

**Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
October 5, 2009**

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

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of September 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 7:02 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

Absent: Teresa Peterson

Other Officials present:

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

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated September 10, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 10, 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 September 10, 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, Deery – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy expressed his opinion on the routes being considered for the proposed Illiana Expressway and questioned the need for the expressway citing the excessive costs to build it. He also spoke out against the airport and its pollution threats and asked the Board to write letters to State and Federal legislatures urging them to stop ongoing efforts to buy and “take” property to build an airport that is “not needed”.

Beecher Mayor Paul Lohmann asked Supervisor Howard if the Board has taken an official stand on the proposed Peotone airport and was told that neither the current Board nor any previous Boards has taken an official position on the airport.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer presented his written report (attached). The larger patches on township roads are being dugout and being rebuilt with an 8” layer of stone as a base. Many of the older roads were not constructed to handle the weights of today’s truck and farm traffic and properly repairing these bad areas of pavement will be an ongoing process. The department still has 500 tons of stone to haul, which is being purchased with Motor Fuel Tax funds. Meyer has received the state salt bids for the coming year and purchasing salt through the state will cost \$57.96 per ton, which is about the same price as last year. The township has approximately 400 tons of salt on site at this time.
2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that the property tax appeal process is in progress and Beecher Manor has requested a \$1.2 million reduction in their assessment and is claiming the reduction is necessary because of “vacancies” in the facility. Blume said they are asking for an assessed value that is only \$17,000 above last years assessed value which did not include their new \$1 million addition.
3. Town Clerk – The Clerk has begun working on the fall newsletter and asked that anyone who would like to contribute to the newsletter please have the information to the Clerk’s office by October 20.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard recently attended the Illinois Public Transportation Conference where discussions centered on enhancing transportation throughout the state. Howard also attended a General Assistance Training Institute Conference (GATI). The supervisor’s attendance at the GATI conference ensures that the township is still eligible to apply for General Assistance Catastrophic Insurance. The Supervisor also reiterated his desire for the board to set short and long term goals for the township and suggested that the Village of Beecher partner with the township whenever possible and practical. Approximately 125 seniors attended the Senior Breakfast on September 19 and 30 seniors attended Senior Movie Night on September 29. The transportation department has seen a steady increase in riders since the bus began running five days a week.
6. Transportation Report – Pat Peters reported that there were 88 trips on the bus in September and 19 trips have been booked in only three days in October. Peters is also working with Rich Township to arrange transportation for one Beecher resident who is undergoing chemotherapy in Homewood. A driver’s meeting will be scheduled for the upcoming week to discuss the expansion of the township services from two to five days a week and how to handle multiple trips scheduled for the same time. Ms. Peters also asked everyone to go to the RTA’s website and access their public commentary page and ask the RTA to approve the township’s 2010 New Freedom Grant application
7. Community Building Report – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman had no new information to report on this project.

2. Review Committees and Appointments – Supervisor Howard has appointed members to three committees. Transportation Committee members appointed include Pat Peters, Joe Burgess, Sally Fuhrmann, James Rehborg and Fred Hoffmeyer. Planning Commission members appointed include Mike Stanula, David Knuth, James Schoenbeck and Mike Mach. Foundation for a Green Community Committee members appointed include Mike Mach, Pat Peters, Tom Brislane, Mike Stanula, Ted Deery and Barb Doorman. All committee members’ names, addresses and phone numbers are on file in the Clerk’s office.
3. Dog Park – The Foundation for a Green Community recently met to discuss funding options to erect a Dog Park on township property and is looking for public support of the project. Their next meeting will be held on October 7 at 6 pm at the Washington Township Center and they will further discuss the Dog Park and begin discussions to set goals for the Foundation.
4. Consideration and Approval of a “Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of the Initial Donors to the Open Space Initiative” – Supervisor Howard read proposed resolution #09-04 and asked the board to consider a motion to pass the resolution and attach a copy of the resolution to the minutes as a permanent record. The resolution recognizes the initial contributors to FOOS (Friends of Open Space), which was a volunteer citizens group who supported the Washington Township Board’s attempt to pass a tax levy to purchase land through the provisions of the Open Space Act.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to pass resolution #09-04, a Resolution Recognizing the Contributions of the Initial Donors to the Open Space Initiative. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Clerk Burgess will attach a copy of the resolution to the minutes.

5. Consideration and Approval of the 2009 Tax Levy – The Board discussed the 2009 tax levy and agreed upon a 5% increase in the 2009 tax levy over last year. The Clerk will prepare the 2009 Tax Levy Ordinance with the 5% increase as recommended. Highway Commissioner Meyer also told the board that the Road & Bridge tax levy will be set at a 5% increase over last year. Clerk Burgess told the Board that according to statute, the 5% increase does not warrant the need for a Truth in Taxation Hearing

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Consideration and Approval of the Tom Brislane Accounting Proposal – Mr. Brislane was unable to attend the Board meeting and Supervisor Howard asked the board to take no action on this item until the October 5th meeting. There were no objections to the Supervisor’s request.

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 **\$15,829.88**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer.

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 **\$35,542.42**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Announcements:

Commissioner Meyer told the board that the generator ran for 38 hours over the weekend because of a power disruption on an electrical pole. It was believed that a squirrel chewed threw wires on the pole causing the transformer to short out.

Cardinal Creek Golf course has unexpectedly closed and the Board will need to look for an alternative location to hold the Senior Fall Dance on November 21. Supervisor Howard and Deputy Clerk Mueller will work on this project and report to the board at the November 2 meeting.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. November 2, 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 Becker, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: November 2, 2009