



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, March 8, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Karl Ferrell	Absent
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Tax Assessor Jim Brenczewski	Absent
	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Absent

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz, Animal Control Director Whitney McGill, Animal Control Assistant Director Becky Gomez, General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano, and Rachel Ventura.

Approval of the Minutes:

Regular Town Minutes: Trustee Ibarra moved to approve the minutes of the February 8th 2022 Regular Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.¹

Road District, (RD), Public Hearing: Trustee Escutia moved to approve the minutes of the RD Public Hearing from February 8th 2022, Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.²

Public Comment:

Mr. Larry Crawford, 613 N. Hickory St., Joliet, inquired about Trustee Karl Ferrell's position. He asked if it was on the agenda and Supervisor Contreras noted that it was not but he was welcome to provide his comments anyway. Mr. Crawford asked about the Township statute process to replace Mr. Ferrell's seat and asked where do we go from here and if the business of the Township's move forward in it's usual fashion? He asked about the timeline, who's eligible to serve and if the public will have a voice in the decision? Supervisor Contreras asked that Mr. Crawford speak with him separately. He noted that the situation is between Mr. Ferrell and the State's Attorney, and this is being worked out between those two entities. Supervisor Contreras does not want to make any rash comments or decisions or project anything outside of his realm of capability and that there are statues to his questions. He stated that when there are vacancies,

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

they do need to be filled, it does need to be someone who serves and lives within the Township and those procedures do exist. Mr. Crawford asked if this includes a timeline. Supervisor Contreras affirmed that there are statutes for everything. As soon as he is no longer on the board or any board member of any government entity, there is a timeline for any vacancy under any circumstances. Mr. Crawford noted that this is election season and asked if this will be separate from that process. Supervisor Contreras stated that this is separate as this is a vacancy that needs to be filled by a specific timeline and this is not part of the election process. No further comments from the public were made.

PUBLIC HEARING: Supervisor asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing. Trustee Slattery motioned to go into Public Hearing for the award the bids on the Grass Cutting and Grave Opening and Closing at Oakwood Cemetery Road District, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.³

The Public Hearing began at 5:08 pm and was adjourned at 5:12 p.m. The Town Clerk asked for a motion to go into the Regular Town Board Meeting. Trustee Ibarra motioned to go into the Regular Town Board Meeting, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁴

NEW BUSINESS:

Supervisor Contreras called for a motion to approve the Annual Town Hall Meeting agenda. Trustee Slattery motioned to accept the Annual Town Hall Meeting agenda and it was seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁵

Supervisor Contreras discussed the annual contract regarding mosquito abatement and its importance of public health. He stated that local governments monitor this and this tends to go unnoticed by the public. Trustee Ibarra moved to approve the contract. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁶

Supervisor Contreras noted we have received a letter of resignation from Rachel Ventura. Trustee Ibarra moved to accept the letter resignation from Rachel Ventura as the Deputy Clerk. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁷

Supervisor Contreras stated that as everyone may or may not know, his Executive Assistant is expecting and is very near her term. He is requesting that Rachel Ventura take over the duties temporarily as the Executive Assistant. Trustee Ibarra motioned to accept the hiring of Rachel Ventura as the Interim Executive Assistant. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.⁸

REPORTS:

Jeff Wallace, Senior Liaison February Meetings:

- St. Paul's/The Paulites meeting was scheduled for February 2nd. President Ray Kaufman cancelled the meeting due to snowy weather.

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

- The Moose Seniors. They are having a fundraiser potluck dinner on Feb. 16th.
- Senior Citizen's Association. They lost their caterer. Chuck and Trustee Eugene spoke with other caterers and it's down to two. Their next meeting will be on March 10th. Will County Clerk, Lauren Staley Ferry, stopped by and asked if the members would sign her petition to get on the ballot. Ashley Leasure from Senior Services Center will speak at their next meeting on March 10th.
- Adalei Stevenson's meeting. Their building is being renovated by HUD and so everything is on hold until renovation is completed.
- Widow and Widowers group. They will have a key note speaker on their March 5th meeting will be Rev. Bevins from Senior Services.
- St. Joe's Seniors. Meeting was cancelled due to covid-19.
- St. Ray's Seniors. Meeting was cancelled due to snow.
- Retired Teachers Association. They did not meet in January. They will be meeting six times this year.
- Ana called him to request he attend the Spanish Community Center's Latino Social Club's first meeting; however, he was unable to attend. He sent a representative to go in his place.
- SOAR Seniors. President Joe Fabbre made some remarks about their health insurance and they enjoyed a great lunch with plenty of door prizes given away.
- Moose Seniors met March 7th. They have 7 new members. They will be planning their next trip on April 4th to the Four Winds Casino

General Assistance Patricia Venziano: Outreach season is starting up again and Soledad and Sue have represented us at a few events. They will be doing the Catholic Charities job fair resource event at Harrah's on April 13th and Soledad will be doing the 35th anniversary of WCCCC at their healthy homes healthy families event on Saturday 4/30/22. Angel had new fliers printed for Vita and we have started passing those out at the various mobile food pantries.

The Continuum of Care has not been meeting as it is going thru some restructuring after having the United Way of Will County is taking over as the lead agency.

Vita season is under way and while we have done a few returns here at the office we know there are more coming. It is always difficult that first year to establish yourself as a site that people know about, but we are working on it. We have posted fliers in various spots in the township and of course are passing out fliers at any events that we attend. The customers we have helped with their taxes are appreciative and happy that they can come to Township to get them prepared.

