



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday July 12th, 2022, 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	ABSENT
	Karl Ferrell	Present
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor Jim Brenzewski	Present

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz, Animal Control Director Whitney McGill, General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano.

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Regular Town Minutes: Trustee Ibarra moved to approve the minutes of the June 14th, 2022, Regular Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>1</sup>

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to approve the May 10th, 2022, minutes for Public Hearing Grave Opening and Closing Service Bid Opening. Trustee Slattery motioned to adopt; it was seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>2</sup>

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to approve the May 10th, 2022, minutes for the Budget Appropriations for the township, Ordinance 376-2022. Trustee Ibarra motioned to adopt; it was seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>3</sup>

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

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

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

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to approve the May 10th, 2022, minutes for the Budget Appropriations for the Road District, Ordinance 20-22-03. Trustee Ibarra motioned to adopt; it was seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>4</sup>

**Public Comment:**

Supervisor Contreras called for public comment. No public comment.

**New Business:**

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to approve and authorize the Deed of Gift to the Joliet Historical Museum. Supervisor Contreras explained the township wants to preserve Oakwood Cemetery's history and will give the Joliet Historical Museum historical cemetery records, dating back to over one hundred years ago. Trustee Slattery motioned to approve and authorize; it was seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>5</sup>

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to **adopt Ordinance 381-2022**, regulating weeds, grass, bushes, and ponds. The township has been working with Will County Land Use to fill gaps in service of unincorporated Joliet and this partnership will coordinate services. Trustee Ibarra motioned to approve; it was seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>6</sup>

Supervisor Contreras requested a motion to **adopt Ordinance 382-2022** to enter into an agreement with Will Grundy Medical Clinic. Supervisor Contreras and township staff met with Executive Director Shawn Marconi and Will Grundy Medical Clinic Staff to restart the agreement and provide \$7,500 a month. Starting this August, the Joliet Township Board Room will be used by Will Grundy Medical Clinic as a pharmacy so township residents will have access to affordable prescriptions and medications. Trustee Slattery motioned to adopt; it was seconded by Trustee Ibarra. Trustee Ibarra discussed how Will Grundy Medical Clinic saves lives by helping residents with nowhere else to go and provides resources to help them maintain health as well. Trustee Ferrell agreed with Trustee Ibarra and explained how important prescription coverage is for those who could not otherwise afford it. Director Marconi said this agreement is the beginning of something great for the township and community. She introduced members of her team and explained Housing, Healthcare and Hope, a program that addresses the necessity of stable housing in health, an approach that makes their organization unique from others. She also explained both of her interns' projects', studying how individuals who report to emergency rooms for mental health crises do not receive the support that they need, and how the opium crisis has affected Grundy County. The healthcare and medication provided by Will Grundy Medical Clinic is free and includes partnerships with local pharmacies. She thanked the township for their support. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>7</sup>

**Reports**

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

Highway Commissioner Alessio thanked Ana for the great work she did on the township's new website. With help from Township Attorney Brian Wellner, an ordinance was passed to create a five-ton weight limit on all township roads. The Road District passed the ordinance, but it can only be enforced by law enforcement. Dig orders have been submitted and then signs stating the new weight restriction will be put in place. Additionally, the Road District is working on two more projects. The first project is finishing the end of Engineering which should be going out to bid for a road project soon. The project will be paid for using the budget and surplus funds that have not been touched. The second project was that the Road District investigated a street and surrounding neighborhood that residents had complained about. The Road District is going to bid and then improve these roads. Trustee Ferrell asked what neighborhoods had roads that needed to be improved. The Highway Commissioner replied that there is one in Sugar Creek and another in Pheasant Run but there are some other streets that received low road ratings from the engineering firm. Trustee Ferrell mentioned that Patterson Road also needs improvements and Highway Commissioner Vince Alessio said he would have to check where Patterson Road ends for the Road District and he could check how much that improvement would cost.

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

<sup>5</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>6</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>7</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

#### Township Assessor, Jim Brenczewski

The Assessor's office has had many walk-ins and phone calls because they sent out a paper and people realized they were not taking full advantage of the tax exemptions they were eligible for. This is the time of year when the Assessor's office turns in their assessing books to Will County. The County will send out notices, beginning the process of people filing complaints about their assessments in September. Individuals are able to appeal their assessment, which will be decided by the Board of Review. A man from AIMES came in and showed Assessor Brenczewski iPads that could be used to take photos and draw images of buildings that need to be assessed, which will transfer automatically to the Assessing Office. However, this is still in the early stages.

#### General Assistance Director, Patricia Venziano

Soledad attended the Paws on 66 Animal Control Event and distributed township flyers. Sue and Soledad both attended the Heggie Park Healthy Neighborhoods Event and passed out giveaways and information on township services to those in attendance. Sue also went to the Community Cultivation Project with Prairie Legal State Services, hosted at Salvation Army. GA has kept busy with providing notary services. Soledad has left the township for another opportunity so General Assistance is looking for a Bilingual Caseworker. Rich Indeed provides clothing and household needs to those who need them. They had operated out of a free space for several years that they recently lost, so the items have been moved to storage. The township is looking to find them a new space and bring them into the township. More information will be provided at the next meeting.

#### Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

The ARPA application was submitted for the entire allocated amount given to Joliet Township by Will County. Will Grundy Medical Clinic, senior grants distributions throughout the year, cemetery infrastructure upgrades and Animal Control were all part of the applied amount. It is a reimbursement process so the township must spend the money before they get it back. Finance Director Ivan Diaz anticipates he will hear more information about the application later in July. Distribution of the reimbursement is scheduled to begin in August. First Midwest changed over to Old National Bank so he is transitioning township financial information.

#### Animal Control Director Whitney McGill

Two more Eagle Scouts have chosen Animal Control for their projects. One built a cat tree for the cats to play on and the other built a bench for volunteers and adopters to sit and spend time with the dogs. He also added some plants to attract butterflies. Animal Control Director Whitney McGill thanked the Eagle Scouts for their hard work. Attendance at the Paws on 66 event was lower than previous years but Animal Control still connected with pet owners and shared information about Dog Days at Duly, on August 16th. It is kitten season, and 19 kittens were adopted in June. Fourth of July weekend was very busy with 10-15 calls being made each day.

#### Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace attends 7-9 senior group meetings each month. He meets with them, make sure they receive their funding, and to answer any questions about Joliet Township. St. Joe's Senior Meeting on June 15th had 75 members in attendance along with Clerk Alicia Morales and Trustee Cesar Escutia. Both spoke. Senior Liaison brought senior services calendars and a door prize. Retired Teachers Association met on June 22nd with 48 members present. Senior Liaison brought Senior Services calendars and a door prize. S.O.A.R., retired steelworkers, had their meeting on June 23rd with 25 members attending. S.O.A.R. president discussed how some steelworkers now are being paid more than what their contract states, due to COVID. Trustee Ibarra and Rachel Ventura were present, and both spoke. Senior Liaison brought senior services calendars and a door prize. The Latino Social Club met for Zumba. Clerk Alicia Morales was also present from the township. Widows and Widowers met on July 9th with 23 members in attendance. Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace brought senior service calendars and chess flyers. Last month, Trustee Escutia began a chess program open to the public at St. Peter's Church on Broadway which meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 5:00pm. The Senior Citizens Association anticipated 200 seniors in attendance for their picnic on July 14th at St. Joe's Park. The President of the Senior Citizens Association, Chuck Corso, attended the meeting and invited the Township Board to the meeting.

#### Clerk Alicia Morales

Clerk Alicia Morales began by thanking Ana, Executive Assistant, for all the support she provides to the Clerk's office and thanked Finance Director Ivan Diaz for submitting the ARPA application ahead of time. She also

expressed her excitement for the township's partnership with Will Grundy Medical Clinic, acknowledging they are the only medical organization that provides accessible specialist care. The interns have been creating posts for the township's activities and social media. They are also working on a research project looking at the services that all of the townships in Will County have, which will be presented to the trustees. The files in the Clerk's office are being digitized so that they will be more accessible. It was brought to the Clerk's attention that the Will County Land Use Department is providing her contact information on a letter sent to residents interested in permits, so she has been receiving calls about the letter, primarily from those who speak Spanish. She translated the letter and sent it back to the Will County Land Use Department in case they wish to use the template when addressing non-English speaking residents.

### Supervisor Angel Contreras

Supervisor Angel Contreras began his report by acknowledging the old board room chairs have been replaced with new ones. The township door access system is currently being upgraded so community groups will have access. The township is also looking into a few other organizations to partner with and commented that he is glad the township partnership with Will Grundy Medical Clinic is beginning again.

### **Cash Receipts**

Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts into the proper accounts. Trustee Ferrell seconded. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>8</sup>

### **Fund Expenditures**

Supervisor Contreras presented the following invoices for Town Board approval. Trustee Slattery motioned to certify as being correct and approve for payment cash disbursements of the following accounts:

General Town Fund: \$212,154.01

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify cash expenditures as being correct and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ferrell seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.<sup>9</sup>

Capital Town Fund: No bills were presented for this fund.

General Assistance Fund: \$22,282.49

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify cash expenditures as being correct and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.<sup>10</sup>

Road and Bridge Fund: \$80,387.61

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify cash expenditures as being correct and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.<sup>11</sup>

Animal Control: \$68,952.87

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify cash expenditures as being correct and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded.

A roll call vote was taken.<sup>12</sup>

Senior Fund: No expenditures for this fund.

Trustee Ibarra invited everyone to attend her Coffee & Chat with herself, potentially Trustee Slattery, and Animal Control Director Whitney McGill on August 5th at noon in the township board meeting room. She

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<sup>8</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>9</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>10</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>11</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

<sup>12</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

intends to explain all of the work that Joliet Township Animal Control does and to encourage adoptions, rather than buying from puppy mills.

**Closed Session:** None

**Adjournment**

Trustee Slattery moved to adjourn the regular town board meeting on Tuesday, July 12th, 2022, at 5:57pm. It was seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.<sup>13</sup>

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales  
Town Clerk

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<sup>13</sup> Roll call vote: Ayes (4) Trustees Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery & Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).