

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees

March 2, 2009

**Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL**

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of February 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 7:05 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

Absent: Trustee Ted Deery

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Assessor Carol Ann Blume

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated February 2, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the February 2, 2009 Board Meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy asked about the number of foreclosures in Washington Township and Assessor Blume said that six homes were in foreclosure and numerous other properties were in pre-foreclosure.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – No report, Commissioner Meyer was not in attendance.
2. Assessor – The Assessor's office has begun adding new construction assessments to the books and the total added to date is approximately \$1.2 million, which is considerably lower when compared to the same time period from previous years. A letter from the Will County Supervisor of Assessments will be mailed to all residents of the county. The letter was prepared to explain many items but mainly will address why assessments for home values are unchanged even though the current economic conditions has contributed to home values being much lower than one-year ago and why property taxes don't reflect these trends in the housing market.

3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess explained that the new Board elected on April 7, 2009 would officially take office on May 18, 2009. The township will be conducting Early and In-person Absentee voting for the Consolidated Election starting March 16 and ending April 2. Early voting will be conducted only on Tuesdays and Thursdays between the hours of 9 am to 3 pm and In-person Absentee voting will be conducted on April 2 from the hours of 9 am until 12 pm. The township will be offering this service to residents of Washington, Will, Peotone and Crete Townships. Clerk’s office activity: there were no RTA permits or temporary parking placards issued. Medical Closet activity – one item loaned and three items returned.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard addressed the board about scheduling a ceremony to thank Trustee Dennis Koehn, who did not run for re-election, for his twenty plus years of service to the residents of Washington Township. Howard would like an opportunity to publicly thank Dennis and extend an invitation for his family to attend. Howard recently attended a village board meeting in which several local legislators were invited to attend. The supervisor also met recently with State Senator Toi Hutchinson and Representative Lisa Dugan regarding available grant money to be used to purchase a lighted message center for the township. Initial talks indicate that there should be money available from the state or through a Homeland Security grant. The supervisor also complimented the Open Space Committee on their hard work preparing for and setting up forums to talk about the Open Space Initiative to residents and local civic and governmental groups. He reiterated that this was the right time to move ahead to secure open space and to begin a legacy of smart growth for future generations. General Assistance applications and activity is on the rise and the food pantry has been very busy.
7. Open Space Initiative Committee – Chairman Mike Mach praised Mike Stanula for his Open Space presentation that took place on February 28 at the Community Hall. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting and Mach felt the meeting was well received and several contributions to “FOOS” were received.
8. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters reported that there was 67 trips on the Pace bus this month and a \$733 payment was received from the American Cancer Society for providing on-going transportation to a cancer patient.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman is preparing a rough draft of an Employee Handbook, which should be available to the board by the May meeting.
2. Consideration of Double Faced Lighted Message Center for Township Center Signage – Supervisor Howard covered this agenda item during his report but indicated that bids for the message center would be required if grant money is awarded for this project.
3. Consideration and Approval of Maintenance Contract for Washington Township Generator – Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess have requested additional quotes for this Maintenance Contract and there could be as many as three quotes available for the board to review at the March 23 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Approval of Closed Session Minutes Dated February 2, 2009 – Supervisor Howard asked if there were any changes or corrections to the Closed Session minutes dated February 2, 2009. Being none Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the Closed Session minutes dated February 2, 2009 as presented. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

3. Consideration to Open the Closed Session Minutes Dated February 2, 2009 – Supervisor Howard recommended that the Closed Session minutes remain closed and not be acted upon until after the April 7 Consolidated Election. There were no objections from the Board.
4. Consideration and Approval of April 14, 2009 Annual Town Meeting Agenda – Clerk Burgess explained that a new law regarding Annual Town Meeting agendas was passed in July of 2008 and agenda items not on the published agenda may not be considered. This eliminates adding agenda items at the meeting, previously allowed if approved by a three-fifths majority vote of electors present. Voters may request that a qualified item be placed on the agenda but they must be presented to the Clerk before March 1 and no such requests were made. The board reviewed the attached proposed agenda for the 2009 Annual Town Meeting and it was decided that the board would take time to review the agenda and act on this item at the March 23 meeting.
5. Approval of Meeting Dates for Fiscal Year 2009-2010 - The Board reviewed the attached proposed meeting dates for fiscal year 2009-2010. The board discussed whether to have a meeting in May before or after the new Board is elected and it was decided to have the meeting before the new board is seated. All other dates were deemed acceptable. Supervisor Howard asked the board to consider inviting Will County Officials to board meetings for the upcoming fiscal year.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the 2009-2010 fiscal year meeting dates and times as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor. Trustee Koehn questioned a \$1220 payment to *HomePages* for advertising when the Board was told that this amount was to be paid by another party. Howard explained that the bill will be reimbursed with RTA grant money but the bill must be paid by the township and then submitted to the RTA for reimbursement. The

Supervisor also told the board that the current Ancel Glink bill included legal advice for the Community Building Board of Managers and that portion of the bill will be reimbursed from the Community Building Fund.

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 **\$11,868.35**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Clerk Burgess.

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 **\$57,151.96**. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Announcements:

The first senior breakfast of 2009 will be held on March 28 from 8:30 am to 10:30 am at Cardinal Creek Golf Course.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. March 23, 2009 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. April 14, 2009 – 2009 Annual Town 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 Waterman, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____