

July 2, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Owen Township was held at the Owen Township Hall, on July 2, 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

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Supervisor Sid Moate. The Supervisor 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 led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Supervisor next called for public comment but no members of the public were present.

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 posed the question of whether the Township is allowed to transfer the interest earned on the General Assistance account balance to the Town account. Attorney Rodriguez advised the Board that he believes it is allowed but will confirm and advise the Trustees at the August meeting. The Trustees agreed to discuss further after confirmation is provided by counsel as to whether it is allowed.

The Supervisor next called on the Highway Commissioner who reported on the progress of sealcoating. He noted that sealcoating in Tullocks Woods is complete. There is an area of road that is blocked off due to a soft spot in the road to allow additional time before exposing that portion to traffic. Now that the chip and seal process is complete, they will begin dressing the ditches. He believes that issue of standing water on the roads has been addressed. Water is now draining off the roads into the ditches. Additional dressing of the ditches will improve drainage from the road. He advised the Trustees that they were able to use pea gravel during this cycle of chip and seal. In the future, he would like to use pea gravel in all subdivisions and limestone on other roads. Pea gravel has been more expensive than limestone in the past, but the difference in price has narrowed. He believes that pea gravel is the superior material, but they could chip/seal a greater amount of road with limestone in the past because of the cost difference. He advised that they will be sweeping the Tullocks Woods roads in a few weeks. Trustees Grady and Arnold both noted that they have observed water draining better from the roads.

Now that road work is done, they will begin pothole patching and tree trimming. Trustee Arnold asked for an explanation of what trees are the responsibility of the Township versus to homeowner. Commissioner Barnes explained that generally the Township is responsible for trees that are within 16 feet from the center of the roadway but that it is 25 feet from the center of the roadway in Tullocks Woods. He explained that they focus on trimming instead of removing dead trees due to the number of trees they have responsibility for. He does take calls from residents and will take down dead trees when able to.

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.

The assessor next advised the Trustees that the 2024 books have been turned over to the Supervisor of Assessments. She advised that 2024 tax assessments will be available on-line during the first week of August. She advised that there are still not a lot of sales in the Township. She advised that there was a backlog of building permits at the County, but those are being worked through.

Commissioner Barnes next explained that he received a statement of loss from the insurance company, which he emailed to the Trustees. He did not get a chance to meet with the contractor to walk through the church building due to conflicting schedules. He will attempt to meet with the contractor.

The Supervisor advised the Trustees that the AFRs have been completed and submitted to the Comptroller. The Clerk advised the Trustees that the Township accountant is on vacation for the next two weeks so checks will be delayed.

Trustee Grady advised that the website now comes up as search result on Google, but the site is not optimized so it is not at the top of the search results. There was discussion among the Trustees about items that could be added to the website, including information relating to electric aggregation and paving schedules. Trustee Grady advised that she could update the website if the information is provided to her.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON AUGUST 6, 2024 AT  
7:00 PM AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, 4019 LATHAM  
ROAD, ROCKFORD, IL.**

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**Susan Barnes, Township Clerk**