

May 7, 2024

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

The following Trustees were present:

Sid Moate, Supervisor
Jen Grady
Tom Lawson (arrived 7:10 pm)
Mark Smith

The following other persons were present:

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk
Charles Barnes, Highway Commissioner
Dana Lemke, Township Assessor
G. Michael Scheurich, 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 April 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 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 for unfinished business. He reminded the Board that the efficiency review was held over from the March meeting to allow for review. He called for a motion to approve sending the report to the Winnebago County Board. Trustee Grady moved and Trustee Smith seconded a motion to approve the efficiency review report and to submit the same to the Winnebago County Board and such motion unanimously passed.

The Supervisor next reported his attendance at the multi-Township meeting of the previous week and advised that no further insurance coverage will be available under the existing policy to cover catastrophic illness for recipients of Township assistance. He learned at the meeting that Mr. Crabtree will be forwarding information to the Township to enable it to acquire separate insurance coverage to protect the Township. He reminded the Trustees that statements of economic interest were to have been filed with the Winnebago County Clerk by May 1st and the Trustees indicated that they had all done so.

The Supervisor next called on the Highway Commissioner who reported on doing curb and gutter work to alleviate drainage issues. He noted that certain repairs of Township roads are being performed to State specifications with two layers this year and a third layer next year, and also roadways that were improved last year receiving the third layer this year. He reported having met with Attorney Rodriguez concerning solar farm projects in the Township which will result in transmission lines along town roads. He noted this

is informational only since new legislation basically prevents townships from interfering with wind or solar energy developments. He reported on the new skid loader and his acquisition of a bucket truck, and said that similar trucks are in great demand and hard to acquire. This truck is already certified which will avoid difficulty in obtaining certification in 2025.

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 real estate tax bills for the 2023 year are now available online and the bills will be mailed to property owners next week. Payment of the first installment will be due June 16.

Mr. Barnes next raised the issue of the TOIRMA storm claim payment of \$36,000. He noted that if the Trustees choose to repair the existing townhall and repairs exceed the provisional settlement, then additional funds will be payable. If the Trustees decide to abandon the current location and move to the church, then the depreciated value will be payable and that the \$36,000 is the minimal amount in the event the Trustees do not choose to repair.

The Supervisor reminded the Trustees that the budget hearing will be at 6:30 p.m. on June 4th and the June monthly meeting will commence at 7:00 p.m. and will include adoption of the budget.

The Supervisor next called for adjournment to closed session to consider the selection of a person to fill the vacancy in trustee seat previously held by Sid Moate, pursuant to Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Trustees adjourned to executive session at 7:24 p.m. The members of the public in attendance departed at that time. At 7:40 p.m. the Trustees returned to open session. The Supervisor noted for the record that in closed session, the Trustees had considered applicants for the open trustee seat, and adjourned from closed session without final action. He invited a motion to appoint Trisha Rozanski as Trustee to complete the remaining term of Mr. Moate's vacated seat. On motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Trustees voted to appoint Trisha Rozanski to the vacant Trustee seat.

Trustee Grady reported to the Trustees that she has completed setting up a website for the Township. She will upload the current minutes to the website and will work with Township Clerk Susan Barnes to instruct the clerk how to upload minutes in the future. The Trustees discussed security of the site and noted that there is and will be no link to financial information, therefore, security concerns are minimal.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR OWEN TOWNSHIP WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2024 AT 6:300 P.M. AT THE OWEN TOWNSHIP HALL, AND THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 4, 2024 AT 7:00 PM AT THE SAME LOCATION.

Susan Barnes, Township Clerk