



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. was called to order by Supervisor Angel Contreras. The following official business was transacted:

The Clerk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. The Clerk called the roll as follows:

TRUSTEES:	Cesar Escutia	Present
	Karl Ferrell	Absent
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, and Richard Rodriguez.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Regular Town Minutes/May 11, 2021: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Town Board Meeting Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>1</sup>

**New Business:**

Approval/ Resolution 2021-02 to Appoint Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC, Joliet Township Attorney – Supervisor Contreras stated that the Joliet Township has entered into a new agreement for legal counsel with Mahoney, Silverman & Cross LLC. Motion to approve by Trustee Ibarra, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>2</sup>

Approval/ Resolution 2021-03 to Appoint Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC, Joliet Township Highway Commissioner Attorney - Supervisor Contreras stated that no approval is needed for Resolution 2021-03 to appoint Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC to the Highway Commission and passed the floor to Highway Commissioner Vincent Alessio. Commissioner Alessio recommended to appoint Mahoney, Silverman & Cross, LLC to the Joliet Township Highway Commissions legal counsel.

Approval of Bond Certificate of Registration for Township Supervisor - Motion to approve by Trustee Ibarra, seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>2</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>3</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

**Public Comment:**

Supervisor Contreras introduced Mr. Jeff Wallace, Joliet Township Senior Liaison.

Mr. Wallace noted that the last time he gave a report was on March 17, 2020 just prior to the pandemic. Mr. Wallace indicated he has tried to remain in contact with the senior organizations; however, some are still not meeting due to the pandemic. His report is attached.

**Reports:**

Supervisor Contreras: Supervisor Contreras reported that the next Joliet Township meeting is going to be more involved as we will be reviewing the bills.

Wermer Rogers' accounting team is now working with Joliet Township full-time starting today in the absence of a Finance Director. They are putting everything together for us and we did not miss a beat on the payroll or anything else since Ms. Colleen did a great job while she was here.

The Finance Director position has been posted. We need to post the position to our FB page and to the website once we have access to it. We need everyone's Bio's including the Highway Commissioner's Bio to update the website. Supervisor Contreras stated he will follow-up with everyone in the next weeks to come.

The only hiccups we have seen so far have been with Landscaping contracts. Some contracts were only on a month-to-month basis. Animal Controls lawn has not been mowed since they opened and two of the cemeteries were not mowed either. Oakwood is the only cemetery that has been taken care of, the other two have not been attended to because the contractors were told not to do so. These are not catastrophes, these are day-to-day things we find out and resolve.

Supervisor Contreras stated the following positions were eliminated by the prior administration:

- One General Assistance position was eliminated
- Deputy Clerk position was eliminated
- Executive Assistant's salary was cut in half. In order to carry out with the vision we had hoped to carry out, we need to be fully staffed. We will be consulting with our legal counsel to make sure those things come to fruition so we can be the agency we want to be. We are excited to be fully open so we can see clients here and even see some remotely. Supervisor Contreras wants to work with the community more and wants the General Assistance reports so he can present them at the meetings and to the community so that everything is justified.

Supervisor Contreras stated he has pursued the professional services of a Grant Writer to work remotely on a "per grant" basis. She will work as grants come up on anything the township may qualify for such as youth and or senior programs, etc. She will seek funding from foundations, government grants, etc. She will come present to the board in the future. This is something other townships are not doing and he is excited to begin this initiative.

Highway Commissioner: Highway Commissioner Alessio stated he will be presenting the budget at the next meeting. He has included the need for one additional staff member in the budget for this year. He added that it may look like we're spending more money, but more for statutory purposes. Wants us to know that available balance will appear much lower, but he will review it

with everyone. There is enough equipment and machines to add one more person. Some equipment mandates we replace it and it will be reflected in the budget.

Supervisor Contreras stated there were past formalities between the Township and the Road District. He would like to implement intergovernmental agreements between the two so the Road District can do more than roads and do things that belong to the Township, where we don't have to bid out. This benefits both of us so we can take care of other things and save money. We need to make it more about the two entities working together and we will normalize this. Highway Commissioner stated it would be a drain on Road District to help the Township too much with current staffing.

Trustee Ray Slattery mentioned that if the Road District is going to be doing services like mowing the Animal Control property; the Road District should charge the Township. HWY Commissioner Alessio affirmed they will charge the Township. Trustee Slattery stated that in the past, Township would be transfer money to Road District to do more roads if we had excess so they would be compensated. Supervisor Contreras may also do temporary emergency bids, but there will be long term bids as well and there will be transparency.

Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace mentioned a concern regarding suspended meetings, due to a flood, at one of the senior services centers on Stryker Ave. Apparently they are waiting for HUD to give authorization before they allow meetings to take place. This center also did not receive any more funding and they asked Sarah Gimbel about this and she allegedly stated that the former Supervisor requested that no funding be issued. Supervisor Contreras will look into this further.

**Closed Session:** NONE

**Adjournment:** Trustee Escutia moved to adjourn, seconded by Trustee Ibarra the town board. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>4</sup> The May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting adjourned at 5:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Alicia Morales, Town Clerk

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<sup>4</sup> Roll Call Vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Slattery, Escutia, Ibarra, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0)