



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras and Clerk Alicia Morales led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The following official business was transacted:

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: | Assessor Jim Brenczewski | Present |
| | HWY Comm Vincent Alessio | Present |

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz, Animal Control Director Whitney McGill, Animal Control Director Becky Gomez, Deputy Clerk Rachel Ventura, Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo, General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano, Daniel Blake, Andro Pinnick, Chuck Corso, and Jim Diaz.

Approval of the Minutes:

Public Hearing Minutes/Oct 12, 2021; Regular Town Minutes/Nov 9, 2021; Special Town Minutes/Nov 30, 2021: Trustee Escutia motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.¹

Public Comment: None

New Business:

Supervisor Contreras opened the bidding process for the new Animal Control Van. No action needs to be taken today this is for information only at this time. Due to supply, the search will be a little longer and will stay open until January 30th.

Supervisor Contreras reviewed the Annual Policy Renewal from Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance. He stated that nothing had changed. The broker said we were the only customer that

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

nothing changed which is a good thing. Trustee Ibarra motioned to approve the policy renewal, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.²

Supervisor Contreras indicated the same for dental insurance from Delta for a 1 year policy renewal. Trustee Slattery motioned to approve the Delta policy renewal, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.³

Supervisor Contreras called for a motion to approve a 2 Year Policy renewal with VSP for the Vision Health Insurance. Trustee Ibarra motioned to approve the VSP policy renewal, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁴

Supervisor Contreras indicated the annual contract with PACE was in the packet. Trustee Ibarra motioned to approve the PACE contract, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.⁵

Supervisor Contreras said we are amending the Joliet Township Holiday Schedule 2022 as we were missing a few dates. Trustee Escutia motioned to approve the amended Holiday Schedule, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.⁶

Supervisor Contreras explained that the Joliet Township Road District Holiday Schedule 2022 was attached but that the trustees do not take action on that. Highway Commissioner Alessio pointed out the reason some dates were different is because they work four 10s and holidays are not observed on Fridays where the potential to pay out on two holidays days would be avoided.

Reports:

Animal Control Whitney McGill: Animal Control had a very busy month. They implemented the silver program that allowed people over 55 to have a waived adoption fee. The staff prepared a hot thanksgiving meal for all the animals in the shelter. There were many blanket donations dropped off. Hosted pet pictures with Santa and a bake sale that brought in past adopters as well as people from all over the Community. The fundraiser raised \$00 for rescue animals.

Mr. Jeff Wallace, Joliet Township Senior Liaison: Senior Citizens Association met 11/10 with 117 members. President Chuck Corso opened the meeting with a few comments and spoke in length about Christmas lunch with entertainment. All officers gave their reports. They hosted a fold the flag ceremony. He had a lot of help from the members. When the folding is done the flag is in the shape of a triangle. A triangle flag has 3 corners just like so many colonists wore. They were called tricorns. The most famous was General George Washington. Bingo followed afterwards. Jeff handed them their grant check and brought senior services newsletter and calendars plus a door prize. Widow and Widowers met on 11/13 with 25 members. President Sharon Love opened the meeting with remarks and a prayer. Their keynote speaker was Val Guzman from Age Guide, the northeastern IL agency on aging. Talked at length on the updates on Medicare updates for Medicare 2022. Jeff brought senior services newsletters, calendars, a door prize, their grant check, and health bars for all. St Joes Seniors met on 11/17 with 68 members. President Rich Churnovic welcomed new members. Jeff brought newsletter, calendars, animal control flyers, grant check, and a door prize. They had a flag folding ceremony. Bingo followed. St Raymond's seniors met 11/25 with around 60 members. President Glenda Gumina made a few comments and thanked everyone for being there. Jeff brought newsletters, calendars, animal control flyers, grant check, and door prize. Box lunch was served. Their keynote speaker was Dr Lisa Gumina, owner of finer

