



Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Joliet Township Board  
175 W. Jefferson St., Joliet, IL 60432  
Tuesday, September 25, 2018

The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, 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 James Maffeo    | Present |
|                  | Assessor James Brenzewski    | Present |
| ALSO PRESENT:    | Accountant Colleen Witt      | Present |
|                  | Attorney Franklin D. Burkey  | Present |
|                  | Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace | Present |
|                  | Director Sarah Gimbel        | Present |

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Regular Town/September 11, 2018: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 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.<sup>1</sup>

**Public Comment:**

None

<sup>1</sup> The motion carried

## **New Business:**

### Approve/Senior Grants – previous action to Postpone of September 11, 2018

Supervisor Vera clarified these are the 2018-2019 Senior Grants and directed the board to review the spread sheet (attached) consisting of those organizations who submitted applications and the funds they requested. He met with Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace and based on these conversations he is recommending the passage of all requests with the following exceptions: Easter Seals Joliet Region reduce to \$3,000; Prairie State Legal Services reduce to \$20,000; Senior Services Center of Will County reduce to \$20,000; Adlai Stevenson Resident Council increase to \$2,500; HAJ/John F. Kennedy Terrace increase to \$2,500; and SOAR decrease to \$3,500. All other requests will be honored as requested and presented. The total consideration is for \$104,000.

There was a continued discussion relating to the unfinished projects at the Senior Services Center. Supervisor Vera reported the Township logos have still not been applied to the senior bus and the home repair program pickup truck as requested and promised. He shared emails between himself and Senior Services Center Executive Director Barry Kolanowski, where the Director states that their vendor, to apply this type of lettering, has gone out of business and he will need to seek a new one. There was also a complete review of the funding for the Senior Services Center over the past 3-5 years including senior grants and other grants for building improvements.

Trustee Hertzmann moved to delay the \$20,000 grant consideration until which time the Senior Service Center has taken care of the outstanding issue of the lettering on senior bus and the home repair pickup truck. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)<sup>2</sup> It was then discussed that the funds will be held and only considered for release once the work has been completed.

Trustee Hertzmann moved to approve the senior grants considering the adjustments and the delayed payment for the Senior Services Center, this total is \$84,000. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)<sup>3</sup> Supervisor Vera indicated the checks will be issued the first week in October.

### Approve/Grant, Spirit of Christmas, University of St. Francis

Supervisor Vera reported we have supported this holiday program for the past 9 years at the Christmas Cheer level \$1,000 and he is recommending the same for this year.

Trustee Verdin moved to approve a grant to the University of St. Francis for the Spirit of Christmas program at the \$1,000 level. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)<sup>4</sup>

### Approve/New Hire (2) Animal Control-Weekend Coverage

Director Gimbel is recommending the hiring of Stephanie Peterson and Kelly Goeing for

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

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

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

Vet Tech student, weekend coverage. Both are enrolled in the Vet Tech program at Joliet Junior College, they have previously volunteered and have shadowed staff to ensure the job was something they are interested in. Their resumes were distributed to the Board for review. Trustee Slattery moved to approve the hiring of Stephanie Peterson and Kelly Goeing at the \$12.00/hour student rate for weekend coverage. Seconded by Trustee Verdin. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes (5), Nays (0)<sup>5</sup>

## **Reports:**

Supervisor: Supervisor Vera reported having a brief conversation with the President of the Board of the Oakwood Cemetery. He told the President that we are not interested in taking over the Cemetery in the middle of their fiscal year. The Supervisor anticipates us taking it over on March 1, 2019, pending all of the requested financial and legal matters are reviewed and clarified. This will give them a chance to get all of the needed records in order. He is hopeful for a smooth transition and that some of the members of their board will be a resource for the 22,500 grave sites on 55 acres. The burial services are currently contracted out. Their next meeting is on October 17 and he and Attorney Burkey will be attending. The Supervisor added some of the financials have been received and Accountant Witt will be reviewing.

The Supervisor and Commissioner Maffeo together reviewed the Township roads and the work completed with the \$1,200,000 transfer from the Town to the Road District. He indicated everything looked great and said the full road repair/improvements have worked out very good. Trustee Slattery also thanked the Commissioner for the great shape of the roads and indicated he also heard the same comments from the East Joliet Fire District Chief Robert Sholtes.

The bids were opened for the Animal Control Center parking lot project. All of the bids received were over the estimate by the Architect. The Supervisor has requested the Architect contact the top 4 lowest bidders and inquire on the cost of the fencing component to determine if that portion was removed would the cost of the work be closer to the funds budgeted for this work. He anticipated hearing from the Architect within the next day or two. The Supervisor has been assured that the work will be completed before the weather changes.

He reported on the repairs to the flag pole and the removal of one of the garbage cans along the river walk in an effort to discourage the loitering by certain individuals who tend to drink alcoholic beverages there. The police have been contacted several times but the individuals still return. He hopes with the removal of the garbage can, where they tend to congregate, they will find a new location to hang out.