Patricia met via zoom meeting with staff at Lewis University regarding Vita and how the program works. Lewis University used to participate in the program with an outside agency and they are now thinking of setting up their own Vita sight and have asked for help and insight from the Township. We will be doing a follow up meeting with students in a few weeks to explain the program to them with the intentions of Lewis possibly setting up their own Vita site next year.

Sue has been busy with the medical lending closet. As typical for this time of year application for GA are running a bit low.

Whitney McGill, Director of Animal Control: They started the process of obtaining estimates to update our dog kennels and include additional runs and cages to help accommodate more

animals coming into our facility. This will help us aid Will County Animal Control in housing their stray animals, as well as help us continue to grow and best serve the community!

They were able to purchase and donate 4 catch poles to the Joliet Police officers who sometimes assist with catching dangerous/aggressive dogs. They were extremely appreciative and excited to receive them!

The students at Saint Raymond School made donated blankets for our animals. Saint Raymond also has a reward system for students where they can earn Rocket stickers for positive behavior and actions. Instead of using their Rocket stickers for a special activity or privilege, one student chose to have the staff collectively give a monetary donation to Joliet Township Animal Control. It was very appreciated and such a selfless gesture!

Finance Director Ivan Diaz: Reported that the fiscal year is ending, and he is working with Supervisor Contreras and Highway Commissioner to clean up the budget and is working on next year's budget. We won't see any deposits until May/June again and he is busy working on day-to-day finances.

Cemetery Report – Supervisor Contreras stated that the Cemetery Coordinator is busy with day-to-day, and he is seeing more requests for genealogy requests. He updates our database. Supervisor Contreras spoke with the museum, a lot of older records that we received have been transferred on newer materials. There is a lot of redundant stuff, a lot of the original plots match everything from the 1800's and we are not a record restoration facility so the museum will be taking a lot of those things because they pertain to the history of Joliet. Every street that is in existence in Joliet is in that cemetery so we're going to help them preserve that history with the museum so they'll be coming to pick up all that stuff to preserve it.

Clerk Alicia Morales: Has been working closely with supporting the Senior groups and working on the creation of a new Senior Club and with day-to-day operations.

Receipts: Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts in the proper accounts. Motion seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.⁹

Expenditures: The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval:

Trustee Slattery noted a small correction is needed in the General Town Fund in the bank card processing there was a line item left off. The total was \$156.49 and that changed the cash disbursements for the month from February to March to \$124,871 less \$156.49.

FUND EXPENDITURES

General Town	\$124,871
Motion to certify the cash disbursements as being correct and approve for payment: Trustee Slattery	
Second: Trustee Escutia	
Roll Call ¹⁰	
Capital Town Fund	No bills presented for this fund.

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

General Assistance \$18,041.73

Motion by Trustee Slattery to certify those expenditures as being correct and that they be approved for payment.

Second: Trustee Ibarra

Roll Call¹¹

Road and Bridge Fund \$308,309.33

Motion by Trustee Slattery to certify those expenditures as being correct and that they be approved for payment.

Second: Trustee Escutia

Roll Call¹²

Township Senior Fund No bills presented for this fund, no motion needed.

Animal Control \$68,152.07

Motion by Trustee Slattery to certify those expenditures as being correct and that they be approved for payment.

Second: Trustee Ibarra

Roll Call¹³

Closed Session: None

Adjournment: Trustee Escutia moved to adjourn the town board meeting to Tuesday, February 8th, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken¹⁴. February 8, 2022 meeting adjourned at 5:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Morales, Town Clerk



¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Public Hearing
Joliet Township Bid Opening Minutes – APPROVED
March 08, 2022
5:00 p.m.

**JOLIET TOWNSHIP / GRASS CUTTING OAKWOOD CEMETERY
Project GT2022-01**

**JOLIET TOWNSHIP / GRAVE OPEN AND CLOSE OAKWOOD CEMETERY
Project GT2022-02**

State of Illinois,
County of Will,
Town of Joliet,

The public hearing scheduled to be held in said Town and County in the State of Illinois at 175 West Jefferson Street, Town Hall meeting room, the meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. on Tuesday, March 08, 2022. by the Town Clerk Alicia Morales. The following official business was transacted: The Town Clerk accepted the previous roll as called at the Regular Town Board meeting which was recessed for this hearing.¹

Clerk Morales read the Legal Notice published in the Herald News on February 24th for project GT 2022-01 GRASS CUTTING - OAKWOOD CEMETARY.

No contractors were present, one bid was received.

Supervisor Contreras acknowledged only one bid was received for the grass cutting services. We received a \$250 official deposit check from K & D Landscaping for the landscaping services at Oakwood Cemetery. It is for \$90,300. No other bids were received. Supervisor Contreras noted that he will be in touch with K & D Landscaping.

Clerk Morales read the Legal Notice published in the Herald News on February 8th for project GT 2022-02 GRAVE OPEN AND CLOSING - OAKWOOD CEMETARY.

No contractors were present. Clerk Morales stated NO bids received for this project. Supervisor Contreras stated he will consult with legal counsel to ensure that the correct process is followed to extend the date.

The bid opening meeting was concluded at 5:12 p.m.

The Town Clerk requested a motion to close the public hearing and reconvene the previously scheduled regular township board meeting. Hearing no further comments, Trustee Ibarra moved to close the public hearing and go into regular township meeting, seconded by Trustee Escutia. Upon a voice vote the motion carried unanimously.²

Alicia Morales
Town Clerk



¹ Present – Trustees Escutia, Ibarra, Slattery, Supervisor Contreras, and Attorney Bryan Wellner

² Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).