



The regular town board meeting, being held at 175 West Jefferson Street, Joliet Township government offices, Tuesday, April 11, 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
	Karl Ferrell	Present
	Suzanna Ibarra	Present
	Raymond F. Slattery	Present
SUPERVISOR:	Angel Contreras	Present
CLERK:	Alicia Morales	Present
OTHER OFFICIALS:	Commissioner Vince Alessio	Present
	Assessor James Brenzewski	Present

ALSO PRESENT:

Finance Director Ivan Diaz	Attorney Brian Wellner
General Assistance Director Patricia Venziano	Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace
Animal Control Director Whitney McGill	Executive Assistant Ana Campa Castillo

Approval of the Minutes:

Town Board Minutes: Trustee Ferrell moved to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2023, Town Board Meeting. Seconded by Trustee Slattery, roll call was taken.¹ Motion Carried. Trustee Slattery moved to approve the closed session minutes of March 14th. Trustee Ibarra seconds to approve close session minutes with a correction. Correction was that Trustee Escutia was present for closed session. Motion Carried²

Public Comment:

There were no public comments.

New Business:

Supervisor Contreras discusses the approval of the bid for the Oakwood Cemetery Grass cutting. The bid was awarded to Ramiro Guzman Landscaping Inc. Clerk Morales mentions that the bid is about \$6000 under budget from last year. Trustee Escutia motions to approve bid. Seconded by Trustee Slattery. Motion carried³.

Approval of the contract with Mr. Paul Cabay for the continuation of his role as the Cemetery Liaison. Trustee Slattery moved to approve. Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. Motion carried⁴.

¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

³ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

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

Supervisor Contreras discusses renewal of service agreement of Johansen and Anderson regarding their price. Their new reduced rate agreement has been with the Township for three years. This new agreement would go through 2026. Trustee Ferrell motions to approve. Seconded by Trustee Ibarra. Motion carries⁵

Supervisor Contreras discusses Grant Reviews. Nothing is being approved today. No vote is necessary. Trustee Slattery asks questions regarding the Park District. Trustee Slattery asks if all seven items are separate and if individual items can be approved. Supervisor Contreras says they can do that, and that alterations can be requested.

Old Business:

Approval of Animal Control Interior Remodel Project 2023-01. Supervisor Contreras mentioned everything is in order and the company is ready to start work. Supervisor Contreras asks for a motion to approve the project. Trustee Ferrell motions. Seconded by Trustee Escutia. Motion carried⁶.

Trustee Slattery asks to move back to grant applications. Trustee Slattery had questions regarding the Toni Medina Youth Center. Supervisor Contreras explains that they were trying to move forward with their clothing program. It did not seem viable because it required further negotiation. It is still in process. Their original request has been out twice and has not been approved. Their original request was \$70,000. Supervisor Contreras will have more information in the future.

Reports:

Highway Commissioner, Vince Alessio

Commissioner Alessio is very happy with the work the Township has done so far. As of May 2021, we have purchased three brand new trucks, two more full-time employees, helped many residents, addressed road issues, and managed our budget well in the process. Commissioner Alessio is proud that we are serving our residents and managing our money well. Now that Spring is here, maintenance on mowers and other machines has started to prepare for the season. Cold patching roads has started. If any roads near residents need patching/maintenance, please let them know. Commissioner Alessio personally thanks Anna Donovan, road district Executive Assistant, for her wonderful work. Commissioner Alessio asks the Trustees if they have any questions. Trustee Slattery asks for an update on the Cepon property off Briggs Street. Commissioner Alessio does not have an update. However, he believes that since the water would be directed to a nearby creek, there may be some regulations regarding disturbing the natural flow of the creek. The plans are done, we just need approval.

