

**Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
June 1, 2009**

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

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of May 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:

Supervisor Howard welcomed new Trustee Teresa Peterson to the Board.

Present: Supervisor Robert Howard Trustees: Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Teresa Peterson

Absent: Trustee Ted Deery (arrived at 7:20 pm)

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess, Assessor Carol Ann Blume and Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated May 4, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the May 4, 2009 board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2009 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, Peterson – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy asked Supervisor Howard if he would invite other local public officials to attend a Washington Township Board meeting for the purpose of discussing the proposed third airport. Howard indicated that he would attempt to satisfy Mr. Willy's request in the upcoming months.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report, Meyer said the Road District is entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Will and Peotone Townships to secure a better price on road oil used for the tar and chipping process. Meyer said the three entities will request bids for 50,000 gallons of oil and should save over \$1.00 per gallon. The Road District is also entering into an Intergovernmental Agreement with Peotone Township to purchase a patching machine for repairing potholes. Meyer said the new technology will save both townships money and his research has discovered that this new procedure lasts

longer and is becoming increasingly more popular with township and county highway departments.

2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that the township’s EAV is up \$3 million since the county posted the final abstract last year. Blume also stated that there have been 11 foreclosures in Washington Township from September 1, 2008 until May 31, 2009. She also told the board that taxes on foreclosed properties and purchased foreclosed properties are still required to be paid by the lawful owner(s) and all taxes due on these properties are assessed on the current value of the property regardless of the purchase price.
3. Town Clerk – No report.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard said he was honored to be back with all other board members who were re-elected to their seats and looked forward to continuing the current services offered to the residents of Washington Township and hoped the Board would add new services as well. Howard suggested the township consider a volunteer “Handyman Assistance Program” where local tradesman would volunteer their services for simple projects requested by area seniors. The township could then offer a list of “approved” contractors to seniors who need more work done than the Handyman program would offer. General Assistance cases, especially “emergency assistance” is on the rise in the township and he has been busy interviewing all residents who have requested assistance. The Senior Prom was a huge success and many seniors have requested this type of event be held more than once a year. Howard is checking into the legality of forming a Township Youth and / or Senior Committee. He thanked the Village of Beecher and the Beecher Police Department for recent donations to the township’s food pantry. Supervisor Howard also acknowledged and thanked two Will County Sheriff Deputies for attending the meeting. Howard recently spent time at Springfield and said capital funds are part of the new proposed state budget but will not be available until the budget is approved by the state legislators.
6. Open Space Initiative Committee – Members of the village and the township recently met with the Will County Forest Preserve District to discuss land acquisitions in Washington Township.
7. Transportation Report – Director Pat Peters recommended that the township apply for a 2009 matching (50/50) RTA grant to be used to expand the current Dial-a-ride service. Peters said this is the same grant that was awarded to the township in 2008 and the Board will need to pass a resolution authorizing applications for RTA grants. This resolution was also passed in 2008 and a new resolution will be necessary when applying for the 2009 grant and she presented the Clerk with a sample resolution to be placed on next month’s agenda. Pat also reported that the RTA has the 2008 grant funds available and is waiting for government approval before the funds are released. Ms. Peters also asked for volunteers to decorate a township float for the Beecher 4th of July parade and left a volunteer signup sheet with Supervisor Howard. Trustee Deery asked if the township could eventually expand the Dial-a-ride service to seven days and Pat indicated that no township’s are running seven days at this time but a few are running on Saturdays.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Washington Township Employee Handbook* – The handbook is still being reviewed by Trustee Waterman and is not ready for the board to review at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations* – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. *Review Committees and Appointments* – Supervisor Howard is preparing a letter to send to all current committee members asking them if they are still interested in serving on their committee and to contact him if they are no longer able to serve or are interested in serving on additional committees.
3. *Consideration and Approval of “Washington Township Budget and Appropriation Ordinance #09-01”* – Supervisor Howard asked the Board for a motion to approve the Washington Township Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #09-01 as presented at the Public Hearing held prior to the regular Board Meeting.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to pass the *Washington Township Budget & Appropriation Ordinance #09-01*, as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

4. *Approval of Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-03 for Washington Township* – Clerk Burgess presented proposed Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-03 and explained that the ordinance was unchanged from the previous year and is required, by law, to be approved each year on or before June 30. The Board had no questions or comments regarding the ordinance.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to pass *Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-03 for Washington Township*, 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, Peterson - yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