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

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

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

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

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

hearing, LLC. Dr Lisa spoke about what they can do for hearing lost and dementia. Certified Lisa said everyone loves music no matter what style it is and she played the saxophone to many tunes. Lisa plays a lot to people with dementia, it helps bring memories. St Paul's Paulites met 12/1 with 68 members in attendance at Al's Steakhouse. No meeting was held but President Ray Kaufman welcomed everyone to the Christmas Party. Jeff gave the grant check, senior newsletters, animal control flyers and a couple of door prizes. One of Rays' music students from Romeoville High School Sandy Haynes dressed up as Mrs. Claus, played the flute and sang Christmas songs. Jim Hood, a member, sang with Sandy. Moose seniors met 12/5 with 45 members. President Bob Llavenna welcomed everyone to the Christmas Party. Jeff brought 2 door prizes and calendars. Everyone received a present and the 50/50 raffle was held. Retired Steelworkers (SOAR) met 12/19 with 23 members at Al's Steakhouse for their Christmas party. President Joe Fabbre stopped by Jeff's house to pick up a bag for their party. Jeff gave them senior services newsletters, 2 door prizes, a snack bar for every member. Jeff was not able to be present because he had the flu. Widow & Widowers met on 12/11 with 28 members. Their Christmas party was held a Golden Corral on Jefferson St. They had brunch and played 6 or 7 games. Jeff dropped off 2 door prizes and snack bars for all plus senior services newsletters. Trustee Marilyn Dixon brought gifts for every member. President Sharon Love said everyone had fun and missed Jeff. Senior Citizens Association met 12/19 with 143 members. No business was held but a roast beef dinner was served. The entertainer was Eddie Korosa played polka music. Jeff met with Chuck Wensady in the park to drop off 2 door prizes, senior services calendars, and a not to open at meeting. It said thank you to the members that help him demonstrate the flag folding and wished everyone a happy holiday from him and the township. Suzanna had some comments as she attended as well. Bingo followed and plenty of 50/50 gifts. Trustee Suzanna Ibarra said it was an amazing Christmas party with tons of prizes. She spoke about how the township officials can't always make the meetings as they are running the day to day but they are all in their thoughts.

General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano: There was no meeting last month for the Continuum of Care. Angel and Patricia met with WCCCC regarding the VITA partnership. They set guidelines for areas of responsibility. Patricia certified with the IRS as a site coordinator and completed and certified the tax preparation certificates. Ivan, Jesse and Soledad are in various stages of certifying for the program. Sue and Patricia attended the Catholic Charities Headstart Luncheon. They were able to pick up fresh program flyers to share with our clients. GA will be attending a workfare/outreach event sponsored by Catholic Charities on January 12th at Harrah's Casino. There are times when staff working the front desk encounter township residents that come to us for assistance as a last resort. At times we are unsure if we have the capacity to help but we always try. Last month we encountered a Township resident that had become homeless when his house burnt down and he did not have proper insurance. This resident has been living in his car for close to 2 years. Last year he used his stimulus money to purchase a mobile home and have it placed at a park on Chicago Street. Since he had the home parked there, he has been in a never ending battle with the Will County Land Use Department trying to bring the home into compliance so that he could live. Land Use would not allow him to self-connect the electric, gas and water to the residence and he had run out of funds to do so. He was sent from place-to-place seeking assistance and at the point we encountered him his fuse was short and about to pop. Patricia made him no promises and discussed with Angel if there was anything they could do to help him. Angel and Patricia worked together to get all the proper people in place and now the self-titled Trailer Park Mark is able to live in his mobile home and has gas, water and electric. Patricia received a thank you Christmas Card from him today. This is an example of how thinking outside the box allowed us to assist a township resident when no other social service agency could. Patricia pointed out that this is one of the many examples of the types of aid that the General Assistance Department provides that is not necessarily reflected in monthly reports.

Assessor Jim Brenczewski: Mostly day to day. They have a couple hearings where they had to represent but other than that it has just been every day business.

Supervisor Contreras discussed the possibility of a location for more senior groups and community needs. It would be the St Peter's Lutheran church school. The school has been shut down for a while but the gym has been maintained. The township is working out a deal to lease it for senior, youth, and community activities. This would be faster and more economical than building their own center.

Public Comment: Andre said he was a guy from the streets and tired of being on the streets. He didn't like the violence on the street. Schooling, housing, and community are important to him and he wants to be a part of it all.

Chuck spoke as a representative of the senior association. He spoke about providing activities for the seniors and how much they appreciate it. Many members say it is the only thing they look forward to. They are always looking for more members even though they are doing quite well. He thanked the township and welcomed everyone to future meetings.

