

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
November 3, 2008
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order 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 called the meeting to order at 7:03 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, Ted Deery, Dennis Koehn. Absent: none

Other Officials present:

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

Approval of Board Meeting Minutes Dated October 6, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the September 4th Board Meeting minutes as presented. Trustee Koehn indicated that the time for the Annual Drainage District Meeting was 7:30 pm and not 7:00 pm as indicated in the minutes. Being no other corrections, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting with the correction to change the starting time of the Annual Drainage District meeting from 7:00 pm to 7:30 pm. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy commented on Bult Field being assessed at \$1.5 million and the objection filed by Bult Field regarding the assessment. Assessor Blume pointed out to Mr. Willy that Bult Field was in Will Township and the assessment was from the Will Township assessor. Mr. Willy also expressed his concern of a third airport being built in the area and the “cancer causing” pollution associated with jet fuel exhaust and said he was “frustrated” that “no one” was talking about this problem.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report, Meyer said that he has received word that the township will receive emergency funding from FEMA for damage that occurred to township roads from the recent heavy rains and flooding. The final roadside ditch cutting will begin in the coming weeks and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that the Will County Board of Review would be completed with the property tax appeal process on November 25.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that 297 people came to the Washington Township Center (WTC) to participate in Early Voting for the November 4 General Election. Washington Township was the only township in eastern Will County to offer In-person Absentee voting on November 1 and 22 voters completed Absentee ballots. The Early Voting was extremely heavy during the week before the election and Clerk Burgess thanked Deputy Clerk Mueller for her efforts during the entire election process. The Flu & Pneumonia Shot Program was held on October 29 and 39 total shots were given to 31 residents. The first township newsletter is complete and the Clerk will be requesting quotes to print the newsletter and will also call the local postmaster for mailing instructions. Burgess said that he wanted to have the newsletter mailed before the end of November. The township will be showing the hit movie “The Bucket List” for Senior Movie Night, which will be held on November 11 at 6:30 pm at the WTC.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – The WTPC has received a request from Mr. Roland Rosenboom, case #5797-M, for a map amendment change from A-1 to E-1 for a vacant 10 acre parcel located on the south west corner of Kentucky Road and Ashland Avenue. Rosenboom has made the request so he can split the parcel into two five-acre parcels each with 331’ of frontage. WTPC Chairman Mike Stanula told the board that although the request does not truly conform to the township’s comprehensive plan, a precedent has already been set as there are four other parcels in the same area that are smaller in size. Stanula said for this reason, the WTPC is recommending approval for a map amendment change requesting that the property be changed from A-1 to E-1. The board will act upon the WTPC recommendation under new business.
5. Drainage District – The Drainage District’s Annual Meeting will be held at the Washington Township Center on November 5, 2008 at 7:30 pm. The district has also contracted a firm to begin maintenance work on Trim Creek in Beecher starting at Penfield Street and going south.
6. Park Board Report – No report.
7. Supervisor’s Report – Supervisor Howard thanked JoAnn Mueller for her work on the Senior Breakfast and also thanked the Beecher Police Department for co-sponsoring the event. Over one hundred seniors attended the breakfast on October 25 at Cardinal Creek Golf Course. Howard also told the board that Tim Smith from Element Markets would be giving a presentation later in the meeting about wind development and a proposed windmill farm being considered in Washington Township.
8. Open Space Initiative Committee – The Open Space Committee recently met to discuss a new timeline for presenting the Open Space Initiative Plan to voters. If the board approves the plan it would be possible to place a referendum question on the April 2009 Consolidated Election ballot asking for approval of the plan. Two pieces of property have been identified as potential targets for open space and a letter has been sent to both

property owners notifying them of a Public Hearing on November 19 regarding the Open Space Initiative Plan. The committee will also be meeting with a developer on November 12 to discuss the property east of the township center to determine if they have any interest in the property and to suggest a possible agreement with the township to make 50 acres available for open space.

9. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters reported that 86 trips were booked in the month of September, which included taking customers to vote and to participate in the township’s flu shot program. The bus generated \$66 in revenue and will receive additional money from the American Cancer Society for covered trips by a cancer patient. The RTA has approved the township’s request for a one-year \$61,000 matching grant to expand the township’s Dial-a-ride service. The RTA will require certain criteria from the township before awarding the grant and the Transportation Committee will meet to ensure all necessary information is provided to the RTA. The money was awarded for the 2009 calendar year, which gives the committee time to meet and complete the RTA requests.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of the Washington Township Motor Vehicle Policy – The board reviewed the proposed Washington Township Motor Vehicle Policy which included changes recommended by the board and the Transportation Committee. The board reviewed the changes clarifying the use of vehicles owned by Washington Township by other local governmental bodies and a new provision detailing the use of the Pace Vanpool bus as per the Pace contract.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the Washington Township Motor Vehicle Policy as presented. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Deery – yes, Koehn – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes.