5. *Approval of Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-04 for the Washington Township Road District* – The Clerk presented proposed Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-04 for the Road District and explained that this ordinance was also unchanged from the previous year and is required, by law, to be approved each year on or before June 30.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to pass *Prevailing Wage Ordinance #09-04 for the Washington Township Road District*, as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman - yes, Peterson - yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

6. *A Resolution Adopting a Community-wide Strategic Plan for the Beecher Community* – Supervisor Howard told the Board that he had reviewed the proposed resolution and had concerns regarding two items listed as “Implementation Actions” in the resolution. The Supervisor pointed out that item #4 stated “Begin the process of creating a park district” and he said he was against formulating any new taxing body within the community and felt the existing entities should do more with the funds they have. Howard said he would agree with the action step if it were worded to say the groups would begin a “study to determine if there was support” to implement a park district but he would not support the action step as written. Several members of the board echoed the supervisors concerns. Supervisor Howard also was opposed to the verbiage used in item #9, which supports the use of TIF districts as an incentive to promote new development. Howard said he understood incentives should be used to draw new business but the creation of any TIF district must have guidelines that are acceptable to all the taxing entities in the township. Supervisor Howard went on to say he would not sign off on the resolution unless the verbiage was changed.

Trustee Deery said that the resolution should have been given to the Washington Township Planning Commission to be reviewed and questioned why that was not done. Deery also disagreed with the wording on item #6 saying that it clearly states that the groups were opposed to the proposed airport but the township has never officially opposed the airport. Deery said placing verbiage in the resolution regarding opposition to the airport could hinder the boards’ ability to work with any commission setup to run the airport. Trustee Becker disagreed and said the area needs to stay agricultural. Trustee Waterman asked what other groups had passed the resolution and it was learned that the Board of Education had passed the resolution and the Village Board was prepared to pass the resolution at their next meeting. Due to the many questions and concerns that were brought up during discussion, Supervisor Howard recommended that the board take no action on the resolution at this time. There were no objections to the Supervisor’s recommendation.

7. *A Resolution of Appreciation for Trustee Koehn* – Clerk Burgess recommended passing a resolution of appreciation for former Trustee Dennis Koehn who had served as a Trustee for 20 years. Burgess also suggested a reception for Trustee Koehn either before or after the July meeting. The Board agreed to move forward with preparing a resolution for former Trustee Koehn and placing it on the July agenda.
8. *Senior Activities* – Supervisor Howard suggested that another senior dance be held in the coming months and it could be held in lieu of a Senior Breakfast. Howard said it was the goal of the township to reduce the isolation and create new events for our seniors. Howard is also reevaluating the purpose and structure of the Washington Township Annual Appreciation Dinner.

9. Washington Township Center Procedures – Trustee Waterman was concerned about the lock up procedures that are being followed when other groups or entities are using the Washington Township Center. Recent problems have included properly locking and alarming the building and leaving the thermostat set at extreme temperatures. Supervisor Howard will work on lock up procedures to be posted or given to all entities using the building and will purchase locking thermostat covers to ensure the building temperature is maintained by only the township.

Announcement:

Will County Sheriff Deputy Jim Jones addressed the Board regarding a number of home burglaries that have been occurring in eastern Will County including Washington Township. He said the Will County Sheriff has assigned a special detail in the area where the burglaries are occurring and they are making every effort to apprehend the people responsible. Jones also indicated that the burglaries are happening primarily during the daytime, appear to be random and what limited information they have collected does not always match. He told the Board and people in attendance “if they see something that looks suspicious, it probably is” and recommended they call 911 to report the activity. He also encouraged everyone to make sure to lock all home and vehicle doors and to remove their garage door opener from any vehicle that is parked outside overnight. Supervisor Howard thanked him for coming to the meeting and sharing the information with the Board.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor Howard.

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 **\$13,502.54**. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer. A question arose regarding a discrepancy between the total presented by Clerk Burgess and the total listed on the budget summary sheet. It was discovered that the payroll numbers reported to Clerk Burgess were from April and not May. The correct payroll for May was \$12,516.69 and not \$13,100.72 as listed on the warrant sheet. The correct total of all bills for the Road District submitted for the month of May total **\$36,602.46**.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits as presented for the **Road & Bridge Account** totaling **\$36,602.46**. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

A CMAP meeting will be held at the Washington Township Center on June 23, 2009.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. July 6, 2009 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no other business or discussion, Trustee Deery made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Peterson, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____