

June 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on August 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The following Trustees were present:

Sid Moate, Supervisor
Jen Grady (arrived 7:15)
Tom Lawson (arrived 7:10)
Jeffrey Arnold

The following other persons were present:

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk
Charles Barnes, Highway Commissioner
Dana Lemke, Township Assessor
Michael Scheurich, Attorney
Joseph Goldsworthy, Member of public

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. by Supervisor Sid Moate. After leading the pledge of allegiance, he called for review of the minutes of the July 2, 2024 Township meeting, which minutes on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, were approved as submitted.

The Supervisor next called for public comment and no persons present expressed a desire to speak.

The Supervisor called on Dana Lemke to report on assessments and taxes. Ms. Lemke says all of the county received substantial multipliers, with Owen Township getting 14%. She said home sales continue to be strong with prices high. She also noted that an existing logjam for building permits with the County appears to have been resolved with a large number now being issued.

The Supervisor asked Mr. Barnes to report. He said most sealcoating has been completed and touch up and patching is ongoing. Drainage finishing is also ongoing.

The Supervisor then stated the balances for the Township accounts, and called for, and postponed discussion of financial business to allow further review of bills by the Trustees. He said that the question of interest on General Assistance funds was raised at the July meeting and that after research by counsel, it appears that an older Attorney General Opinion from Jim Ryan declares that the fund, and its earnings, may not be diverted. He told the Trustees that he has completed arrangements for direct deposit of funds from the Comptroller, rather than having himself receive and then deposit a paper check.

The Trustees now having completed review of Township bills, the Supervisor called for action. On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously passed, the bills were approved.

Mr. Arnold questioned the receipt of insurance proceeds. Mr. Barnes explained that the Township has received payment of the depreciated value of loss, and that if it decides to repair and re-build, the additional amounts would become payable. The question remains whether it will be better to take the depreciated

proceeds and let the town hall building go and use the funds to improve the church building, or to repair the town hall. He said that Mark Smith has taken measurements and came up with estimated costs of each option. Mr. Smith also noted that the septic field could be beneath the parking area, saving expenses for re-location of the water well.

The Supervisor next requested counsel to relate the recent decision of the Attorney General's office denying the July, 2023 complaint of Joseph Goldsworthy. After reading the decision and the Trustees having no questions, the Supervisor directed that the decision be spread of record in the minutes.

The Supervisor reminded the Trustees that the September monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. on September 3, 2024.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2024 AT
7:00 PM AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM
ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk