

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
September 10, 2009
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of August 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 Robert Howard Trustees: Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Ted Deery, Teresa Peterson. Absent: None

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer (Arrived at 8:20 pm)

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated August 3, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 3, 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 August 3, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Peterson – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident Dorothy Hurn told the Board that she is in the process of appealing her real estate taxes and her calls to the Assessor's office are not being returned. Ms. Hurn needs three comparisons of recently sold real estate to support her appeal and only the township assessor can supply that information. Supervisor Howard will speak to the assessor and ask that Ms. Hurn's request be satisfied.

George Willy read a prepared statement regarding the proposed airport and presented a map of the proposed airport's footprint and explained how the flight patterns cover Washington Township. Willy said the patterns go directly over the new Jr. High and the pollution caused by the airplanes were toxic and harmful to children. He urged people to "sue" the state of Illinois to "stop" the airport from being built.

Beecher Mayor Paul Lohmann had recently seen a report that Washington Township would be awarded \$50,000 if the new Capital Bill were to be passed. When Lohmann asked how the township would use the money, Supervisor Howard explained that a new electronic message board would be purchased to replace the current signage on Indiana Avenue.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer gave his report upon arriving at 8:20 pm. The Road District is beginning to stockpile stone utilizing Motor Fuel Tax funds. The second cutting of township ditches has begun and will take up to two weeks to complete. The employees are fixing potholes using the new patching machine and Meyer said the new patch is a superior way to fix holes compared to using cold patching methods. Working with Peotone and Will Townships, the district has completed nearly 12 miles of tar and chipping on township roads. The combined departments have been working in all three townships and have done up to five miles in one day.
2. Assessor – No report. Assessor Blume was not in attendance.
3. Town Clerk – The Fall Senior Breakfast will be held at Cardinal Creek Golf Course on September 19 at 8:30 am. Flu shots will be offered to seniors and to the general public on October 14 from 9 am until noon at the Washington Township Center (WTC). Nurses Plus will be providing the service and shots will be free for seniors who bring their Medicare card. A Senior Movie Night will be held on September 29 at the WTC. The movie “Marley and Me” will be shown starting at 6:30 pm and coffee and pie will be served.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – Chairman Mike Stanula reported that Martha Legunas, who resides at 28541 S. Western Avenue, has requested a map amendment change from A-1 to E-1 to split a 10 acre parcel into two five acre parcels. The petitioner has indicated that a relative would like to build a house on the new 5-acre parcel. Stanula said that the map amendment change being requested meets all the criteria for E-1 zoning and the WTPC is recommending that the Board pass the petitioners request. The Board will consider the Legunas request under new business.

Stanula also told the Board that the WTPC applauds the efforts of the Intergovernmental Taxing Bodies Community-wide Strategic plan but they believe the plan is too specific and do not agree with all of the implementation steps. It is the opinion of the WTPC that the Board should not approve the Community-wide Strategic Plan as presented. Trustee Deery suggested that the Board consider passing a “mission statement” that would include many of the proposals of the plan but not include items as specific as the resolution developed by the Intergovernmental Taxing Bodies.

The WTPC has decided to update the Washington Township Comprehensive Plan, which was last updated in 2000, to more accurately reflect the growth of the township and the surrounding areas over the last eight years. They will review the current plan and identify and analyze “critical” areas and update them accordingly. Some of these critical areas include the proposed Peotone Airport and Illiana Expressway projects.

5. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard thanked the Beecher Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank of Grant Park and Settler’s Pond for their generous donations to the Washington Township Food Pantry. The Supervisor also thanked State Representative Lisa Dugan for her \$500 personal donation to the Washington Township transportation department. Howard and Pat Peters recently attended a paratransit meeting and he reported that the township is on the cutting edge of transportation in eastern Will County.

Many people are looking at the township's transportation efforts as a model for new transportation start-ups in other areas. Supervisor Howard asked the board members to consider build a list of "goals" for Washington Township. He suggested ideas such as land acquisition, building a dog park, controlled growth and future developments all be considered when determining the short and long term goals of the township.

6. Foundation For a Green Community – The committee will be mailing invitations to invite FOOS donors to their tree planting ceremony on October 5, 2009.
7. Transportation Report – On August 21 several local and state officials attended an open house celebration at the Washington Township Center for the announcement that the township's Dial-a-ride service will be expanding from two days to five days a week. Peters thanked everyone for their support and publicly thanked Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess for taking the time to attend the event. Peters urged all in attendance to go to the RTA's website and ask the RTA to approve the township's 2010 New Freedom Grant application. Referring to a recent Dial-a-ride flier, Trustee Waterman asked why the decision was made to only allow customers to call on Tuesdays and Thursdays to schedule rides for the entire week. Waterman was concerned that limiting calls to two days a week would not allow for people who may have the need for same day trips. When told that the decision was made to save the township the additional expense to staff the office, Waterman said that the budget was set up to staff the office for five days once the service expanded. He suggested someone should be hired to work in the office on Monday, Wednesday and Friday when the Deputy Clerk is not in. Transportation Committee Member Joe Burgess agreed with Waterman and recommended that the office staff be increased immediately so the bus could be fully utilized every day. Peters reported that there were 80 trips in August.
8. Community Building Report – No report – this is a new report requested by Supervisor Howard.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman is still working on the handbook and will present additional information as he prepares the various areas to be covered.
2. Review Committees and Appointments – Supervisor Howard is still working on this item and had no new information to report.
3. A Resolution Adopting a Community-wide Strategic Plan for the Beecher Community – The Board discussed the resolution and there are varying opinions on the resolution as presented. Supervisor Howard asked for a consensus from the board regarding the resolution and urged the board to act on the resolution. Trustee Deery suggested that in the spirit of cooperation with the Intergovernmental Taxing Bodies, the board consider passing the resolution. Trustee Waterman indicated that he did not support the document and questioned why the board should support a document that many members had concerns about. After additional discussion about the wording of implementation steps of the resolution, Supervisor Howard made the following motion.

Motion:

Supervisor Howard made a motion to pass “*A Resolution Adopting a Community-wide Strategic Plan for the Beecher Community*”, resolution #09-03 as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Howard – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – no, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 4-1.**

4. *Consideration and Approval of “Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs”* - Supervisor Howard asked if there were any questions or comments about the 2009 Certifications for Federal Transit Programs. Being none, the Supervisor asked for a motion to pass the certification.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to pass the “*Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs*” as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

5. *Consideration and Approval of “Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs”* - Supervisor Howard asked if there were any questions or comments about the 2010 Certifications for Federal Transit Programs. Being none, the Supervisor asked for a motion to pass the certification.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to pass the “*Federal Fiscal Year 2010 Certifications and Assurances for Federal Transit Administration Assistance Programs*” as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Peterson – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. *Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations* – As reported during the WTPC report, Supervisor Howard asked the Board if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the map amendment change as requested by Martha Legunas. Being none, Supervisor Howard asked for a motion to approve the petitioner’s request.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve Martha Legunas’s request for a map amendment change from A-1 to E-1 for the property located at 28541 S Western Avenue in Beecher. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

2. *Newsletter with Village* – The village has sold 8 ads that will be featured in both the village and township’s newsletters. Area businesses are paying \$275 to purchase ad space to be published in four newsletters (2 village & 2 township) over the course of one year. The first set of ads will be published in the October / Fall newsletters.

3. Dog Park – Trustee Deery said he wanted the board to continue the pursuit of open space and believed the board should be looking for support from the community. Deery explained that building a Dog Park would arouse community interest and once built, people could see how utilizing land for different projects was a positive for the entire township. Deery said the committee is working on cost estimates, funding alternatives and volunteers to assist with the project. Answers to additional questions from last months meeting regarding the construction of a dog park are also being researched at this time.
4. Consideration and Approval of a “Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of the Initial Donors to the Open Space Initiative” – The Board reviewed the proposed resolution as prepared by the Clerk. Trustee Waterman asked why a resolution was necessary and believed sending “thank you” letters and keeping the donors informed of Open Space projects would be more practical and help keep them involved in the process. Trustee Deery said many donations were made in “memory of loved ones” who had passed and the committee believed that these donations should be made part of the official public record. The Clerk is waiting for the final list of donors to be added to the resolution and it will be presented to the Board for approval at the October 5 meeting.
5. 2009 Tax Levy – Clerk Burgess told the board that due to the current economic climate, the 2009 tax levy would be less than a 5% increase over the previous year and most likely would be less than 3%. Burgess cited the CPI (Consume Price Index) was actually a negative number and by statute a negative number cannot be used in the tax levy formula and .1% will be used in determining 2009 tax levy calculations. A spreadsheet prepared by the Clerk supported his recommendation to not levy more than 5%, which would negate the need to hold a tax hearing in 2009. Burgess will supply the board with additional information at the October meeting.
6. Washington Township Center Carpet Cleaning – Supervisor Howard has received quotes to repair and clean the carpet in the Meeting Room. The quotes range from \$280 to \$400 and Howard will move ahead to have the work completed.
7. Tom Brislane Accounting Request – Tom Brislane has asked the Board to renegotiate his contract for accounting services. Mr. Brislane said he is doing many additional services outside the scope of the original agreement and he has not asked for an increase in four years. Road Commissioner Meyer was supportive of Mr. Brislane and has offered to pay \$1200 a year towards the new proposal. Trustee Deery was also very supportive of our current services. Tom was asked to prepare a two-year proposal and present it to the board for approval at the October meeting.

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 **\$11,289.35**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer. The Road District is now in possession of the new patching machine, which was purchased jointly with Peotone Township. The patching machine has been added to the township's insurance policy with TOIRMA and one half of the machine's cost will be added to the township's list of assets.

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 **\$65,001.30** Supervisor Howard seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN.

Motion passed 4-0.

Announcements:

Former Community Building Manager Jenola Morgan is very ill and Supervisor Howard asked the Board to keep her in their thoughts.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. October 5, 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 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: October 5, 2009