Official Proceedings of the Washington Township Board of Trustees
September 9, 2010
Washington Township Center
30200 Town Center Road, Beecher, IL

Supervisor Howard was unable to attend the September meeting. Trustee Ted Deery, acting meeting moderator, called the meeting to order at **7:00 p.m.** to pay bills for the month of August and transact any other business that may come before the Board of Trustees. Meeting agenda and guest sign-in sheet are attached.

Trustee Deery 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: Trustees: Elmer Becker, Dan Waterman, Ted Deery, Teresa Peterson
Absent: Supervisor Bob Howard

Other Officials present:
Clerk Joe Burgess, Assessor Carol Ann Blume, Highway Commissioner Jerry Meyer

Approval of the Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes Dated August 2, 2010:
Trustee Deery asked if there were any corrections or additions to the August 2, 2010 board meeting minutes as presented. Being none, Deery asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion:
Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2010 Board of Trustees meeting 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. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Public Commentary:
Will County Sheriff Lt. Mark Rojkowski introduced himself to the board and said he was now in charge of the Crete substation covering the areas of eastern Will County. He said it was his goal to try to attend or send a representative from his staff to as many area township and village meetings as possible.

He spoke about the recent rash of burglaries that had taken place in eastern Will County since May and said the county police immediately set up a task force as the number of burglaries reported began to rise significantly. The police mailed cards to area residents asking for help and he said the response was overwhelming. He then reported that three arrests have been made since early August and the police believe they have apprehended the people responsible for the robberies and said the activity in the area has been very quiet since the arrests were made.

Township resident George Willy asked if Supervisor Howard had forwarded the information he gave him in August to the township attorney. Supervisor Howard was not in attendance and it was recommended that Mr. Willy call the supervisor next week for an answer to his question. Mr. Willy went on to remind everyone that the airport being considered for this area would be a "cargo" airport. He spoke of the dangers of airplane pollution to the community and said because the planes would be flying so low to approach the airport the area would also be saturated with high frequency microwaves. He said the residents of the township and especially the children would be exposed to these risks.

Reports

1. *Road Commissioner* – Commissioner Meyer reviewed his attached written report. The Klemme Road project has been completed and Meyer publicly thanked Peotone and Will Township's for their assistance with the 1.5 mile resurfacing project. Meyer said at one time there were 18 individuals from three townships working on the road and this consolidation of effort showed that smaller townships working together are capable of completing large projects. The new speed limit signs through Eagle Lake have been posted and the Will County Police have been in the area enforcing the new limit. Meyer said many speeding tickets have been issued and the average speed of the violators was 54 miles per hour through a 30 MPH zone.

2. *Assessor* –No report.

3. *Town Clerk* – The next Washington Township Newsletter will be mailed in mid October and the deadline to contribute any items to the newsletter is September 30. The newsletter will be mailed at approximately the same time as the village newsletter and will again feature ads. Burgess also reviewed the upcoming senior activities including the "Senior" breakfast, "Movie Night", the proposed "An Evening with Mark Twain" event, the "Fall Fling" dance and the "Holiday Dinner & Concert". The Clerk presented the trustees a flier listing all the details regarding these events.

4. *Washington Township Planning Commission (WTPC)* – Commission member Mike Mach reported that a local resident has constructed a "shooting range" on his property and a neighbor called the police because of an incident at the range. Mach said it was not illegal to construct a range if it is for the use of family members only, but any range that has non-family guests would be considered a commercial property and would need to be zoned C6 in accordance with county codes. The resident has allegedly agreed to change the configuration of his range so it would be safer for the property owner and his neighbors. The WTPC is planning to meet and discuss this issue and will contact the National Rifle Association (NRA) to help answer any questions regarding range construction and owner liabilities.

5. *Supervisor's Report* – Supervisor Howard was not in attendance however, he did provide a written report that Clerk Burgess read aloud and it will be attached as a permanent record of the meeting minutes.

6. *Transportation Report* – Director Pat Peters reported that she and Supervisor Howard attended a recent Will County Transportation Coordination seminar sponsored by Will County. The county has received millions of dollars for transportation and there is consideration to utilize part of these funds to help coordinate transportation throughout Will County. The goal would be to improve the efficiency of local transportation and eliminate multiple trips to the same area by different transportation services. This new proposal would allow individual transportation services to "opt out" of the program.