Clerk Alicia Morales: Reminded everyone to sign in. The clerk's office has been really busy with requests for Notary. She is happy that we are able to provide this valuable service to the Joliet residents. The Supervisor, Highway Commissioner, Finance Director, and Clerk were invited to attend a benefits renewal meeting on Oct 29th. All were present with exception of the Highway Commissioner. They had an in-depth discussion regarding Medical, Dental, and Vision benefits for the 2021 calendar year. There are no changes in cost to the employees. The cost is the same as last year. The supervisor's executive assistance, Ms Ana Campa and the clerk have been working diligently on setting everything up for Open Enrollment to ensure no one is left out. Open Enrollment ends Dec 15th. All employees have completed the on-line open enrollment with the exception of three; 2 from Animal Control and 1 from Road District. They have reached out to the respective Directors. On 11/11/21 an AFLAC representative visited all departments within Township and RD to present and sign-up anyone interested in this benefit. A huge Thank you to Ana Campa for setting this up. On Nov 30th, Clerk Morales administered an Oath of Office of Deputy Assessor Mr. Ryan Smyth. The Clerk, Deputy Clerk, and Supervisor Assistance Campa have been working on the website content, design, and layout. The clerk's office finalized a Road Vacation with the Road District. Clerk Morales filed all the necessary paperwork with the Will County Recorder of Deeds. The clerk's office is now working with the Road District on a new road dedication project. The clerk's office is waiting on the Highway Commissioner and his Executive Assistant to finalize some paperwork so a public hearing can be set. The Clerk's office has been working on creating another bilingual senior group. Jeff Wallace, Supervisor Contreras, and Clerk Morales had visited Mount Carmel Church. The township will be having a Holiday Luncheon on Thursday Dec 16th at noon. Immediately, following the luncheon, the township will be conducting the swearing in for the Township Assessor Mr. Brencheski and the Township Collector Mr. Archie Gavin. They will take office on January 1, 2022. All trustees and staff are welcome to attend. A thank you to Rachel Ventura for designing and printing the folding the flag handout for the seniors that Jeff Wallace used.

Highway Commissioner Vincent Alessio: We finalize the road vacation paperwork. The highway department is in a great position for the snow season. They have done a lot to prepare for the winter months. The salt contract is locked in and they have a lot of salt on hand. The road projects are done for the year.

The clerk also mentioned the Town Hall on the 2nd Tuesday in April at 6pm. The trustees will need to approve the agenda in March. Alicia asked Ray Slattery to share his thoughts. Trustee Slattery shared his experience since he is the only trustee who has gone through one on this board. The agenda has to be set in March. The annual meeting has some administration like the budget, bills, etc. but the citizens can come to the meeting and make proposals for various programs that they

want the township to carry out. In the past they have not had a lot of participation. He suggested getting the information out to the residents so they can have better participation. The clerk encouraged all the trustees to begin reaching out to residents.

Jeff Wallace discussed a few of the future dates for senior groups and asked Suzanna to record one of the flag folding ceremonies.

Receipts: Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts in the proper accounts. Motion seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.⁷

Expenditures: The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the Period ending Dec 14th, 2021

FUND EXPENDITURES

General Town \$137,992.91*

Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Escutia
Roll Call⁸

** This was the amount that Trustee Ray Slattery read but the actual amount in the agenda and that was signed by the Trustees was \$138,292.91.*

Road and Bridge \$154,989.55

Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Escutia
Roll Call⁹

General Assistance \$23,578.35

Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Escutia
Roll Call¹⁰

Animal Control \$70,305.70

Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Ibarra
Roll Call¹¹

Senior Fund \$113,000.00

Motion: Trustee Slattery
Second: Trustee Ibarra
Roll Call¹²

Capital Fund No bills presented for this fund.

Closed Session: NONE

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

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Trustee Suzanna Ibarra said the COVID pandemic is getting bad: it doubled a few weeks ago and then recently doubled again. She encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and get the booster. The benefits of the vaccine is you don't get as sick and end up in the hospital.

Adjournment: Trustee Escutia moved to adjourn the town board meeting to the special board meeting on Tuesday, December 21st, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. The next regular meeting is January 11th 2022 at 5pm. A roll call vote was taken¹³. The Dec 14th, 2021 meeting adjourned at 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Morales, Town Clerk



¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).