

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
August 4, 2008
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of July 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

Absent: Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated July 7, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the July 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 July 7, 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, Howard - yes.

Motion passed 3-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy asked if there was any new news on the intermodal being proposed for the Beecher area.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – No report, Commissioner Meyer was not present.
2. Assessor – Assessor Blume was not present but left a written report that was read by Clerk Burgess and is attached to these minutes. As of August 1, 2008 the township's assessed value is \$191,826,900, which is an increase of \$20.9 million over 2007. The August 1 figure is not a final figure as there are additional structures that will be added to the books before the end of the year. In 2007, there were 3432 parcels in the township and there are now approximately 750 vacant lots in the village of Beecher.
3. Town Clerk – Deputy Clerk JoAnn Mueller reported that during the month of July; 26 RTA reduced fare permits were issued, one person registered to vote and three pieces of equipment were moved in/out of the medical closet. Also, 3 additional items were donated to the township for use in the medical closet.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.

5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Park Board Report – No report.
7. Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Howard reported that there have been many positive responses about the Dial-a-Ride program and he is looking for ways to help fund the program so it can be expanded to more days. A township newsletter is being discussed and hopefully will be completed in the coming months. Howard also suggested that the board consider a Washington Township Senior ID Program similar to the one in Thornton Township where senior citizens can receive a free picture ID. Rich Township donated a 2001 GMC passenger van with a wheel chair lift to Washington Township that can be used as a backup vehicle to the Pace bus or used for other township activities as required. Supervisor Howard publicly thanked the Rich Township Board of Trustees, Township Administrator Tim Bradford and Rich Township Supervisor Al Riley for donating the van to Washington Township.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – Mike Mach reported that the committee is currently working on identifying parcels of land within the township that could be either purchased or donated towards open space.
9. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters reported that there were 110 Dial-a-ride trips in July and the bus will be taking village officials to a function at Chicago's Navy Pier on Saturday, August 9. Dennis Schoelling has completed his Pace training and is now driving the bus on Tuesdays. Ms. Peters will be submitting a grant application to the RTA before the end of this week, the matching funds grant would be used to expand the current bus service from two days to five days a week. Local banks will be contacted to inquire about promoting the Dial-a-ride service in their newsletter and facilities so their customers can get to their locations, First National Bank of Grant Park has already agreed to put the information in their upcoming newsletter. Pat will hold a training session on the proper operation of the wheelchair lift in the GMC van in the coming weeks that will also include how to secure a wheelchair in the van. Finally, Pace will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony at Beecher Manor for the new township Pace bus during the week of August 17 and Pat encouraged all the elected officials to attend the event.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration of Donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association – Supervisor Howard recommended that this item be tabled until the September 4 Board meeting.

MOTION:

Trustee Becker made a motion to table the Consideration of Donation to the Beecher Scholarship Association until the September 4 Board meeting. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.

2. Washington Township Mission Statement (Purpose of Senior Citizen Services) – Supervisor Howard recommended that this item be tabled until the September 4 Board meeting.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to table the Washington Township Mission Statement (Purpose of Senior Citizen Services) until the September 4 Board meeting. Supervisor Howard seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Waterman – yes, Howard – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

3. Washington Township Senior ID Program – As discussed during the Supervisor’s report, Supervisor Howard would like to explore the feasibility of a Washington Township Senior ID program. Trustee Waterman asked if the ID would be recognized by the state and other public or private entities as a valid ID and what the program would cost the township. Supervisor Howard will provide more details at the September meeting.

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 **\$11,948.33**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

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 **\$34,412.94**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard –yes. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Announcements:

Village Mayor Paul Lohmann thanked the Board for their donation to the Dallas City Flood Relief fund. Lohmann also reminded the Board that the next Intergovernmental Joint Meeting would be held at 7 pm on August 26 at the Washington Township Center. Lohmann said there would be a discussion on status of Hillcrest Drive on the agenda and he would like to hear comments from the township officials regarding the matter.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. August 26, 2008 – Intergovernmental Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. September 4, 2008 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further business or discussion, Trustee Becker made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Waterman, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____