

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
November 1, 2010
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at **7:04 p.m.** to pay bills for the month of October and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. Meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached.

Supervisor Howard 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. He also asked for a moment of silence for former Village of Beecher Trustee Bill Saller and for Agnes Kowalski, who was the mother-in-law of Village Trustee Greg Szymanski, both had passed since the last board meeting.

Roll call:

Present: Supervisor Robert Howard; **Trustees:** Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Ted Deery

Absent: Teresa Peterson

Other Officials present:

Clerk Joe Burgess and Assessor Carol Ann Blume

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated October 4, 2010:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the October 4, 2010 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 October 4, 2010 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, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 4-0.

Public Commentary:

Township resident John Dell Aquila told the Board that he did not believe there was a reason that either of the proposed anti-airport resolutions presented last month, should not have been passed and said the township would not be exposing itself to any liability if a resolution were to be passed. He “hoped” that one of the resolutions would be passed at the December meeting. He said any local anti-airport resolutions could be helpful in offering opposition to the airport if it were to be elevated to Tier 2 level. He said people should be concerned about their property values declining if the airport were to be built and believed property values would not likely rise again and that the entire tax base would continue to erode.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – No report. Commissioner Meyer was not in attendance.

2. Assessor – Assessor Carol Ann Blume had no report.
3. Town Clerk – Over sixty people attended “An Evening with Mark Twain” on October 6 and approximately 50 seniors attended the 2010 Senior Fall Fling Dance on October 23. Burgess also reported that 113 Washington Township residents had taken advantage of Early or Absentee Voting held at the Washington Township Center during the past few weeks. Burgess thanked Deputy Clerk Jo Ann Mueller for all of her assistance during the Early Voting period.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard said with all of today’s economic issues facing people and government, he wanted to dwell on the positive and commended the Board on how lean and efficient they run Washington Township. He then read an email from Erin Valentine, the Associate Editor of Township Perspective magazine, congratulating Washington Township on winning the TOI “Might Message” contest for their newsletter and website. Howard also read an email from Blue Island Park District Trustee John Spizzirri complimenting Washington Township on their transportation program. Howard said the township is being noticed for transportation and he has also heard many positive comments about other programs including senior programs and the recent “Mark Twain” night.

Supervisor Howard than told the Board that Southland Senior Services will be closing soon and the township should be prepared to fill any “voids” in services for Washington Township residents who may no longer be served by Southland. He said transportation services might see an increase in ridership and the “Feed Our Own” program has already indicated that they are capable of serving any seniors who may be affected by the closing.

The Supervisor also reported that the number of people applying for General Assistance is rising and many residents who have never been unemployed are now without jobs and struggling to find jobs and pay their bills.

6. Transportation Report – Director Pat Peters reported that there were 221 trips during the month. Ms. Peters also spoke about the closing of Southland Seniors and said she has been offered the opportunity to look at their buses and possibly use them. She remarked that Rich Township is not taking over the transportation program when Southland closes and the RTA and Pace would discuss who assumes control of their program.

Pat also reported that all of the Washington Township bus drivers completed training presented by the Department of Human Services and received certificates from the Illinois Rural Transportation Assistance Center. Supervisor Howard, Pat Peters, Laurie Summers, Wendie Garlich, Roger Blaylock, Dennis Schoeling and Andrew Ahrendt all completed the training. The township is now qualified to accept Medicare payments for qualified trips based on residents needs and the mileage driven to their appointments.

Ms. Peters also announced that she has been notified that the RTA has awarded Washington Township a New Freedom matching grant in the amount of \$21,900. The grant is to be used for transportation and capital expenses. The RTA will meet with members of the township's transportation program on January 14, 2011 to review the scope of the grant.

