

June 4, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on June 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The following Trustees were present:

Sid Moate, Supervisor

Jen Grady

Tom Lawson

Mark Smith

Jeffrey Arnold

The following other persons were present:

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk

Charles Barnes, Highway Commissioner

Dana Lemke, Township Assessor

James Rodriguez, Attorney

Joseph Goldsworthy, Member of public

Dan Bach, Member of public

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Sid Moate. After leading the pledge of allegiance, he called for review of the minutes of the May 7, 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 next stated the account balances for the two Township accounts, general assistance and the town account, and postponed discussion of financial business to allow further review of bills by the Trustees.

The Supervisor next called on the Highway Commissioner who reported on storm damages from recent storms. He noted that the damages were mostly downed branches but some trees did come down by Old River Rd. He noted that Tullocks Woods gutter work is complete. He reported that millings will be started on June 18th and sealcoating will be done after that. He noted that crack seal will be done on roads the Township inherited from the State. He reported that two trucks will go through inspections this month. He advised the Trustees that OSHA has been making stops at Fire Districts and Townships to inspect for compliance with OSHA regulations. He believes the shop is in good shape regarding OSHA regulatory requirements.

The Supervisor next called for financial business. After review of the bills, the Trustees on motion duly, seconded and unanimously carried, approved payment of the Township bills and after review voiced acceptance of the Road and Bridge District bills.

Mr. Barnes advised that the TOIRMA storm claim payment had been received and transferred into the Township account. He noted that if the Trustees decided to repair the existing townhall, there is an additional amount that would be paid by the insurance company as recoverable depreciation. He discussed the options that exist as repairing the existing townhall or moving townhall facilities into the old church building on the

property. The church building would require repairs and upgrades to comply with current codes and accessibility standards. He noted that if the townhall was relocated, the current townhall could be demolished and a future building could be constructed to provide additional garage space for equipment. He advised that the current garage space is crowded and makes it difficult to maintain the equipment, but the workers do manage it. The construction of additional garage space would also allow for facilities for the workers, including bathrooms, storage and a break room. Trustee Lawson asked whether bids or estimates have been obtained by a contractor for the work to convert the church building into a townhall. Commissioner Barnes has met with one contractor but no bids or estimates have been obtained. Trustee Grady questioned whether the Board is in the position to make any decisions at this time since there is no information regarding projected costs. Trustee Grady advised an architect or other professional be engaged to advise on what needs to be done and what are the expected costs. Commissioner Barnes advised that relocating the townhall to the church building would require renovations to the church building in excess of the insurance proceeds. Trustee Lawson discussed the potential need to budget this for subsequent years. Commissioner Barnes advised that another funding source could also be municipal loans. He noted that many local banks are eager to give municipal loans due to tax benefits to the banks. The Trustees decided more information was needed before determining how to proceed. Trustee Lawson made a motion duly, seconded and unanimously carried to direct Commissioner Barnes to meet with contractors to obtain bids or estimates of the work required to convert the church building to a townhall.

Next, Township Clerk, Susan Barnes administered the oath of office to Jeffrey Arnold. Trustee Arnold accepted the oath and was sworn in as a Trustee for Owen Township.

The Supervisor next called for action on the Budget and Appropriation. After review of the Budget for 2024, the Trustees on motion duly, seconded and unanimously carried, approved the 2023 Budget as submitted by roll call vote.

The Supervisor next called discussion of the Annual Financial Review for 2021, 2022 and 2023. After review of the 2021 AFR, the Trustees on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, was approved as submitted. After review of the 2022 AFR, the Trustees motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, was approved as submitted. After review of the 2023 AFR, the Trustees motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, was approved as submitted.

The assessor next advised the Trustees that real estate tax bills for the 2023 have been mailed out. There have been several calls to the office but nothing out of the ordinary. The books are due June 15, 2024.

The Supervisor reminded the Trustees that the July monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. on July 2, 2024.

A member of the Public, Joseph Goldsworthy asked if the newly elected Trustee Jeffrey Arnold could give a summary of his background. Trustee Arnold gave a background of his work history and family. Mr. Goldsworthy also asked if the website was operational because he couldn't locate it. Trustee Grady reported that the website is operational but that it is still a work in progress and items are still being added.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 2, 2024 AT 7:00 PM
AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM ROAD,
ROCKFORD, IL.**

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk