



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, February 14, 2023, 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
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
	Karl Ferrell	Arrived @ 5:10PM
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Not Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Hwy Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor Jim Brenczewski	Not Present

ALSO PRESENT: Township Attorney Bryan Wellner, Deputy Clerk Veronica Aguilera, and Executive Assistant to Township Supervisor Ana Campa Castillo.

Approval of the Minutes:

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Escutia moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023, Town Board Meeting, Seconded by Trustee Slattery. A roll call was taken.¹ Motion Carried.

Town Board Closed Session Minutes: Trustee Slattery moved to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2023 Town Board Closed Session Minutes, Seconded by Trustee Susana Ibarra. A call vote was taken.² Motion Carried.

Special Town Hall Meeting Minutes will be approved at the April 11, 2023 – Annual Town Hall Meeting.

Public Comment:

Patricia Nugent from Will County Environmental Network updated everyone on the progress made on the recharging our Township's shallow aquafer. There was a Water Summit last Fall, where it was decided to move forward with the feasibility studies. The step is to do a Water Summit Panel Discussion that will be held March

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Escutia, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0). Trustee Ferrell not present.

² Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Escutia, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0). Trustee Ferrell not present.

1st at Joliet Junior College. Everyone is invited. During this meeting, the Will County Environmental Network will be updating the current state of the shallow aquifers. Illinois State Geological Water will be presenting information on the shallow aquifers and will be developing criteria. They will also be exploring funding and sponsors for the project. Ms. Nugent thanked the Board for attending the last panel and is looking forward to working together at the March Conference. Trustee Slattery asked whether the current wells that are in unincorporated areas, if they will be running off the aquifer instead of using Lake Michigan water? Ms. Nugent responded, "Correct and they will be studying the layout of the private wells in Will County compared to what the drawdown is and seeing how they can try to recharge it naturally as opposed to other techniques".

New Business:

Supervisor Contreras talks about the Approval of the Grants submitted for award consideration. The first one is Little City Foundation, located in downtown Joliet. They are an adoption agency for teenagers. They are asking for \$1,000.00 to get more outreach to get more foster parents involved. Trustee Ibarra moved to approve the Little City Foundation Grant, Seconded by Trustee Escutia. A roll call was taken.³ Motion Carried.

Supervisor Contreras mentions the next grant "One Collective" and invites their speaker to give a brief statement. KC Crino, Community Catalyst stands and briefs everyone. One Collective is a global non-profit that also works in the Joliet area in Joliet Township, and they work with Dist. 86, the High Schools, Lincoln School and the Juvenile Detention Center working to bring in a restorative culture to the schools. The goal is to create a culture of violence prevention in schools and also working in the area of truancy. Trustee Slattery asked if they also work with the teachers and KC Crino responded "yes they do training with the teachers and he is in the Lincoln School, Joliet Central and West working with the teachers and bringing this culture to practice. Trustee Escutia moved to approve the One Collective Grant for \$5,000.00, Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call was taken.⁴ Motion Carried.

Supervisor Contreras mentioned the Joliet Junior College 12x12x12 Program. No action is taken tonight, he wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. This program consists of anyone enrolling in JJC, while residing in Joliet Township can apply for this program. This will be a partnership between Joliet Junior College and the Township. This gives the students an incentive to study there. As soon as more information is available, the Supervisor will send it out the everyone.

Trustee Ferrell arrived at the meeting at 5:10PM.

Supervisor Contreras also mentioned the next Annual Meeting is approaching on April 11th, 2023 and we will send out the forms for the electors to vote on what they want to have on the agenda and everyone has this form in their packets and it will be on the website. Trustee Ibarra mentioned that she took a lot of calls last week from people in the forest park neighborhood and some of the Fairmont Community Partners. They are very concerned with the Truck Stop off of Briggs St, southside of the road is Joliet and the other side is another Municipality and Briggs St. is a 2-way Road and when the Rodeo has events happening, sometimes those 2 lanes are very hard to get across, especially where there are horses out. The neighborhood across is (she believes) Meadow Springs and it has only 1-way in and the same way out. There are a lot of safety concerns with all the kids and them crossing the 2-way road and they wanted her to bring it to everyone's attention. The neighborhood is Liberty Meadows and this is a scary situation to know that a huge truck stop is coming in on this 2-lane road and they are not happy about this. Trustee Farrell asked for the exact location, Trustee Ibarra explained the area and Highway Commissioner explained that they service both sides of the road although technically, the north side of the road is Lockport Township, however north of Rosalind, we have no jurisdiction there. Trustee Ferrell asked, "what can we do about this?" Highway Commissioner asked "Who is approving this project?" Trustee Ibarra responded, "City of Joliet" and Trustee Slattery commented "There is not much we can do." Trustee Ferrell asked, "if this is in...we can't do anything, if it's in the Township?" And Supervisor Contreras replied that he isn't

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Escutia, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0). Trustee Ferrell not present.