Clerk: Clerk May reported the bid opening for the Animal Control Center parking lot, was held on September 12 at 1:30 p.m. Eight bids were received. All were issued a formal bid tabulation. She indicated she is awaiting direction from Supervisor Vera to work on the award of the contract. The fall conference registrations and hotel reservations were completed for Trustees Verdin and Hertzmann. A performance bond

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<sup>5</sup> Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

was returned to D Construction for work previously completed on Patterson Road. This was a matter that involved the Port of Will County and a portion of Patterson Road. That portion is no longer our jurisdiction and therefore we no longer need to hold on to the bond which insured the integrity of the road. Other than that, just the day to day operations of her office.

Highway Commissioner: Commissioner Maffeo reported on an additional 2 trees that have fallen after work hours, requiring staff to be called out to remove. His staff continues to cut grass. Work continues on the drainage project on Cleveland and the former Bibian property. A mini excavator was rented to complete the work because our equipment was too large to get the job done. Preconstruction meetings have been scheduled for the three recently awarded projects. There is a need for his staff to replace 6 culverts prior to the beginning of work on Sigmund Street. He recently drove around with the Engineers reviewing the completed work and creating a punch list of things which still need addressed. Other than that, just the day to day functions of his office.

Assessor: Assessor Brenzewski reported they continue to work on the Board of Review hearings for both residential and commercial. He is hopeful that the new software will be up and running after the first of the year. Both the old and new programs will be running parallel at that time until the total transition is complete. All of his staff will be trained on the new software which includes a new drawing component called APEX.

Attorney: Attorney Burkey updated the board on a lawsuit filed against the Will County Treasurer of which we are named in the suit (2018 MR 2346) as one of the taxing districts. The former owners of the Evergreen Terrace (apartment complex), located within Joliet Township, have filed a suite in an attempt to obtain retroactive tax refunds. The details are that the City of Joliet started eminent domain procedures in 2005 and they won their case in 2017. As a result the MB Financial Bank, et al, feel they have a case to now ask for a refund of all property taxes paid between 2005 and 2017. Attorney Burkey is recommending that we accept the position which the Phil Mock, Assistant State's Attorney has presented and we do not intervene. In his response, Mr. Mock, has stated the Evergreen Terrace never sought proper exemption status and clearly the property is apartments for which the company profited. The case was in court on Monday, September 24, 2018. The Board accepted the recommendation of Attorney Burkey.

Accountant: Accountant Witt reported she worked with the Supervisor on the interviews for the new General Assistance Director. She completed her professional education requirements and renewed her license for 3 more years. She has started to work on the 2018 Levy and anticipates the need for a workshop at the end of October. Other than that, just the day to day operations of her office.

Animal Control Center: Director Gimbel reported there are 3 hearings with the City of Joliet. They adopted out 7 cats this past week as a result of the sale. The Department of Agriculture came in for an inspection and the Center passed. Other than that, just the day to day operations of her office.

Senior Liaison: Jeff Wallace reviewed the meetings he attended and the upcoming meetings. He thanked the board for accepting his recommendations on increased funding for some of the senior clubs. A written report was submitted.

**Receipts:** Trustee Slattery moved to deposit all funds into their proper accounts as presented for the period ending September 25, 2018. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.<sup>6</sup>

**Expenditures:** The Supervisor presented the following invoices for Town Board approval for the period ending September 25, 2018:

| <u>FUND</u>                             | <u>EXPENDITURES</u> |
|---|---------------------|
| General Town                            | \$48,281.61         |
| Motion: Trustee Slattery                |                     |
| Second: Trustee Verdin                  |                     |
| Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 <sup>7</sup>  |                     |
| General Assistance                      | \$4,873.46          |
| Motion: Trustee Gavin                   |                     |
| Second: Trustee Verdin                  |                     |
| Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 <sup>8</sup>  |                     |
| Road and Bridge                         | \$39,069.54         |
| Motion: Trustee Verdin                  |                     |
| Second: Trustee Hertzmann               |                     |
| Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 <sup>9</sup>  |                     |
| Animal Control                          | \$20,408.71         |
| Motion: Trustee Gavin                   |                     |
| Second: Trustee Hertzmann               |                     |
| Roll Call: Ayes 5, Nays 0 <sup>10</sup> |                     |

No bills were presented for consideration for the Senior Fund.

Certifications for all funds were passed unanimously.

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<sup>6</sup> The motion carried

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

<sup>8</sup> Roll Call Ayes (5) Trustees Slattery, Gavin, Verdin, Hertzmann and Supervisor Vera

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

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

**Closed Session:**

None

**Adjournment:**

Trustee Hertzmann moved to adjourn the town board meeting to October 9, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Gavin. A voice vote was taken.<sup>11</sup> The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Beth Ann May  
Clerk

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<sup>11</sup> The motion carried