

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
March 23, 2009
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of March 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 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance and then 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 (arrived 7:10 pm)

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

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

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy expressed his concerns that many local and state politicians are once again talking about moving forward with the “third” airport to be located in the Beecher and Peotone area. Willy told the Board that building this airport was a huge mistake and no one is talking about the deadly pollution that would be spread over the area if the airport was built. He urged every board member to voice their opposition to building the airport and to do whatever they could to prevent this project from moving forward.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report, Meyer is re-applying for a \$25,000 sign grant. If awarded, the grant will be used to update signage throughout the township. The cold winter has created many problem areas on township roads and the highway department has begun sweeping roads to remove loose gravel and broken blacktop caused by the frost. Meyer said cold patching is being done where necessary but many areas will not be completely repaired until hot patch becomes available in a few weeks.

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2. Assessor – No report – Assessor Blume was not in attendance.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that he has begun working on the next edition of the Washington Township Newsletter and plans on mailing the newsletter at the very end of April or early May. Supervisor Howard suggested that the township consider selling ad space in future copies of the newsletter to help fund the cost for printing and mailing. Howard said it was legal to sell ad space for this purpose and would like to pursue this avenue of funding the newsletter in the coming months. The website has been updated with all of the scheduled senior events for 2009 and the website calendar has also been updated to include these events and the 2009-2010 meeting dates. A Senior Movie Night is being planned in April after Easter; a flier with the information will be ready to be distributed to seniors who attend the Senior Breakfast on March 28. The Clerk has received a letter from the Village of Beecher requesting a member of the township board to sit on a joint Census 2010 “Complete Count Committee”, which would be responsible for assisting the village to obtain an accurate Census count in 2010. The Board determined that it would discuss this item under new business.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard has attended a few Open Space Initiative public meetings and believes there has been positive feedback about the Open Space Plan from those attending the meetings. Howard has also learned that another railroad company has shown interest in building an intermodal facility in Crete at the site originally being considered by Centerpoint Properties. Supervisor Howard also wants to work with the Village of Beecher to develop cohesiveness between the village and township to educate all residents in the village and township that everyone is part of the Beecher community. Howard suggested working towards common goals and uniting in projects and events are positive steps to obtain the goal.
7. Open Space Initiative Committee – Trustee Deery reported that he had attended three different Open Space presentations this month and is encouraged that the message about securing Open Space is getting out to the voters. The committee is considering making phone calls and going door to door in a final push to educate and encourage voters to vote yes for the Open Space Initiative on April 7. The committee has received many donations and is working with donors to help raise additional funds to promote the Open Space Plan. The next Open Space Committee meeting will be held at the Washington Township Center at 7 pm on March 30.
8. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters will be attending a meeting on rural transit on April 1. The meeting is designed to help explain what grants are available for public and rural transportation services. Peters will also be attending an RTA Budget Hearing on April 8 in South Holland. The RTA is encouraging transportation specialists to attend this hearing to voice their support for regional transit and also discuss the capital funding needed over the next five years to make improvements to the system including repairs, upgrades and purchasing new buses and trains.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman is still working on the handbook and had no new information to report.

2. Consideration and Approval of Maintenance Contract for Washington Township Generator – Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess are still waiting for additional maintenance contract quotes for the board to review and act upon.
3. Consideration and Approval of April 14, 2009 Annual Town Meeting Agenda – Supervisor Howard asked the Board if there were any additional items to be placed on the 2009 Annual Town Meeting Agenda, being none Howard asked for approval of the agenda as presented.

Motion:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the 2009 Annual Town Meeting Agenda as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Koehn – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 5-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. 2009-10 Budget – Clerk Burgess passed out copies of the current budget to the board members and recommended that a special budget meeting or workshop be considered so the Board could finalize a tentative budget for 2009-2010. Burgess explained that holding a meeting in April would allow him the required time to prepare the tentative budget ordinance and post it for thirty days as required by state statute. The board discussed the Clerk’s recommendation and agreed that holding a special budget meeting would give them an opportunity to spend adequate time developing the budget. Supervisor Howard indicated that he would call for a Special Board Meeting, for budget purposes only, on April 20 at 7 pm at the Washington Township Center. Clerk Burgess will publish the notice as required by law.
3. Consideration to Pay Additional Principal on GO Bond – The Board reviewed the current year-to-date budget and discussed if there was excess available funds to make an unscheduled principal only payment on the General Obligation Bond. After determining there were excess funds available of approximately \$90,000, Supervisor Howard suggested an additional payment of \$50,000 towards the GO Bond and Trustee Koehn recommended the same.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve a \$50,000 principal only payment to the General Obligation Bond. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

4. Village of Beecher’s Census 2010 “Complete Count Committee” Request – As presented in the Clerk’s report, the Village of Beecher is requesting a member of the township board to sit on a joint Census 2010 “Complete Count Committee”. This committee would be responsible for assisting the village to obtain an accurate Census count in 2010. Mayor

Lohmann explained that this was a volunteer committee and the first meeting would not occur until late 2009. The Board discussed the request and agreed that a board member would represent the township on the committee but they would wait until after the April 7 election before naming the volunteer member.

5. Intergovernmental Committee – Supervisor Howard suggested that an intergovernmental committee be formed that would include one member from each entity that participates at the Intergovernmental Joint Taxing Bodies Meetings, which meet approximately every three months. This committee could meet more often and help keep the communication lines open between all the participating groups between meetings. It was suggested that this idea be brought up at the next Intergovernmental Joint Taxing Bodies Meeting.
6. Review Township Committee's and Appointments – Supervisor Howard has requested that the Board review all the township committees and their membership after the April election at either the May or June board meeting. Howard said it's time to review each committee and to review their functions, and some committees may need to be redefined and there may be a need to create new committees such as a new Senior and/or Youth Committee. Also, the Board can verify that current members are still willing to serve on these committees and if not, it would be necessary to appoint new members as needed.
7. Senior Fitness Program - Scott Kausal, a resident of Washington Township and a certified USCI and ACE certified Program Coordinator /Personal Trainer, approached the Board regarding developing a fitness class for the senior citizens of Washington Township. Kausal offered his services to the Board and explained that he uses a low impact approach utilizing only lightweight dumbbells, which he supplies, and a chair for his class workouts. He currently charges \$40 per month per senior and offers a one-hour class twice a week. The board agreed to consider his proposal but many items needed to be addressed such as funding the program, insurance requirements, coordinating dates, and determining the interest in a senior fitness program.

Payment of Bills:

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 **\$1,130.80**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$9,498.80**. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Koehn – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Announcements:

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

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. April 14, 2009 – 2009 Annual Town Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. April 20, 2009 – Washington Township Special Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
3. May 4, 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 Waterman, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____