



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, November 8, 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:

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|------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| TRUSTEES: | Cesar Escutia | Present |
| | Suzanna Ibarra | Present |
| | Raymond F. Slattery | Present |
| | Karl Ferrell | Present |
| SUPERVISOR: | Angel Contreras | Present |
| CLERK: | Alicia Morales | Present |
| OTHER OFFICIALS: | Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio | Present |
| | Assessor Jim Brenczewski | Not Present |

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Brian Wellner, Township Finance Director Ivan Diaz and Executive Assistant to Township Supervisor Ana Campa Castillo.

Approval of the Minutes:

Special Town Minutes: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Special Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call vote was taken.¹

Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the November 1, 2022, Bid 2022-01 Road Improvement Project/Various Locations, Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.²

Public Comment:

Trustee Slattery made a public comment regarding the Budget for 2023-2024. Trustee Slattery mentions that after reviewing the budget he feels that this new budget will be affected, stating; the General Town Budget was \$3,189,000.00 in total revenues, we are spending \$4,764,000.00 and we are using \$1,575,000.00 of the surplus we had, which brings us to balance of \$196,104.00 and that the transfer to the capital fund was \$1,500,000.00. The problem was if we transfer all this money, we will have problems with Animal Control. With Animal Control, Trustee Slattery sees that the revenue is approximately \$550,000.00 and that the deficit will be about \$118,000.00 between the revenue and the expenditures. Trustee Slattery apologizes for doing this, but he would

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

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

like everyone to be aware. He sees that \$550,000.00 will still be coming in for the next year, however the personal numbers this year are already at \$773,000.00 and we are already into a deficit and we still contractual services and other commodities going on. And we transferred \$250,000.00 from the General Town Fund and it look like we would have to transfer another \$500,000.00 from the General Town Fund to balance that budget. Supervisor Contreras agrees and states that we will also get reimbursements such as the van that was purchased, that is not happening. What will be constant are the wages. Finance Director Diaz weighs in stating the wages state \$700,000.00 but the insurance isn't used so there is a little bit of cushion. Supervisor Contreras mentions that the capital improvements that occurred, this is now be included in the Capital Fund. Trustee Slattery mentions that we have \$60,000.00 in the Capital Fund this year and is wondering what it will be next year. Supervisor Contreras clarifies that this is the General Town Capital Fund and this can now be used for bigger projects. Trustee Slattery's states "We will be spending this money out of the capital fund itself for expenditures we will need?" Supervisor Contreras states, "Correct" and continues to explain where the money is being transferred and the amount and the reason why. Finance Director Diaz states to Trustee Slattery that more money will be transferred to Animal Control next year because last year was only \$750,000.00 and this year it was only \$250,000.00 because they didn't need as much, however next year they will need more. We will not do any Capital Fund transfers. Trustee Farrell asks if all the improvements for Animal Control were from this year's budget and Supervisor Contreras agrees "correct"! Supervisor Contreras states that in the future, all capital improvements will come from the capital fund. Finance Director Ivan Diaz states that the Capital Fund is at a higher interest rate. Trustee Slattery asks if we need that \$1,500,000.00? Supervisor Contreras explains how much it would cost to make any improvements in Animal Control and having this money will give us flexibility. Trustee Slattery states that once this is all transferred in the Capital Fund account will only be used for capital expenditures and his concern is that if is all entered in there, will we have enough to transfer to animal control? Supervisor Contreras responded by stating that we can always amend the budget and only transfer \$1,000,000.00 and keep \$500,000.00 as padding and this will not affect our operations or we can also only transfer \$1.2million instead of \$1.5million and we can keep the \$300,000.00 for padding on the flexibility side and Trustee Slattery states that he believes we will need some extra money for Animal Control and Supervisor Contreras agrees and is not opposed to that. He then states that they can change the transfer to \$1.2million. And this concludes the public comments.

Public Hearing:

Please see the Public Hearing Minutes for:

- ADOPT/Ordinance 2022-05 (RD) Road District Amended Budget and Appropriation
- ADOPT/Ordinance 383-2022 Joliet Township Amended Budget and Appropriation

New Business:

Supervisor Contreras asks for a Motion to Adopt the 2022-05 (RD) Road District Amended Budget and Appropriation. Trustee Ibarra makes the motion, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken.³ Motion carried.⁴ Supervisor Contreras asks for a Motion to Adopt the Ordinance 383-2022 Joliet Township Amended Budget and Appropriation with the changes for the capital fund transfer instead of 1.5 million it's going would be 1.2 million to the capital fund with the other \$300,000.00 remaining in our General Town fund. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to Adopt the 2022-05 (RD) Road District Amended Budget and Appropriation, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call vote was taken.⁵ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of the 2023 Board Meeting Schedule. Trustee Farrell jokes that the April date is on his birthday so he will expect a gift. [Everyone laughs]. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve, Seconded by Trustee Farrell. A roll call was taken.⁶ Motion carried.