   Several Washington Township officials and residents attended a RTA Budget Hearing in Monee last month. Commentary from people, representing Washington Township, praised the RTA for recognizing the need to provide transportation and grant money to our area and how these services were vital to the local riders. The RTA will be awarding grants in October.

   The township provided 334 trips last month and many special senior bus trips are being planned for the remainder of the year.

7. *Foundation for a Green Community* – Trustee Deery reported that the next meeting will be held on September 29 and they will be discussing the "multi purpose recreational trail". The proposed plan is to expand the trails use to include horseback riding, biking, walking and running.

8. *Community Building Report* – No report.

9. *Feed Our Own* – Laurie Summers reported she has trained a new individual to assist with collecting program intake information. The program volunteers have delivered 12 meals in May, 26 meals in June; 69 meals in July and 22 meals in August. August numbers were not final and would be down slightly because some participants have been hospitalized.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. *Washington Township Employee Handbook* – Trustee Waterman reported that there are major revisions being recommended to the handbook by the township attorneys. Waterman said it will take more time to review these changes and asked Clerk Burgess to assist with reviewing the changes. Once the revisions are reviewed, the handbook will be provided to the board for discussion.

2. *Review and Approval of the Washington Township Facility Use Policy Revised and Dated September 9, 2010* – The Board reviewed the revised policy presented at the August 2 meeting and no changes were recommended. Being no additional discussion, Trustee Deery asked for approval of the policy.

Motion:
Trustee Waterman made a motion to approve the Washington Township Facility Use Policy revised and dated September 9, 2010 as presented. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

3. *Consideration and Approval of Mark Twain Impersonator Event* – Clerk Burgess asked the Board to consider sponsoring a community wide event featuring Mark Brown, a local Mark Twain impersonator. Burgess presented the board a proposed program for the event and indicated there were funds available in the budget. The event would cost the township $325 for Mr. Brown's services plus printing fees for the programs and any incidental items if needed.

Motion:
Trustee Becker made a motion for the township to approve and sponsor the Mark Twain event, "An Evening with Mark Twain" to be held on October 6, 2010. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll call vote as follows: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

4. *Vincennes Trail and Required Resolutions* – A resolution will eventually be required supporting the Vincennes Trail or "multi purpose recreational trail" however, it may take several months before the trail details are finalized.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

2. *Presentation by John Dell Aquila of Proposed "Resolution in Opposition to the Establishment of the South Suburban Airport"* – Township resident John Dell Aquila addressed the board and asked the board to consider passing a resolution, which he authored, opposing the proposed South Suburban Airport. Mr. Dell Aquila said he was concerned about property values in the township; especially those homes located under the flight paths, if the airport was approved. He said the economy has already had an adverse affect on home values and those values may never recover if the airport was built. He also sited increased traffic plus noise and air pollution issues that would be associated with the airport.

   Dell Aquila has been circulating a petition opposing the airport and has over 75 signatures from residents who oppose any airport being built in the area. He offered to allow the board to review the petitions and said he has been going out alone door-to-door and has spent many hours talking to people about the subject. He said one of his goals was to increase awareness among residents and there is overwhelming support against the airport.

Regarding the proposed resolution, Mr. Dell Aquila said the resolution was necessary to show that local residents and municipalities were against the airport. Dell Aquila's resolution opposes any proposed airport being built in the area, endorses the Chicago/Gary Airport or Rockford Airport as alternative sites and supports "at arms length" any legal filing or tort action against the airport. He said he did not expect the board to act on the resolution "tonight" but asked them to review the resolution and consider action at the next board meeting.

Trustee Deery commented that the airport was not a new issue and questioned what the resolution would accomplish. Deery said the focus should be on who has control of the airport if it was built saying the local townships and municipalities affected needed a voice on any committee or board. Deery thanked Mr. Dell Aquila for coming and his resolution will be given to the Supervisor Howard and reviewed at next month's Board meeting.

