

**Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
December 7, 2009**

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

Meeting called to order at **6:30 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 and Assessor Carol Blume

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated November 2, 2009:

Supervisor Howard asked if there were any corrections or additions to the November 2, 2009 board meeting minutes as presented. Trustee Becker pointed out an error on the top of page 5. The minutes read "that any future need to hire employees be brought before the before they are hired" and that it should read "*that any future need to hire employees be brought before the board before they are hired*". Clerk Burgess will make the correction and reprint page 5 of the minutes.

Motion:

Trustee Becker made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2009 Board of Trustees meeting with the correction to the top of page 5 to read "*that any future need to hire employees be brought before the board before they are hired*". 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:

Township resident George Willy read a prepared statement to the Board and a copy of the statement is attached.

Township resident Vernon Kampe asked the Board if he could record the Washington Township Board meetings and play them on cable public access television. There were no objections from the board to Mr. Kampe's request. Supervisor Howard asked Mr. Kampe to supply him with the necessary contact information as well as information regarding the tentative time and day the meetings would be broadcast.

Township resident Marty Howard addressed the board regarding the intersection of Klemme and Offner Roads. Mr. Howard explained that he owns property near the intersection and he is aware of numerous accidents and gave the board details about several accidents that have occurred at the corner, including one that caused damage to his property. Howard believes the corner is dangerous because it has an “offset” to the right of about the width of the existing road and there are no traffic control signs in place warning of the corner. He asked the board to address this issue. Trustee Becker said he was familiar with this intersection and agreed that signage should be erected. **Trustee Becker went on to say that this section of Klemme and Offner Roads belongs to Crete Township and he did not believe that Washington Township should be responsible for upgrading the corner.** Supervisor Howard explained to Mr. Howard that all road issues are handled by the Highway Commissioner (who was not in attendance) and the county. Supervisor Howard offered to arrange a meeting with Mr. Howard, himself and Commissioner Meyer regarding the intersection and his concerns.

Reports

1. **Road Commissioner** – Commissioner Meyer was unable to attend the meeting but submitted the attached written report for the Board. Clerk Burgess read the report and Supervisor Howard asked for comments and there were none.
2. **Assessor** – Assessor Blume attended the annual TOI Educational Conference and remarked that it was a very informative and worthwhile event. The 2009 assessment year has concluded and the annual Will County Supervisor of Assessments meeting will be held on December 15 in Joliet. It was also reported that the Replacement Tax revenues for next year would be down approximately \$10,000 for the Town Account and \$21,000 for the Road & Bridge Fund. The current levy revenue will also be down approximately 5% due to the economic climate and large volume of unpaid real estate taxes being reported by Will County.
3. **Town Clerk** – The Senior Holiday Dinner & Concert will be held at the Beecher Amvet Hall on December 8 at 6:30 pm. The entire Board is invited to attend. Burgess presented a letter to the board from the Will County Clerk indicating a township resident is objecting to the county tax rates and a hearing is scheduled for January 10, 2010. Assessor Blume said the objection to the tax rates is a county matter but township officials could attend the hearing.
4. **Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC)** – No report.
5. **Supervisor's Report** – Supervisor Howard thanked the Board for his recent nomination and selection as the TOI “Township Supervisor of the Year” and said he was “proud” to serve as the supervisor of Washington Township. Howard said the award really should go to the Board, volunteers, employees, committee members and everyone involved in Washington Township government because their efforts are what make the township a good place to live. Supervisor Howard is looking forward to next year and wants the board to set goals for the upcoming year and to expand services where possible.

6. Transportation Report – Director Pat Peters reported that there were 129 Dial-a-ride trips recorded in November and she was preparing the paperwork to bill the RTA for \$4000 to be reimbursed from the New Freedom Grant awarded to the township. Ms. Peters thanked everyone who helped decorate the bus for the Christmas parade and said she received many positive comments about the parade. Pat also told the board that Rich Township has been under going some scrutiny from a local television station regarding the townships services and spending and the station is misreporting the need for township government in Cook County. She explained that Washington Township does a good job providing services and transportation to the community and that those items should be pointed out if the media were to come to our township. Peters thanked Laurie Summers and Wendie Garlich for volunteering on the weekend to transport a disabled citizen from the nursing home to her residence every Saturday. Peters also reported that Pace is cutting five bus routes from their schedule and has inquired if Washington Township would like to pick up one of the cut routes. Pace believes that the township could do the run more economically, which could save the service for the people being affected by the cut. Pat said she would look into the University Park run but would only consider the route if it could be done at no cost to the township or if the township could generate a small amount of revenue from the route.
7. Foundation for a Green Community – The committee is continuing it’s discussion to build a Dog Park and will be circulating petitions of support to determine the level of interest this project has from the community.
8. Community Building Report – No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Washington Township Employee Handbook – No action was taken on this item.
2. Consideration and Approval of the 2009 Road & Bridge Tax Levy Ordinance #09-06 – Supervisor Howard asked if there were any questions or comments regarding the proposed Road & Bridge Tax Levy Ordinance #09-06, being none, Howard asked for a motion to approve the proposed ordinance.

Motion:

Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the Washington Township Road & Bridge Tax Levy Ordinance #09-06 as presented. Trustee Deery seconded the motion. There was no discussion. Supervisor Howard called for a roll call vote. Waterman – yes, Deery - yes, Peterson – yes, Becker – yes, Howard - yes. **Motion passed 5-0**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consideration and Approval of Planning Commission Recommendations – There were no Planning Commission recommendations to be acted upon.

2. Washington Township Appreciation Dinner – Supervisor Howard recommended postponing the Appreciation Dinner at this time sighting that the current economic conditions and cost of the dinner to the township make it difficult to justify the expense. The Supervisor suggested a scaled back dinner or family event during the summer months. The Board agreed to review this item at the January meeting.
3. New Years Eve Celebration – There has been interest from seniors to have a New Year’s Eve celebration within the township. The Chamber of Commerce has also expressed interest in holding a New Year’s Eve party and has agreed to coordinate the event with the township. The Chamber will pay for the event and will offer a discount to any senior who attends. The celebration will take place at the Beecher Amvet Hall and the doors will open at 7 pm. Food and music will be included in the ticket price and a cash bar will be available. The cost will be \$10 per person and \$7 for any senior (over 55).

Payment of Bills:

Road & Bridge

The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer.

MOTION: Trustee Deery made a motion to approve payment of all applicable payroll, bills, and appropriate transfers or debits for the Road & Bridge Account totaling **\$84,621.83**. Trustee Becker seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Howard – yes, Peterson – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

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 **\$58,272.12**. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes, Howard – yes. **Motion passed 5-0.**

Announcements:

- Supervisor Howard told the Board that he received a call from a newspaper asking questions regarding a former Supervisor who has resigned from his position at a local bank. Howard said he told the reporter that it was an employer / employee issue and not a township matter.
- A Chamber of Commerce / Washington Township New Year’s Eve celebration will be held at the Beecher Amvet Hall on December 31. Doors will open at 7 pm.

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:

1. January 4, 2010 – Washington Township 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 Deery, and after being unanimously approved by voice vote, the Board Meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees: January 4, 2010