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

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁵ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of the 2023 Holiday Township and Road District Schedule. Trustee Escutia states that the dates are not correct for the Road District. It is concluded that the dates given in the electronic packet are the correct dates vs. the dates listed on the printed paper that was physically provided to the Trustees. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve the electronic copy, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken.⁷ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of the Annual Policy Renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance for current and new hires. Again, working with the consultants from One Digital, this is the best rate we can get. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve the Annual Policy Renewal of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.⁸ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of the Annual Policy Renewal of Delta Dental Insurance for current and new hires. Trustee Slattery makes a motion to approve the Annual Policy Renewal of the Delta Dental Insurance, Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call was taken.⁹ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of the Annual Policy Renewal of Vision Insurance for current and new hires. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve the Annual Policy Renewal of the Vision Insurance, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken.¹⁰ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras asks for the approval of Resolution 2022-06 to Authorize the Appointment of a Deputy Clerk. Trustee Ibarra asks for a Discussion. Trustee Slattery states: "Under section 75-45 in the Township code provides that the Township Clerk when authorized by the Township board may appoint a Deputy Clerk". He further states that no one has gone to the board to say they would like to hire a deputy clerk and he'd like to table the motion so that in December the Clerk can discuss it with the board of Trustee's and tell them why she needs this person, but in the meantime, keep the person. He further states that sometimes he gets the feeling like he is a rubber stamp and wants to think that things are being done in a correct way. Clerk Morales asks if he would like her to stand at the podium and answer any questions he or the board may have. Trustee Slattery says he has no issues with this. Trustee Ibarra speaks in general; "If personnel issues are supposed to be discussed in a closed session?" Attorney Wellner replies "We have the ability to discuss the employment compensation and so on and subscript employees if we think we need to go into executive session we can, but we don't have to, we are not obligated to". Trustee Ibarra further states that they all need to have those discussions. Clerk Morales asks again to stand at the podium and address any questions the board may have. Trustee Slattery states that the question is why does the clerk need to have a Deputy and acknowledges that the Clerk has the right to hire this person as the Deputy and that the board should approve the Clerk hiring a Deputy. Clerk Morales again asks to stand at the podium to address this issue. Once at the podium, Clerk Morales and asks the Board the following "so your question is that you believe that the board would like the clerk to come to you and ask to hire a Deputy Clerk, right? Trustee Slattery responds "right". Clerk Morales further states that she didn't see the need to ask the board for their approval that since she had lost her previous Deputy Clerk and had interns, she wasn't aware the board needed to know a Deputy Clerk was going to be replaced after the previous Deputy Clerk had resigned. Trustee Slattery further reads the Resolution; Section 75-45... *Whereas, the Joliet Township Board finds it in the best interest of the Township to authorize the appointment of a Deputy Clerk.*, however, it seems that the Town Board never authorized this. Attorney Wellner states that this is what the Motion is for and that obviously administratively things can be handled differently but the Township Clerk has the ability and authorization to appoint, and then it goes to the Board for approval. Trustee Ibarra states that the new hired person has been working for about 3 or 4 weeks. Clerk Morales asks to rehire a Deputy Clerk to help with the newsletter and to further assist with new projects and explains her reasons why.

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

Trustee Slattery explains what the process was from the past which was the Board being able to see the resume and perform interviews and Clerk Morales again explains her point of view. Attorney Wellner interprets the board's concerns as "the Board wishes this was brought to their attention". Trustee Ibarra states that Trustee Slattery tabled the motion and Trustee Slattery states he will take the table off the motion and that after reading the minutes (he addresses the new hire) "*Veronica you have done a great job, and this has nothing to do with you*". Trustee Slattery makes a motion to approve Resolution 2022-06 to Authorize the Appointment of a Deputy Clerk, Seconded by Trustee Farrell. A roll call was taken.¹¹ Motion carried. Supervisor Contreras congratulates Veronica and Trustee Slattery jokes that Veronica had a spirited conversation.

Supervisor Contreras states that St. Rays Senior club turned in their application after the last approval so did Easter Seals Joliet Region. Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve St. Ray's Senior Club, Seconded by Trustee Farrell. A roll call was taken.¹² Motion carried.

Trustee Ibarra makes a motion to approve Easter Seals Joliet Region, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.¹³ Motion carried.

Supervisor Contreras states that there are no reports at this meeting. All the reports will be in the December meeting.

EXTRA COMMENTS:

Trustee Escutia, asks if in the future the board is notified of any new changes or hires being done by the Clerk or Supervisor. Clerk Morales responds, "yes as a courtesy". Trustee Slattery states that for example the General Assistance Supervisor and the Animal Control Supervisor are not necessarily under the board, but it would be nice if the board knew what was going on. Clerk Morales agrees and responds that "that is fair". Trustee Farrell asks if they were notified prior to any interns starting. Clerk Morales responds "no" and Supervisor Contreras responds stating that all of our interns have been legitimately random and they have been from all over, however the Board can get a copy of the post so everyone can share them. Trustee Farrell responds that "yes, it is his main concern that they all are aware" and Supervisor Contreras agrees stating "that is fair".

Closed Session: None

Adjournment

Trustee Escutia moved to adjourn the regular town board meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, at 5:40pm. It was seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken.¹⁴ Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (3). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (1). Trustee Ibarra.

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Slattery, Ibarra, Escutia, Ferrell and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).