



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 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	Present
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz, Assessor Jim Brenczewski, Animal Control Assistant Director Becky Gomez, and General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Regular Town Minutes/Aug 10, 2021: Trustee Ibarra moved to approve the minutes of the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Regular Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>1</sup>

**Public Comment:** Megan Cooper from “Say No to Joliet Country Club” discussed the interest from Joliet Housing Authority for the old country club. She highlighted the residents desire to be included in the decision and need representation. She asked the township to represent them against the city of Joliet. Her second concern she raised was on transparency of the meetings and asked for video of the meetings be available to the public.

Supervisor Contreras addressed that the township will help represent where they can and commented on transparency, stating the township doors are always open for those looking for information. There have been no denials of information since they took office and he encouraged the public to approach the township and request any information they may need. He also discussed that they are modernizing things at the township.

A question about wheelchair access was brought up by Ms. Cooper and Clerk Morales reminded Supervisor Contreras of the question. He addressed that wheelchair access is available from the front.

---

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

Vince Alessio agreed that we want a modern unit of government with live meetings and Supervisor Contreras reiterated that they want the public to contact them and they want to do meetings out in the community. He then scheduled to have a more in depth call with Ms. Cooper.

### **New Business:**

Adopt/Resolution 2021-06 FMLA Leave policy – Supervisor Contreras introduced the update. Attorney Wellner said it is coming into compliance with the FMLA act. Only part that deviates under federal law is normally an employee needs to be with you for a year and it is being reduced to 6 months. Ibarra asked what the reason for the reduction. Contreras remarked on low turnover. Assessor Brenzewski commented on employees being ‘veterans’ meaning they stay for a long time. Trustee Slattery motioned to adopt resolution for FMLA, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>2</sup>

### **Reports:**

Mr. Jeff Wallace, Joliet Township Senior Liaison: St Joes Seniors met 7/18 with 70 members and guest including Alicia, Karl, Ray, Rachel, and Jeff. S.O.A.R seniors met 7/19 with 20 members and guest including Alicia and Jeff. St Paul’s met 9/1 with 78 members plus guest Angel, Vince, Karl, Cesar, Alicia, and Jeff. Angel and Cesar spoke briefly to the members. Moose Seniors met 9/6 with 22 members. They discussed booking a bus trip to the casino and reported on their previous trips to Four Winds and Starved Rock. Senior citizens association met on 9/9 with 105 members. Jeff spoke briefly to the members and introduced Alicia. Widow and widowers did not meet on 9/11 because they had held a retreat. They held a service at the church but Jeff had not received a letter notifying him of the canceled meeting but someone across the street saw Jeff and told him they were in the church. They told Jeff why the meeting was canceled. Jeff brought senior newsletter and calendars for August plus the Township flyers for the medical closet to each meeting. Jeff highlighted the upcoming meetings: 9/15 St Joes at noon at the St Joes Hall. St Rays 9/16 at noon at St Rays Church. Retired teachers association 9/22 at Al’s Steak House. Moose Seniors 10/4 at 6:00 pm at the mouse lodge. St Paul’s 10/6 at 5:30pm at St Paul’s Church. Jeff commented that he liked representing the township at the senior groups and all of our elected officials are like a breath of fresh air.

Animal Control Assistant Director Becky Gomez: There have been many adoptions. Many strays are coming in and out. She had Alicia, Suzanna, and Rachel come in to see the building and what they have going on last month. They met all the staff, which was a nice change. Suzanna is going to Animal Control on Friday to record a live video with Becky to feature the animals and services. They did have seven seizures. Six dogs from Preston Heights (mom with 5 puppies) and one female from a hotel. One of the females was pregnant. The pregnant mom left the facility just in time to have 12 puppies, 11 of them survived. The mom went to a rescue. The four puppy shepherds that they had were adopted immediately. The other dog who was seized last month from a hotel went back to the owner as they did not have enough to keep the dog as the owner did have dog food in the room. The IGA are almost finished. Suzanna discussed a rebranding with Becky to change the name to Animal Care and Control. Rachel worked on a new flyer that they will be handing out. Becky talked about the open door policy that the Animal Control has as well and they are not the “dog catchers” of the 50s. Angel discussed modernizing and bringing the compensation into line with the job responsibilities as well as upgrading facilities and outreach. Becky discussed how officers are happy to come out and discuss with community what they do and how they can help.

---

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

Finance Director Ivan Diaz: Gave an update on the status of the audit. Annual finance report showed no significant findings and no audit adjustments were necessary. Everything was represented for the period with no findings. They all have a copy of the audit. Any questions can be answered next meeting after the trustees have time to review it. Raymond said it is required by state law to have the audit done by September 30th and filed with the state comptroller. He said it is nice to know they are completed.

