

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
December 1, 2008
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Meeting called to order to pay bills for the month of November 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 November 3, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 3, 2008 Board of Trustees 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 November 3, 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, Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of Public Hearing Minutes Dated November 19, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 19, 2008 Open Space Public Hearing minutes as presented. Being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 Public Hearing minutes as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Koehn – yes, Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Approval of Special Board Meeting Minutes Dated November 19, 2008:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 19, 2008 Special Board Meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2008 Special Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Koehn – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Township resident George Willy asked about a border dispute between Crete and Washington Townships and Supervisor Howard told him that there was never a border dispute between the townships. Mr. Willy also asked about the proposed Beecher intermodal park being considered and Village Mayor Paul Lohmann said that it was a dead issue.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer discussed his written report (attached). In addition to his written report Meyer said the township is under the state contract for purchasing salt and can purchase up to 600 tons if necessary. Meyer also explained that when snow plowing is necessary the Road District typically begins by plowing the four main roads through the township; Corning Road, Yates Ave, Eagle Lake Road and Ashland Ave and then moves on to the other roads within the township.
2. Assessor – Assessor Blume reported that the Will County Board of Review has completed the appeal process for the 2008 tax year. The county will hold there annual assessor’s meeting on December 17, 2008 to discuss the 2009 tax assessment process.
3. Town Clerk – Clerk Burgess reported that the newsletter is complete and will be ready for mailing by the end of the week. Burgess received two quotes to print the newsletter and chose the lowest bid. Matt’s Printing in Crete printed 3000 newsletters for a cost of \$1040 and it will cost approximately \$500 to mail them utilizing the Chamber of Commerce’s bulk mailing permit.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Drainage District – No report.
6. Park Board Report – No report – this report will be removed from future agendas.
7. Supervisor’s Report – On December 4, Transportation Director Pat Peters has volunteered to drive a group of senior citizens from Beecher Manor around the Village of Beecher so they can view Christmas lights and decorations. The township will have a float in the annual holiday “Parade of Lights” parade on December 6 at 6:30 pm. Elements Markets presented their wind farm presentation at a recent Village of Beecher Board meeting and it was well received. General Assistance cases are on the rise and there are many people applying for General Assistance who are unemployed for the first time in their careers. The Supervisor is working to help these people through difficult times. Howard complimented the Open Space Committee on their work to be in a position to place the Open Space Initiative Plan on the Consolidated Ballot for the April 2009 elections. Supervisor Howard also attended the TOI Convention in early November and attended many classes offered. Howard said that many townships are looking for ways to generate non-tax revenue to help pay for services and he suggested that the township consider offering passport applications as a way to generate revenue.

8. Open Space Initiative Committee – A Public Hearing and Special Board Meeting were held on November 19 regarding the Open Space Initiative Plan. The Board passed a resolution to approve the Open Space Plan and a second resolution directing the clerk to place the referendum questions on the April 2009 ballot. Trustee Deery encouraged the committee to move quickly and contact the identified landowners to begin negotiating and attempt to get some numbers in place now and not wait until after the election. Deery also recommended that the committee begin preparing a plan to present the Open Space Plan to the public and suggested forming a “grass roots” effort to begin promoting the Open Space Plan immediately to ensure the voters are well informed. Mike Mach explained that they already have volunteers in place to handle the graphic artwork for their media presentations and to help market the plan. The committee will attempt to contact the landowners in the coming weeks.
9. Transportation Report – Transportation Director Pat Peters was not in attendance. Supervisor Howard reported that Ms. Peters has been utilizing qualified volunteer drivers for the bus during off hours thus saving the township additional payroll expenses.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of 2008 Tax Levy – Supervisor asked the board for a motion to approve the proposed Washington Township Tax Levy ordinance #08-05 as presented at the Truth-in-taxation Hearing held prior to the Board meeting.

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the proposed Washington Township Tax Levy Ordinance #08-05 as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Supervisor Howard called for a roll call vote. Waterman – yes, Deery-yes, Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0**

2. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman and Clerk Burgess will begin the process of preparing an Employee Handbook for the Washington Township employees.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.
2. Community Building Board of Managers Financial Discussion & Presentation – The Community Building Board of Managers respectfully declined to come before the Board of Trustees. They are working with their attorney and bond counsel to determine what financial options are available to their board, which may include a bank loan or issuing bonds. The funds are needed to pay for overruns on their current electrical and HVAC upgrades to the Community Building.
3. Consideration and Approval of Bond Counsel for Open Space Referendum – Attorney Jeff Jurgens has spoken to Kurt Froehlich from the firm of Evans, Froehlich, Beth & Chamley regarding a quote to be the township’s bond counsel if the Open Space referendum would pass in April. The quote of \$3500 would cover all necessary fees to write the General Obligation Bonds to purchase land as per the Open Space Initiative Plan.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as presented by the Supervisor.

MOTION:

Trustee Koehn made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the **Town Account** totaling **\$13,055.96**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Koehn – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Deery – 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 **\$35,638.89**. 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.**

Announcements:

Supervisor Howard congratulated Trustee Koehn on the birth of his grandson, Kolten Presley Koehn, who was born on December 1, 2008.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. January 8, 2009 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no further 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 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees Date: _____