the board that The Trust for Public Land has assisted in the passage of over 350 ballot measures to secure Open Space for entities around the country. Ms. White complimented the Board and the Open Space Committee for their vision to realize the need to preserve open space and for the quality of the work that has been put forth for this referendum campaign.
8. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters reiterated Supervisor Howard’s remarks that many local agencies including agencies on aging and the River Valley Metro are eager to partner with Washington Township to enhance all services we can provide to our seniors. Ms. Peters will be meeting with these groups to discuss what steps need to be taken to work together to provide additional services for our residents. Peters also reported there were 61 riders on the bus in January and Doc’s Drugs has issued coupons to their customers who use the bus service to shop at their store.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman has begun reviewing the TOI sample employee handbook and will use this information (plus other current data) to develop a handbook for Washington Township. Waterman said the TOI model is extremely detailed and it will take time to review it completely. The goal is to develop a handbook that works for Washington Township that the full Board will review and eventually approve.

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 – Supervisor Howard will be meeting with area legislators (State Representative Lisa Dugan, State Senator Toi Hutchinson) about receiving a grant to purchase and install this lighted message center. Howard said that because the Washington Township Center is an ESDA location with a generator, it could qualify for a Homeland Security grant that would pay for the installation and usage of the sign as a means of communication to residents during a major emergency. Howard will report back his findings at next month's meeting.
3. Consideration and Approval of Maintenance Contract for Washington Township Generator – The warranty on the Washington Township Center's generator has expired and Supervisor Howard requested and received a proposal from Pure Power Systems, Inc for an Annual Maintenance Contract. The Board reviewed the contract however the contract was in excess of \$1000 and per policy no action can be taken until at least two quotes are received. The Board is interested in acquiring a maintenance contract and Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess will arrange to have additional vendors prepare quotes for this service. Once two quotes are received, the board will reconsider action on this item.

Supervisor Howard recommended and asked for a motion from the Board to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of land.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion at 7:45 PM for the Board to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of land. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0**

The Board returned from Closed Session at 8:04 pm and returned to New Business item #4.

4. Will County Prescription Drug Cards – Will County is offering free discount prescription drug cards to all Will County residents. There are no restrictions on who can obtain a card and they offer residents a significant savings on commonly prescribed drugs. Mayor Lohmann told the board that the village has received cards and is a distribution center for the county. Lohmann offered to bring cards to the Township offices for distribution.

Supervisor Howard has also received information on this program and will be requesting cards that will be available for pick up at the Washington Township Center.

5. Community Building Project & Loan – The Community Building Board of Manager’s are reviewing proposals from two local financial institutions to borrow \$60,000 to be paid back over a five-year period. The money will be used to pay for the overruns on their current project to upgrade the electrical and HVAC systems in the building.

Payment of Bills:

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 **\$39,229.62**.

Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote:

Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor.

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 **\$10,128.77**. Trustee Koehn

seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes,

Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

None.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

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

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Koehn made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Becker, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____