7. Foundation for a Green Community – Trustee Deery reported that the foundation met last week and is still discussing options for the multi-purpose trail and is also looking at alternative routes to the trail that would follow Trim Creek to the Kankakee River State Park. There has also been discussion on how to utilize the trail for equestrian usage but this would require a turnaround at some point along the trail route. The Forest Preserve District has committed to continue dialog with the homeowners along the primary route. The village Board has shown some interest in putting a dog park in the old downtown area of Beecher and there are three lots under consideration for the park. There has also been some discussion on finding ways to allow people to donate land to the village and / or township. The next Foundation meeting will be held on December 27.
8. Community Building Report – New window treatments have been purchased. Accountant Tom Brislane reported that the Community Building account fund is “fiscally sound”.
9. Feed Our Own – Program Coordinator Laurie Summers reported that 77 meals have been delivered since her last report and two more individuals have just completed giving their intake information. She said she was very pleased with how the program has been running and is prepared to assist others with meals if they are affected by the closing of Southland Senior Services in Monee. She also offered to share details of our meals program with surrounding communities who would consider starting their own program because we have a good template for starting and running a successful program.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman had no new update at this time.
2. Consideration and Approval of a Proposed “Resolution in Opposition to the Establishment of the South Suburban Airport” –Supervisor Howard will be reviewing the proposed anti-airport resolutions with attorneys at the Annual Township Officials of IL annual Educational Conference.
3. 2010 Tax Levy – Based on the current Consumer Price Index and the new construction numbers reported by the Assessor's office, the 2010 levy should be set at approximately 3% higher than the previous year's levy to capture all new construction. Clerk Burgess recommended that the Board set the levy at 4.75% higher than the 2009 levy, which would ensure all new construction would be included in the new levy. The Clerk also reminded the Board that a Public Hearing on the levy would not be required if the levy increase was less than 5% of the final extension from the previous year.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to set the 2010 Tax Levy at 4.75% higher than the 2009 tax levy final extension rate. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Township Workshop Proposals – Supervisor Howard recommended that the Board hold two “workshop” meetings during the year. Howard said the time would be dedicated to discuss items such as: procedures, policies, budget and levy preparation, health insurance and IMRF updates. This would allow board members to have more time to discuss and review items that could take considerable time if discussed during monthly board meetings. The Board was receptive to the idea.
3. Website Updates – The website has been updated and the home page now includes a message from Supervisor Howard. Clerk Burgess is going to add an “Upcoming Events” area on the bottom of the home page and is getting a quote from our vendor to have the information scroll. Supervisor Howard suggested expanding the township calendar to incorporate the activities of all the groups in the township in order to better inform residents of activities and potentially eliminate groups from scheduling major events on the same date. The idea was well received but all agreed that more information would need to be gathered as well as meeting with the other groups to discuss the idea.
4. Township Meetings on Local Cable Station – Washington Township meetings will soon be appearing on public access station WPAL. The meetings are being recorded by volunteers (Adam Howard) and will be broadcasted after the meetings on Tuesday (11:41 pm), Wednesday (9:41 am & 8:41 pm) and Saturday (8 am).

Payment of Bills:

Road & Bridge

Trustee Waterman questioned why the fuel bill to the Village of Beecher was listed twice and was told that one bill was for September and the other was for October. Current fuel bills list only total gallons used by the entity and Supervisor Howard recommended that future fuel bills submitted for payment should be itemized; by driver, vehicle and date. Howard said the current system has the capability to itemize all fuel charges and it is easier to audit an itemized bill compared to a lump sum bill.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits for the Road & Bridge Account totaling **\$84,327.14**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as prepared and presented by Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the Town Account totaling **\$57,139.60**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Announcements:

There are two upcoming senior bus trips.

1. November 13 – A Veteran’s celebration will be held at Olivet University’s Centennial Chapel in Bourbonnais.
2. December 9 – A Holiday Concert will be performed at Olivet University’s Kresge Auditorium.

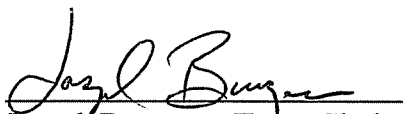
Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. January 3, 2011 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no other business or discussion, Trustee Becker made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Deery, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees 12/6/2010