3. *Request to Advertise in the "HomePages" Telephone Directory* – Clerk Burgess explained that he had been contacted by Ashlee James of the HomePages telephone directory and was asked if the township wanted to renew the front cover "Dial-a-Ride" ad. The cost to renew the ad was $2150 and the deadline for renewing the ad was early October. The Board discussed renewing the ad and it was noted that the cost of the ad could not be reimbursed through the RTA grant. It was determined that the front cover ad was no longer necessary because the bus ridership had been increasing steadily each month and many of the new riders were referrals or learned about the bus through the newsletter. The board agreed that advertising in the book should continue but a smaller ad in the directory would be adequate.

4. *Intergovernmental Meeting* - Trustee Deery attended the recent Intergovernmental Meeting and said there were no major issues presented. The local entities are very concerned about potential funding reductions that may occur due to the decrease of property taxes because of the decreases in home values in the past few years and the lack of any new significant construction in the township and village.

Payment of Bills:

Town Account

The Board reviewed the bills as prepared and presented by Supervisor Howard and Clerk Burgess. Deery asked about the repairs to the exterior lighting and was told that several bulbs and ballasts needed to be replaced in the parking lot and along the drive.

MOTION:

Trustee Becker made a motion to authorize payment of all applicable payroll, bills, debits and appropriate transfers as presented for the Town Account totaling **$16,964.45**. Trustee Waterman seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Becker – yes, Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery –yes. **Motion passed 4-0.**

Road & Bridge
The board reviewed the bills as presented by Commissioner Meyer. Commissioner Meyer submitted a mileage reimbursement from August totaling $672.50. Meyer said he would continue to track his mileage and it was suggested that if this reimbursement continued to be hundreds of dollars, he should consider buying a pick-up truck for the Road District for running errands. The vehicle could also be used for plowing snow.

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 **$42,068.21**. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. Roll Call vote: Waterman – yes, Peterson – yes, Deery – yes, Becker – ABSTAIN. **Motion passed 3-0.**

Announcements:
1. September 18 - Senior Breakfast – 8:30 am @ Cardinal Creek
2. September 22 - Senior Movie Night – 6:30 pm @ Washington Twp Center
3. September 28 – Flu Shot Program – 9 am – Noon @ Washington Twp Center
4. October 6 – An Evening with Mark Twain – 7:00 pm @ Washington Twp Center

Upcoming Seminars and Meetings:
1. October 4, 2010 – 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 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Burgess – Town Clerk

Approved by Board of Trustees 10/4/10

Supervisors Report

September 9, 2010

Ted Deery, Pamela Deery, Mike Stanula, Mike Mach and myself met with representitives of the Forest Preserve District, County and the Village of Beecher, to discuss the completion of the Multi Purpose Recreational Trail in Washington Township. The Meeting was positive and productive with a series of short term Goals set. There is an understanding of the need to include and listen to the property owners adjacent to the Trail and include them in the planning process. I will be sending a letter to the property owners next week to invite them to express their ideas and concerns to our group on September 29, 2010 at the Township Center. The need for completion of the Trail was made apparent after the announcement of the Illiana Expressway Corridor and an adopted plan will secure the right away and crossing for Trail.

I also attended a RTA Public Budget Hearing and was truly moved by the public testimonies of our elected officials and our residents on the impact the bus service has made on their lives and the lives of their family members.

I have been pursing with the assistance of Pat Peters additional funding for our bus service and have been discussing with some of the local businesses and adjacent businesses the possibility of additional funding for our Transportation service and it seems promising.

I also have been meeting with a few local Senior groups and Seniors inquiring about our programs and the development of future programs and their was a common thread . The Seniors need a calendar of events to be made available, possibly a flyer updated weekly, something maybe we should look at.

Sincerely Yours,

Bob Howard

Washington Township

Jerry K. Meyer *Highway Commissioner*

September 9, 2010

To the Board of Trustee's of Washington Township:

- Working on Corning road from State Line to Klemme making it a 20 foot road and all new ditches getting it ready for tar and chip in a couple of years.
- Hauling M..F.T. stone into the shop
- Tar and chipping was complete on Klemme Road from Corning south to Delite Inn Road 1 ½ miles. Thanks to Peotone and Will Township for their help. This project was done all by Township equipment and employees
- Patching is on going.
- Speed limit signs are up in the town of Eagle Lake 30 MPH so watch your speed they are watching for speeders.

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

Jerry K. Meyer
Commissioner

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