Animal Control Director, Whitney McGill

Director McGill mentions that March has been a busy month for adoptions with a total of 64 adoptions. The last six months have averaged about forty-eight and a half per month. Although many are getting adopted more keep coming. They are working on getting all the animals out of the building and into homes as soon as possible. The Director recently sent two employees to be trained and certified in euthanasia by injection. For a while it was only the Director and Becky performing euthanasia injections. Becky now has a hand injury and cannot perform this procedure anymore, so the addition of two euthanasia certified employees will help immensely. Animal control offers \$50 euthanasia injections for animals who are suffering or coming to the end of their life. Another Dog Day will be August 2nd. Other than that, they are just waiting on the renovations that are coming soon. Trustee Slattery asks how long renovations will take. Supervisor Contreras says some portions can be completed in a weekend. There will be two phases. One half of the renovations will occur in one week and the half will occur in a separate week. Trustee Ibarra asks if owners can keep their pets after euthanasia injections. Director McGill says they use a service called metro that does communal cremations. Some electrical issues have been occurring. Supervisor Contreras says one of the things that was to be addressed with the upcoming fiscal year was the electrical issues.

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).

Assessor Jim Brenczewski

Applications are going out next week. It's been busy. People have been calling.

General Assistance, Patricia Veneziano

Sue and Jesse have continued to hold down the front desk while tax season is in full swing. Alejandra has been posting on social media and leaving flyers at various spots around the township to highlight the services that we provide. Sue has also kept busy with what seems to be a nonstop flow of medical equipment coming in and out the door.

Alejandra attended USF Connection and Collaboration -Center for Nonprofit Excellence 3.29.23

New Lenox Safe Communities Coalition 3.29.23

Our LIHEAP event on the 15th of March was a huge success with 33 residents applying for assistance with their utilities. I have reached out to WCCCC to discuss getting a regular monthly slot on the calendar with them so that our residents will know on for example the 4th Thursday of the month they can come in to apply for LIHEAP. I was informed this afternoon that this will be up for discussion at their leadership meeting on Friday and I hope to hear something positive soon.

Tax season is coming to an end and as of today our joint efforts have resulted in 386 tax returns having been prepared. All returns have had their final review done at our office. We still have last minute filers coming in to pick up packets and my hope is that we can reach 400 before the season is over.

Finance Director, Ivan Diaz

Finance Director Diaz reported that a budget analysis, as requested by Trustee Ibarra, will be carried out next month.

Senior Liaison, Jeff Wallace

Senior Liaison Jeff Wallace reported he attended all senior meetings and gave a brief update on each one.

Clerk's Report: Alicia Morales

The clerk has been preparing for the Annual Town Hall meeting. Which will occur April 11, 2023, at 6:45 after Joliet Township Meeting. Clerk Morales has conducted interviews over the phone and is searching for interns.

Supervisor, Angel Contreras

At the last annual special Town Hall meeting the only thing to vote on was permission for Acquisition of Property. Currently, they are in the process of submitting IDHS grants.

Cash Receipts:

Trustee Slattery motioned to place the cash receipts into the proper accounts, seconded by Trustee Ibarra. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried⁷.

Fund Expenditures:

Trustee Slattery motioned to approve the following expenditures:

Approval of cash disbursements in the General Town Capital Fund: \$1,888,456.65. Trustee Slattery motioned to approve payment. Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.⁸

Trustee Slattery noted there was no expenditures in General Town Capital Fund

Trustee Slattery noted that there are no cash disbursements in the General Town Capital Fund.

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).

Road and Bridge Fund for April 11, 2023: \$280,431.02.

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded. A roll call was taken. Motion carried⁹.

General Assistance Fund for April 11, 2023: \$27,751.90

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment.

Trustee Escutia seconded. A roll call was taken. Motion carried¹⁰.

Road and Bridge Fund for April 11, 2023: \$280,431.02.

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded. A roll call was taken. Motion carried¹¹.

Animal Control Fund for April 11, 2023: \$85,696.48

Trustee Slattery motioned to certify the cash disbursements and approve them for payment.

Trustee Ibarra seconded. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.¹²

Closed Session: There was no closed session.

Adjournment

Supervisor Contreras moves to adjourn the regular town board meeting on April 11, 2023, at 5:40P.M. it was seconded by Trustee Ferrell. A roll call was taken. Motion carried¹³.

Respectfully submitted,



Alicia Morales
Town Clerk

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).

¹¹ Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

¹² Roll call vote: Ayes (5). Trustees Escutia, Ferrell, Ibarra, Slattery, and Supervisor Contreras. Nays (0).

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