Motion passed 5-0.

2. Consideration and Approval of 2008 Tax Levy - Clerk Burgess presented the board with a 2008 levy worksheet that assumed new construction in the township was \$16 million during the last year and recommended that the 2008 levy be set between 13-14%. After reviewing the levy worksheet, it was suggested that the levy be set at \$326,214, which is a 13% increase over the 2007 levy and assumes growth of over \$16 million which is higher than reported by the assessor’s office.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to set the proposed Corporate (Town) Account 2008 Tax Levy at \$326,214, a 13% increase over 2007. Trustee Koehn seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Supervisor Howard called for a roll call vote. Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery-yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0**

Highway Commissioner Meyer told the board that he was setting the 2008 Road District Levy at \$764,569, which was a 13% increase over the 2007 Levy.

3. Consideration and Approval of A “Resolution Setting Compensation Of Township Officials for the Four Year Term Beginning May 2009” – The Board reviewed proposed resolution #08-04, a “Resolution Setting Compensation Of Township Officials for the Four Year Term Beginning May 2009”. The resolution outlines the compensation as approved at the October 6, 2008 Board meeting for the Washington Township officials for the four year term beginning May 2009.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve proposed resolution #08-04, a “Resolution Setting Compensation Of Township Officials for the Four Year Term Beginning May 2009” as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Supervisor Howard called for a roll call vote. Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Deery-yes, Waterman – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0**

4. Consideration of Purchasing Ad Space in the Beecher Homepages® Phone Book – Supervisor Howard told the board that he had secured a sponsor to pay for half of the ad space on the front cover of the next edition of the *Beecher Homepages® Phone Book* and asked the board to consider paying for the remaining half of the ad space for a total cost to the township of \$1075. The board discussed potential benefits of placing the ad including the possibility that an increase in riders could occur in the Dial-a-ride service due to the added exposure the service would receive. Trustee Koehn recommended placing the ad on the cover for a one-year trial.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to purchase the front cover ad space of the *Beecher Homepages® Phone Book*, for a one-year trial, at a cost of \$1075 to the township. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – Supervisor Howard asked the board for a motion regarding the recommendation made by the WTPC to approve the request by Mr. Roland Rosenboom, case #5797-M for a map amendment change from A-1 to E-1.

MOTION:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the map amendment change from A-1 to E-1 for case #5797-M, Roland Rosenboom for vacant property located at the corner of Kentucky Road and Ashland Avenue. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

2. Elements Market Presentation – Tim Smith, a representative from Element Markets, which is a wind development company, gave a presentation to the board regarding his company’s business model and their interest in developing a 5000-acre windmill farm in the Washington Township area. The five-year old company is based in Houston Texas and specializes in alternative energy resources such as wind power and then operates these renewable energy assets and trades the environmental credits earned. Once a site is determined and a wind energy lease has been secured from all the property owners, a meteorological tower is built to ensure there are sufficient winds to support the project. Construction of the site would only begin after a feasibility study is conducted which includes that the environmental impact and economics of the project are favorable. The installation of large 1.5 or 2 megawatt turbines costing approximately \$2 million each would only begin after this process has concluded. Generally, turbines are placed 1000’ from any residential areas and the turbines are placed at a ratio of one turbine per 50 acres. Access roads and other necessary items needed to build and maintain these turbines are part of the wind energy lease signed by the landowners affected. Mr. Smith cited that other than providing a renewable energy resource, the construction of these turbines creates hundreds of jobs and will increase the tax revenue to local taxing entities because the turbines would increase the tax base in the areas being built. Mr. Smith answered questions and a copy of his presentation will be on file at the Clerk’s office.
3. Washington Township Community Building Project – Trustee Koehn explained that the Community Building Board of Managers were experiencing overruns in their construction project to install air conditioning in the upper level of the Community Building and the board was trying to secure a loan to cover the costs. These overruns were depleting the Community Building funds and Koehn suggested that board discuss options to assist the Community Building Board, if requested to do so. The Community Building Board of Managers will be invited to the next Township Board meeting to discuss their project and financial situation.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor. Trustee Koehn questioned a \$124 bill from Elmer & Son for keys. Supervisor Howard said the keys were made and given to the Beecher Police Department so access to the building was possible in the event of an emergency.

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 **\$52,871.79**. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Road Commissioner Jerry 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 **\$86,493.97**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Howard –yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

None

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. November 19, 2008 – Open Space Initiative Plan Public Hearing - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. November 19, 2008 – Washington Township Special Board Meeting - 8:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
3. December 1, 2008 – Town (Corporate) Account Truth-in-Taxation Hearing – 6:30 pm at the Washington Township Center.
4. December 1, 2008 – Road & Bridge Truth-in-Taxation Hearing – 6:45 pm at the Washington Township Center.
5. December 1, 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 Deery, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____