⁴ Roll call vote: Ayes (4). Trustees Escutia, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0). Trustee Ferrell not present.

sure if this is Lockport or not, and Trustee Ibarra mentioned she will forward a copy of what they sent her to everyone.

Reports:

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

Highway Commissioner Alessio mentioned that he gave the Trustees, Deputy Clerk and the Supervisor a copy of the 2 summer job openings. He retracted himself from last month's meeting, where he mentioned "2 bids" but he corrected himself and said that he meant to say "2 job openings". One opening is for work with the Road Crew (outdoors) and the other is for administrative work (in the office). Hopefully in the next 60 days, we can get qualified candidates. If anyone knows of someone that may be interested in working in the Construction Industry or anyone watching, please let them know. I think it's a good opportunity. We have different pay scales, for somebody who has a CDL who pays them \$25/hr, which is what we pay will be to pay new hires so they will be treated fairly. Also, I met with the engineers this morning. We are starting a new overlay project, the one that we Bid out I believe at the end of October. They will start the work April 1st, 2023. The C-pon on Spencer Rd. Bridge drainage is almost ready to go out to bid. I mentioned this to the Engineers we would like to fix that. We looked at geological survey maps for 90 years and it has been wet for 90 years. There is something we can do now to help that. The Sugar Creek Bridge and Drainage project is contingent on the approval of the Environmental Agency. We're hoping to get it Bid in time so that someone would be able to perform the work this year. Additionally, the Highway Commissioner would like all the residents to be aware that they are putting together a new batch of roads that need to be overlaid. We are working on a list so if anyone has any feedback on which roads need to be overlaid, please let us know. Lastly, to the trustees or anybody else, we will begin to put the Budget together, if there's any comments or anything that you'd like to see added to the Budget or any inquiries as far as how we create the Budget, I'd be more than happy to talk to you about how we come up with the Budget. I'm looking forward to working with Ivan on the Budget as we did last year.

General Assistance, Patricia Venziano

Susin Bustin attended the State of the District address at Joliet Central. We were one of forty resources at that event. Sue attended the Riverwalk event. The local barber college was present, donating haircuts to approximately 49 boys and their food pantry was open. Alejandra Zamudio worked at an event at Riverwalk in cooperation with the Will Grundy Medical Clinic. The next LiHeap event is scheduled for March 15th, from 9:00A.M. to 3:00P.M. Suzanna was invited to attend. Patricia also met with the staff members of Family Development Center from Governors State University and gave them more information regarding our programs and what other services may be available to their students. 300 packets were sent out to interested tax payers. Approximately 100 were returned, 76 packets are completed. New in the reports we show what we have done in the past. January 2022, we saw 28 people in comparison to January 2023, we saw 157 people.

Animal Control Director, Whitney McGill

A Kennel Technician put in their resignation to be done by March 1st. Another Kennel Technician had to have hand surgery and will not be able to work for 3-12 months. A position was posted on Indeed and quickly got a lot of applicants. Prospects were interviewed and I am pleased to have found new potential employees to fill those positions. Animal Care Center of Plainfield has been purchased by NVA. This is the vet clinic we use for emergency purposes. At the start of the new year NVA sent an updated agreement. This new agreement is quite similar to our original one but a bit better. They offer the Office Visit/Exam at no charge, including 2 radiographs for diagnostic purposes where previously, we had been paying \$150/exam and an additional \$200+ for radiographs. This change will enable us to better gauge the severity of a pet's condition before moving forward with treatment. They're also offering Parvo tests at a discounted rate of \$25 when they are normally \$125. We will continue to have 30% off additional services and euthanasia will be a flat fee of \$50 versus varying depending on an animal's size. I believe these changes are in our favor.

Supervisor Contreras mentioned that we will begin the Bid process for the work to begin to install the kennels and the updated work on the building. Trustee Slattery asked how many vet techs do we have? AC Director McGill responded, "we currently have 2, but after the updated work, we will have space for 3 vet techs". Trustee Ibarra voiced that she was going to volunteer Trustee Ferrell to go and fix those 2 kennels. AC Director mentioned that a lot of things are corroded and some of the metal is gone with years of use. Trustee Ferrell asked if every

stray animal was going to the Animal Care Center of Plainfield/NVA and AC Director said no, only the injured or sick or the ones that can't be watched overnight are sent to the new NVA.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Senior Liaison Wallace gave his reports to everyone. He attended the Widow & Widower's Club. The Superintendent of Dist. 86 attended the meeting and spoke about the upcoming Referendum. There is no tax rate increase. The new referendum is 20 years and the old one was also 20 years. If this new referendum had overlapped, then the tax rate would have increased. The Senior Service Calendars come out every 2 months. In the old days, you could pay for an individual activity and some activities were free vs. today, it cost \$130/yearly membership. He has also been talking about the Temporary Handicap Placard and the Tax Prep and has been passing out the flyers. With regards to the TOI Scholarships, when Jeff was president, he went visited every High School within 30 miles and provided them all with the scholarships vs. the town clerk of that time who would mail them all out. Senior Citizens Association is having a hard time finding someone to cater their luncheons. Senior Liaison Wallace contacted Chuck Corso who after some conversations, agreed to cater these luncheons. Chuck's family owns many restaurants.