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano: Pat obtained signatures on the 4<sup>th</sup> week program agreements and they have put funds for the program on deposit with Will County Community Concerns. They have assisted one client with rent and continue to work with her on her path to housing stability. Pat attended the monthly meeting for the Continuum of Care where they concentrated on the education symposium for next month. The symposium was originally going to be held in person but the school representatives are leaning more toward a virtual presentation and training. Pat will have a breakout room for Joliet Township. Pat has been doing a series of zoom presentations from Rethinking Homelessness for ideas as to the types of aid that can be given to residents once the eviction moratorium is lifted. They have been reviewing best practices for programs that are currently successfully running in other states. Governors State University will be doing a zoom presentation to the students of General Assistance. Pat will present and share a power point that explains General Assistance. Sue and Pat both attended the zoom meeting for community service council. The meeting centered on future topics of interest to the group. Sue is a member of the Will County MAPP Collaborative in the chronic disease food access workgroup. At the recent zoom meeting, partners presented their plan of action that will be presented to Will County for funding of their "Food for all for a healthier Community initiative. In addition to serving on the committee, she has volunteered at food distributions at JJC and Salvation Army. Sue last week attended the Mental Health First Aid Class that was put on by the Village of New Lenox in partnership with Sertoma Centre, Inc. Sue state that the class was extremely information and will most definitely assist her in her duties at Joliet Township with clients. Sue does a lot of volunteer work with various veteran groups and recently discover that there were children staying at Hope Manor that did not have backpacks and school supplies. Sue is coordinating with Operation Backpack to insure the children have what they need. They helped a woman get access to a birth certificate and divorce decree so she could get her social security retirement based on her former/spouse. Another woman is meeting with a caseworker next week that is enrolled in the program. She is working through the list that Patricia gave her.

Cesar asked about transportation aid and general assistance. Patricia said the only time they utilize transportation air is if they are doing community work or the work fair program. If they are on job search, they can get a bus pass for work force services. Discussion of the recent phone repairs to make sure remote work can take place.

Contreras added the next big thing for outreach is weekly they will have someone in the township working remotely with different agencies so they know what services we provide. Residents can come to the township to know what services are available, both in the office and remote locations.

Highway Commissioner Alessio: presented an update on the Road Improvement program. P.T. Ferro had 30 days to start but they haven't yet and they are working with the engineering firm to handle that. Major culvert repair on 53 and redbud as an emergency job with coordination of the state. They used MFT funds to repair the giant hole in a concrete culvert that was creating a sinkhole. Two other repairs they are working on before the end of the year for asphalt is seal

coating the driveway as well as fixing the hole in the slat barn. With the guidance of insurance is to add a new tarp. Some of the cost is being covered by insurance. Two trucks are on order that we do not have yet because of the microchip shortage. We have enough trucks for the winter, but we do not have a backup.

Supervisor Angel Contreras: Contreras spoke about the residents who do not have access to the Joliet public library. There will be a discounted rate for unincorporated residents and the township will pay the rate but people have to go through the township for their library card.

Assessor Jim Brenzewski: He reported that 9/13 was the last day for the people to come in and file complaints. Now if complaints come in there is due diligence they have to reply with. They are getting a lot of walk ins about the senior freeze as they do not understand the form. People want to know why they are not eligible.

Clerk Alicia Morales: We are working on training the deputy clerk on road letting projects, we just did one on September 10<sup>th</sup>. Once we get the information back from the engineer we will set up the contracts so you can do the paving. We are working on a road vacation. This is a legal process and we have to do it in a process. Ventura us being trained and working on inventorying equipment. The Animal Control is complete and now she is working on the Road District. I am training her on releasing of liens due to violations from grass being too long, etc. We've been creating new flyers and translating them to Spanish so we can be more inclusive office. We have had cemetery inquiries and fielding those over to Paul who manages the cemetery. I have been doing a lot of outreach at the senior groups, answering questions on everything the clerk does as well as general assistance, animal control, senior freeze, etc. I will be filing audit with Will County Clerk. Mr Wallace and I met with Mount Carmel 8/18 about the new senior group they are trying to start up. She hope to get an application soon from them for their senior group. Alicia has been working a lot of after hours because of all the additional outreach.

**Receipts:** Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts in the proper accounts. Motion seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>3</sup>

**Expenditures:** The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the Period ending Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

---

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

## FUND EXPENDITURES

General Town Motion: Trustee Slattery Second: Trustee Ibarra Roll Call <sup>4</sup>	\$277,943.95
Capital Fund	No bills presented for this fund.
General Assistance Motion: Trustee Slattery Second: Trustee Ferrell Roll Call <sup>5</sup>	\$33,545.84
Road and Bridge Motion: Trustee Slattery Second: Trustee Ibarra Roll Call <sup>6</sup>	\$174,197.20
Animal Control Motion: Trustee Slattery Second: Trustee Escutia Roll Call <sup>7</sup>	\$103,268.72
Senior Fund	No bills presented for this fund

### **Closed Session: NONE**

**Adjournment:** Trustee Ibarra moved to adjourn the town board meeting to Tuesday, October 12th, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call vote was taken<sup>8</sup>. The Sept 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Morales, Town Clerk

---

---

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

<sup>5</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

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

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

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