

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joliet Township Board 175 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432 Tuesday, March 10, 2020

The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Daniel L. Vera. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES: Raymond F. Slattery Present

Archie Gavin Present Rosie Verdin Present Brian Hertzmann Present

SUPERVISOR: Daniel L. Vera Present

CLERK: Beth Ann May Present

OTHER OFFICIALS: Commissioner Michael Turnbull Absent

Assessor James Brenczewski Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Attorney James B. Harvey Animal Control Director Whitney Armstrong
Sarah Gimbel General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano

Approval of the Minutes:

Regular Town/February 25, 2020: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting and to waive the reading of these minutes inasmuch as copies had previously been delivered. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.¹

Public Comment:

Supervisor Vera thanked those that reached out to him with good wishes during his recent illness.

¹ The motion carried

John Kraft of the Watchdog group read a statement regarding the use of GA funds, commenting on grants and programs that have been supported but only certain things can be funded with General Assistance funds.

Mr. Kirk Allen of the Watchdog group read a statement, first saying this was read before when the Supervisor was absent so he will read it again now that the Supervisor is present. Clerk May asked when he had read it before and he couldn't recall.

New Business:

Adopt/Resolution 2020-01/Surplus Equipment (Town)

The Supervisor indicated this is for equipment from the Animal Control Program, the Office of the Assessor and the Township Clerk's Office. Clerk May indicated inventory control documents were submitted for the requested equipment to be surplused. Trustee Gavin stressed the importance of the Kevlar bullet proof vests being recycled. Trustee Verdin moved to adopt Resolution 2020-01/Surplus Equipment Town. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)²

Approve/New Hire/Animal Control Part time Position

The resume for the proposed new employee, Jaime McKeen, was distributed to the Board for review. Director Armstrong is recommending Jaime McKeen for the 25 hour per week, part time position at \$13.00 per hour, with a start date of March 16, 2020. Director Armstrong reported Ms. McKeen has a strong and extensive background with animal hoarding cases and fostering animals. Four people were interviewed for the position which was posted on the Center's and Township Facebook pages. Trustee Slattery moved to hire Jaime McKeen, for the part time, 25 per hour position at \$13.00 per hour, starting on March 16, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)³

<u>Approve/Annual Town Meeting Agenda, April 14, 2020</u>

The proposed agenda was reviewed. Trustee Slattery moved to approve the agenda for the April 14, 2020 Annual Town Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Hertzmann. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)⁴

Approve/Contract GT2020-02 Oakwood Cemetery Lane Improvements

Clerk May indicated the minutes of the bid opening and the bid tab sheet was provided to the Board. She added P. T. Ferro was the low bidder at \$45,120.00. Supervisor Vera indicated all of the bids were reviewed by the engineers and this will complete the pavement on the eastern half of the cemetery. Trustee Gavin moved to approve the Contract GT2020-02 Oakwood Cemetery Lane Improvements with P. T. Ferro at the price of \$45,120.00. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)⁵

² Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

³ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

⁴ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

⁵ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

Old Business:

Adopt/Ordinance No. 2020-01 RD Transfer of Appropriation

Trustee Gavin moved to take the matter off the table, seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)⁶

Trustee Gavin indicated he has some concerns where he needs clarification. He would like to speak to the Commissioner about these issues before it can be voted on.

Trustee Gavin moved to table the matter to the March 24, 2020 Regular Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)⁷

Reports:

<u>Supervisor</u>: Supervisor Vera reported on meeting with various contractors for work to be performed at the Oakwood Cemetery. He commented on the good work being done by Paul Cabay, our Cemetery Consultant and the help he has given reviewing the Cemetery improvement plans and helping with contractors. He indicated the grass cutting bid was published today, March 10. The Supervisor reported on the Will County Senior Services program moving to a new location in Romeoville, Illinois. He had an opportunity to meet with Mark Schneidewind, Director of the Will County Farm Bureau who thanked the Supervisor and Board for the work being done and the programs being supported. The reports for General Assistance, Animal Control and the Cemetery are included in the Board packet.

Clerk: Present, no report.

<u>Highway Commissioner</u>: Absent, Anna Donovan in attendance and distributed the Highway Commissioners report. No further comments were provided.

<u>Assessor</u>: Assessor Brenczewski reported, they continue to work on the software conversion and are focused on June for the turnover, adding they are not doing double entry yet but will be in June. Other than that just the day to day operations of his office.

<u>Attorney</u>: Attorney Harvey reported, he continues to work with the staff and officials on various legal issues.

Accountant: Accountant Witt, absent, no report

<u>Animal Control Center</u>: Director Armstrong reported on a local school visit; the new Officer Jeff Lupton is working out well; there were 14 cats from a hoarding situation and all but one have been adopted out; other than that, just business as usual. Supervisor reported on the new LED lights installed at the Center. Director Armstrong commented they are really making a big difference.

⁶ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

⁷ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

General Assistance: Director Venziano reported she and Caseworker Aguirre will be attending a "March into Wellness" event at Mt. Zion Church on Saturday, March 14, 2020. The medical lending closet has been busy with giving out equipment and accepting donations to the closet. The individual case work has been slow but it is very typical of this time of year when people receive their tax refunds and catch up on their bills. She reported a changed in the Emergency Assistance program, indicating there hasn't been a change of income levels for those persons qualifying for this program since 2001, which means the same levels have been in place for 19 years. After discussions and statistical reviews with Supervisor Vera it was determined to increase it to 75% of the poverty level which is a 20% increase to the amount of assistance provided. They have reached out to those that previously applied to encourage them to apply again, if the need is still there. She added, our income levels are still low, compared to other local agencies.

<u>Senior Report</u>: Jeff Wallace, absent, a report was provided. The Supervisor met with Mr. Wallace briefly and said he is doing fine but with his health condition can't be in any meetings at this time.

Receipts: Trustee Slattery moved to deposit all funds into their proper accounts as presented for the period ending March 10, 2020. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.⁸

Expenditures: The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the period ending March 10, 2020:

FUND EXPENDITURES

General Town \$181,889.55

Motion: Trustee Gavin Second: Trustee Verdin Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0⁹

General Assistance \$9,928.08

Motion: Trustee Verdin Second: Trustee Gavin Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹⁰

Road and Bridge \$159,109.29

Motion: Trustee Gavin Second: Trustee Verdin Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹¹

⁸ The motion carried

⁹ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

¹⁰ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

¹¹ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

The original bills presented for consideration totaled \$160,798.90; \$1500 was deducted due to the no passage of the transfer of appropriation (accounting services); and, an additional \$189.61 was deducted due to lack of funds in line item 8210 (Avalon Petroleum). Total deductions \$1,689.61.

Animal Control \$23,450.05

Motion: Trustee Slattery Second: Trustee Gavin Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹²

Senior Fund \$52,500.00

Motion: Trustee Verdin Second: Trustee Gavin Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0¹³

No bills to consider under the Capital Fund.

Certifications for all funds were passed unanimously.

Closed Session:

None

Adjournment:

Trustee Hertzmann moved to adjourn the town board meeting to Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A voice vote was taken. ¹⁴ The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Beth Ann May

Clerk

¹² Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

¹³ Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

¹⁴ The motion carried