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Finance Director Diaz reported that he was basically working on W2's and 1099's. He is looking forward to working with Highway Commissioner Alessio on the Road District Budget to present it to the board for approval. In February, we also transitioned to Midland Bank. This is a 2-month process to make sure there is a smooth transition and that everything clears.

Deputy Clerk Veronica Aguilera gave the Clerks Report

On January 18, 2023 both the Clerk and Deputy Clerk attended a zoom class from TOI called "Employee Handbook on Township Government and Preparing for the Upcoming Year". This zoom class talked about harassment, hostile work environment, sexual harassment cases, workplace trends, difference between volunteering for township activities vs. being told you must volunteer vs. encouraging employees to volunteer and the compensation benefits. The Clerk attended a class in Springfield on Friday, January 27th regarding the Professional Development Budget Planning. Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace hand delivered Senior Citizen Calendars for the months of February and March to our office. We visited the Club Social Latino on Jan 28th and participated in their Zumba class. There were approx. 25 people in attendance. Most of the Spanish speakers were not sure what services the Township and the Senior Services Center offers. Deputy Clerk also went to Zumba class on February 11th and again passed out February and March Senior Services calendars, Temporary Handicap Placard applications, Lyons Club Sight and Sound Request Forms in English and Spanish and TOI Scholarship Applications. Club Social Latino changed their meeting dates to the 4th Saturday after Zumba. Zumba class meets every Saturday from 9:30A.M.– 10:30A.M. Zumba is open to everyone. Over the age of 51 is free, under the age of 51 is \$5.00. We also emailed the trustee's the Petition of Electors of Joliet Township's Annual Town Meeting on February 1st. It has also been included in the Board Packet and a printed copy was also provided. 15 or more registered voters must sign the petition in order for an item to be included onto the April's ATM Agenda. This was also added as a link in the Township website under the Clerk's office. TOI send out a scholarship opportunity open to all students residing in the State of Illinois. The Clerk's office forwarded a copy to local school counselors and career service departments. This was sent to JT Schools, both West and Central Campus', Joliet Catholic Academy and Providence Catholic High School.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

Supervisor mentioned that with regards to the IDHS grant, we believe that we are on the final budget revision approval. The amount is the same, we are just waiting for everything to be revised on different levels. Once everything is finalized, we will be able to publicly announce the positions. We are not sure of the exact timeline, but we hope it is finalized by the end of the month. Supervisor asked if there were any other comments, to which Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace spoke.

Senior Liaison Wallace mentioned regarding District 86 and the \$99½ million they have, they will tear down Gompers and Hufford Jr. High but as they are building the new school, the current schools will still be in use so that there is no loss of class. Also, in addition to the flyers that he is passing out from Township, he will also pass out flyers from the Digital Media – Joliet Public Library to explain what all services are free if you have a

Library Card. Josh from the Joliet Public Library will speak at the Widow & Widowers next meeting and Jeff will ask Josh to speak at other Senior Meetings as well.

Assessor Jim Brenzewski
No Report.

Cash Receipts:

Trustee Slattery motioned to approve the receipts and expenditures and place into their proper accounts for the February 14, 2023, seconded by Trustee Farrell. A roll call vote was taken.⁵ Motion carried.

Fund Expenditures:

Trustee Slattery motioned to approve the following expenditures:

General Town Fund for February 14, 2023: \$169,384.12

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the expenditures of the general town fund as correct and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁶ Motion carried.

Road and Bridge Fund for February 14, 2023: \$329,765.81

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Ibarra seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁷ Motion carried.

General Assistance Fund for February 14, 2023: \$28,823.95

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁸ Motion carried.

Animal Control Fund for February 14, 2023: \$75,940.84

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment. Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. ⁹ Motion carried.

Capital Fund: No expenditures.

EXTRA COMMENTS:

Trustee Ibarra congratulated Deputy Clerk Aguilera for running her first meeting.

Closed Session:

Adjournment

Trustee Ibarra moves to adjourn the regular town board meeting on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 5:52P.M. it was seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call was taken. ¹⁰ Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

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

⁶ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁷ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁸ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

⁹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹⁰ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).