

Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
December 6, 2010
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Howard called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.** 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 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, Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer and Assessor Carol Ann Blume

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated November 1, 2010:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 1, 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 November 1, 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, Peterson – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Public Commentary:

Resident George Willy attended a recent IDOT meeting and said that on December 17 a Will County Court will rule on the use of eminent domain for taking land for the proposed airport. Mr. Willy voiced concerns about the dangers of high frequency radar used in planes and said the high amounts of pollution emitted by jet engines is toxic and especially dangerous to children. He said no one seems to care about low flying aircraft flying over Beecher Schools or the detrimental impact an airport will have on the local environment.

Will County Sheriff Sgt. Kedziora informed the board that as the holidays draw near, the sheriff's office typically responds to more burglaries in the area. He recommended that people leave lights on while out and call neighbors or family members and ask them to watch their homes if they will be out of town for the holidays.

Reports

1. Road Commissioner – Commissioner Meyer reviewed his written report (attached). Meyer has called the Union Pacific railroad in regards to a deteriorating bridge over Corning Road because small pieces of concrete are breaking off the bridge walls. The railroad will send someone out to examine the bridge structure.
2. Assessor – Assessor Carol Ann Blume had no report.
3. Town Clerk – The Senior Holiday Dinner and Concert will be held on December 14 at the Beecher Amvet Hall at 6:30 pm. The Beecher Part-time Players will provide entertainment and Maxwell's Restaurant from Beecher will be catering the event.
4. Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC) – No report.
5. Supervisor's Report – Supervisor Howard recently met with the North East Illinois Association on Aging and they have showed interest in the township's transportation program and are looking at ways to assist in funding the program. Since Southland Seniors has closed, other townships have also inquired about utilizing the township's transportation program. The township has received its awards from TOI after winning the "Mighty Message" contest for best newsletter and website for small townships in the 1000 – 5000 population range. General Assistance applications are on the rise and Howard said there have been many first time applications. The township can only help when certain conditions exist and there are many people in need. Howard said he utilizes the food pantry for many people and asked people to consider donating items to the township food pantry to help these people get through difficult times.
6. Transportation Report – Supervisor Howard and Director Peters have had meetings with Pace and the RTA about handling transportation for people who live outside of Washington Township and depended on Southland Seniors for their transportation needs. Howard said Washington Township could consider serving these people but the township would have to be fully reimbursed for these trips and they could not interfere with the services provided to township residents.
7. Foundation for a Green Community – No report.
8. Community Building Report – No report.
9. Feed Our Own – Program Coordinator Laurie Summers reported that 53 meals have been delivered since November 11 and approximately eleven people are utilizing the meal program and the service is steadily growing. Laurie has trained three more volunteer drivers and has ordered three more meal delivery bags.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – Trustee Waterman has been reviewing the policy and 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 has received an email from a concerned citizen urging the board to pass a recently submitted "Anti South Suburban Airport" resolution and indicated that the village had recently reaffirmed their position on the proposed airport being located in eastern Will County. Howard said that the board represents the entire township and they should move cautiously before passing an anti-airport resolution because of the potential liability issues and other ramifications that could be associated with a poorly worded resolution. He asked the board to consider what the impact is on the township and suggested the board review the petitions being circulated regarding the airport. The supervisor then questioned if a general resolution should be considered that covers any development that would have a detrimental impact on the residents by affecting their property value or creating life safety issues. He recommended a Special Board meeting so the board can spend adequate time discussing the issue.

Trustee Deery agreed with the supervisor and believed the board needed to spend enough time to fully discuss this issue before passing the resolution. Trustee Becker noted that the board has instituted many positive services for the residents such as a "meal" program and also offers transportation to residents. Becker said the board should do something stating a position regarding potential safety issues to residents including developments that could create negative health issues. Trustee Waterman suggested that the current resolution being considered addressed the boards concerns but agreed a Special Meeting would be beneficial to address this issue and determine if the proposed resolution should be considered. Road Commissioner Meyer was concerned about how an airport would affect traffic and said the township could lose roads or have no input on where new roads would be located if an airport were to be built.

After hearing the discussion, Supervisor Howard called for a Special Board meeting to be held on January 13 at 7 pm to discuss the airport and any new developments in Washington Township.

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 2010 Corporate (Town) Tax Levy Ordinance – Clerk Burgess explained that the 2010 Levy Ordinance reflects a 4.75% increase over the actual extension received in 2009. The clerk explained that the Consumer Price Index, county tax cap and the total value of new construction in the area all impact how the final levy total is calculated. Burgess said based on preliminary numbers, a resident with a \$250,000 home would only have a \$.62 increase in their Town Account taxes over last year.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the “Washington Township Tax Levy Ordinance” #10-05, 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.**

3. *Consideration and Approval of 2010 Road & Bridge Tax Levy Ordinance* –

Commissioner Meyer explained that the 2010 Road & Bridge Levy Ordinance reflects a 4.75% increase over the actual extension received in 2009. Meyer also noted that approximately \$100,000 of the tax levy is transferred to the village of Beecher. There were no questions regarding the levy ordinance.

Motion:

Trustee Deery made a motion to approve the “Road District Tax Levy Ordinance” #10-06, as presented. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

4. *Consideration and Approval of Public Commentary Policy* – Clerk Burgess read the “proposed” Public Commentary Policy and explained that effective January 1, 2011 all public bodies must allow for public commentary. The statute refers to public commentary following the “rules established and recorded by the public body”. Burgess explained that the legal experts at the recent TOI Educational Conference recommended that all public bodies pass some rules regarding commentary and that these rules may be as general or as specific as the board desires. The board reviewed the proposed policy and agreed to delete item # 3 “Public commentary will only be permitted on posted agenda items” citing that residents should have the right to bring up any topic that may affect them or the township that was not on the agenda. The board also agreed that no time limits should be set for public remarks but they did give the Chairman the power to limit commentary to a “reasonable amount of time”. Clerk Burgess will revise the policy as recommended and the board will review the changes at the January board meeting.

Payment of Bills:

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the Road District bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer. Meyer also presented a bill from Sollitt Enterprises in the amount of \$1044.53, to be added to the master warrant list. The addition of this bill brought the total of all road district bills to **\$33,676.17.**

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 **\$33,676.17.** Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes, Howard – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Town Account

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

MOTION:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the Town Account totaling **\$19,039.44**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Becker – yes, Deery – yes, Peterson – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

Phoenix Fitness has opened its current fitness program to include any resident. Residents are still required to pay for the services but this offers many more residents an opportunity to take advantage of a local fitness program provided at a low cost.


Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. January 3, 2011 – Washington Township Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.
2. January 13, 2011 – Special Board Meeting - 7:00 pm at the Washington Township Center.

Adjournment:

Being no other business or discussion, Trustee Waterman made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Trustee Peterson, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees 1/3/2011

Washington Township

Jerry K. Meyer

Highway Commissioner

December 6, 2010

To the Board of Trustee's of Washington Township:

- Hauling M..F.T. stone into the shop done
- First snow and salt event this weekend nothing out of the ordinary.
- Weed cutting is done only 3 flat tires with one new tire
- 88 Mack was at Jeff Riders for brake and suspension work we bought the parts he done the labor probably over \$3,000.00. But well worth it this truck has over 1/2 million miles still running good just couldn't stop so well.
- Had a call today on the viaduct on Corning road the concrete is falling off the wall. I called the U.P. railroad they will look at it.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact me at the office.

Jerry K. Meyer
Commissioner

